

## BIG FLAME CONFERENCE 1980

### 11. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WORK

. We are in solidarity with all national liberation struggles that are anti-imperialist. We do not make our support for these struggles conditional on them being also struggles for socialism. In our solidarity work, we give support specifically to those forces carrying forward the socialist and/or feminist and/or anti-racist and /or gay struggles. History has shown us that struggles for national liberation can create a space in which anti-sexist, anti-racist and socialist struggles develop but they can also very quickly close this space down. And there have been many occasions where the relationship between national liberation and other struggles has been a conflictual one.

2. We retain the right to criticise any national liberation struggle because we are concerned with developing an opposition to imperialism the world over - not just in one country. And because we recognise that in itself 'anti imperialism' may not be progressive in the sense of advancing the workers, women, peasants and gay movements.

Any criticism we make of a national liberation movement must be made within the general context of solidarity and on the basis of a thorough understanding of the history of the movement and the conditions and needs of its struggle. We also recognise that criticism is more effective if a relationship of trust has been established with members of the movement through practical solidarity work.

3. Any criticism we make of a regime that comes to power after a successful national liberation struggle must be based on a realistic assessment of the possibilities open to that regime. However, we believe that the building of socialism is a process which can only be achieved with the existence of structures that enable people to take control of their lives.

4. We recognise that for tactical reasons, there may be many facts (including criticisms) about national liberation struggles that we should not make public. But what follows from this is not that we suppress these facts, but that we find ways of communicating them internally inside Big Flame. An important priority is to keep our members as well informed as possible so that they are well equipped to grasp events as they unfold.