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September 6, 1968

To the Political Committee
or the Administrative Committee

Dear Comrades:

I suggest that you give attention to the possibility of merging ISR and IP into a single weekly publication, which could be called ISR and could have the general format of IP.

The main reason is that I cannot see much use in the present ISR. Some things in it are good from time to time, but the magazine as a whole does not have a consistent character. Some of the good things it contains could be printed in the merged publication, or in the expanded Militant, and others could be printed as pamphlets. If we printed one present-ISR-type of article per week in the merged publication, that would be eight over a two-month period, or more than is now printed in the ISR.

The present-IP-type articles, especially those that have an international function, could continue as they are. Occasionally they could be supplemented by ISR-type articles (this is done anyway; perhaps it could be done more regularly, as was the case last spring, especially analyses about the U.S.).

Perhaps the subscription rate of the merged publication could be reduced somewhat below that of the present IP; in that case, it would be easier through a modest subscription campaign to raise the U.S. circulation toward the present circulation of the ISR. Perhaps there could be more frequent 30-page issues when the situation called for that.

In any case, I see numerous advantages in having one publication where there are now two, mainly in terms of economy of forces and of political striking power.

If such a change were to be made, a good time to make it would be with the end of the year, when both publications make up their index, prepare to bind, etc. That is why, if you are going to act on this suggestion, it would be better to do it without too much delay.

Comradely,

s/George Breitman