

MOTION ON PERSPECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

PRE-AMBLE

In the preparation for the conference the NC has tried to encourage an avoidance of descriptive material that repeats things and gets us nowhere. We therefore, as NC members, do not intend to put out a long 'general situation' document, which in any case is partially covered by "Labouring Under the Tories." So this resolution simply aims to tie together the basics of a general political orientation with some concrete tasks for BF, particularly emphasising the question of ~~priority~~ priorities.

Motion

The strategic goal of revolutionary socialists in the period of the Tory Government is to fight for a break in the Labourist cycle, where reactionary Tory gov'ts are replaced by Labour Gov'ts carrying out anti-working class policies, without an advance in working class politics that that would be the basis for a fight-back against Labour. It is necessary to struggle against the belief that simple anti-Toryism and wage militancy are a sufficient basis for an alternative to the Tories and Labour. We must resist the drift on the Left to channeling struggles through the Labour Party and placing demands on them and the Labour Left which ~~re-inforce~~ re-inforce illusions ("For a Labour Gov't with socialist policies," "sack Callaghan" etc).

That cycle can only be broken by challenging the defensive and narrow basis of much of existing working class politics and stressing rank, and file, socialist alternatives in industry, the services and social life in general. Although the initial basis for organising will tend to be defensive, correctly building the widest possible united front action, our role must be to raise more general and offensive perspectives and actions. In attempting to push struggles further, BF is attempting to generalise this political approach through the Left and wider sections of militants, accelerating a re-think on vital questions of strategy and tactics. The goal is to help build a socialist opposition in the working class that is not only anti-Tory, but distinguishes itself from both mainstream Labour and the reformism of its left wing.

Despite our small forces, BF has a key political role to play on the Left and in some struggles. We see the immediate period as one in which the possibility of re-groupment is unlikely, though small re-alignments could play a part in moving towards an eventual major unification of the Far Left. If we are to remain an independent organisation we have to ~~pay~~ pay increased attention to recruitment, education and improving the internal life of the organisation and participation of members. But to make a real political impact, BF must organise its forces much more effectively. This means clearer priorities and clearer political directions in the activities we do prioritise.

The necessity to prioritise arises both out of an assessment of what struggles are most important to build and the immediate and longer-term capabilities of a revolutionary organisation. BF in the next year or so, has the chance to build on its emerging strengths, while aiding key sectors of class struggle. Central to this must be the development of our industrial and union work. After a period of weakness our Industrial Commission is becoming stronger, developing the capacity for general interventions and union/sector fraction work. Local groups should prioritise an effective local input into the Commission and not leave it up to individuals. We do not necessarily expect a mass upsurge on the industrial front, as some do, but that is all the more reason to concentrate our activity in the most effective way.

Our most effective sector of work has undoubtedly been in the anti-fascist, anti-racist movement. The Commission has acted as a good focus for playing a general role in the ANL and other local and national

initiatives. When many other Left forces appear to be turning away from the ANL and anti-racist work in general, we should maintain our presence in the movement, oppose the run down of the ANL and attempt to build through a more consistent commitment to anti-racist activity, particularly to the growing campaigns against the immigration laws.

We have also played a key role in the development of UTOM and in the context of a changing political balance of forces, increasing the possibilities for campaigns to get the Troops out, it is important to maintain a commitment to these activities. It is also important to provide a more effective context for backing up our other international work, which despite previous prioritisation of Southern Africa etc. is too often done in isolation by very small groups of comrades.

There are areas however where we have to prioritise overcoming a weaker presence and practice. Central to this must be an attempt to reverse the decline of the Womens Commission, the impact of feminist politics inside BF and our general interventions in the womens movement and struggles.

It is also important to extend our involvement in cuts struggles and organisations. The cuts are probably the central political issue under the Tories and raise the sharpest points of difference between ~~xxxx~~ Tories and Labour and the socialist alternative to both. Despite having a good presence in some cuts activities and the basis for an effective political line, BF needs to make a clear priority of this area. This will be of particular help in providing collective practice for groups, means of involving new members and taking up the "slack," because both workers and users of services can and are being involved in anti-cuts struggles.

Decisions on prioritisation should not be limited to getting more members working in these areas, or more coverage in the newspaper, although this is important. The key question is to link the priorities to the whole day-to-day work of the organisation, ending the tendency to sectionalism of our work. Prioritisation means creating the conditions to enable every member to have sufficient knowledge of these areas and the political line of BF to be able to raise them in their own areas of practice when appropriate.

Conference therefore instructs:

- (a) The National Committee: To ensure that national or regional education (eg day schools) is organised on all decided areas over the coming year.
- (b) The Newspaper Collective and Journal: To ensure that the paper and Journal reflect decisions on priorities.
- (c) The relevant commissions: To produce guidelines on how to raise the issues in all areas of work. To provide members with regular briefings on the situation and activities of their sector, as well as short reading lists of material.
- (d) District Committees: To ensure regular co-ordination of prioritised activity.

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- (e) The Branches: To monitor the possibilities of holding public meetings on these areas. To hold educationals, new branches to invite speakers from relevant commissions. To encourage formal responsibility for priority areas, which include regular reports to the branch. To mobilise support for members working in these areas, ensuring that such comrades do not work in isolation.

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