

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A conference of revolutionary socialists from various sections of the United States, assembled in Los Angeles, Calif., on the weekend of July 22-24, 1977, announces the formation of a new political tendency dedicated to the reconstitution of American Trotskyism and the regroupment of radical forces in this country.

Our ultimate objective is the construction of a revolutionary socialist party based on proletarian internationalism, a rich internal democracy, and firm roots in the working class and the new mass movements that have emerged in the past several decades--the kind of party that will be capable of mobilizing the broad cadres needed to achieve a workers and farmers government in the United States.

We do not start from scratch. We adhere to the programmatic foundations and traditions of the early Communist International (C.I.) and the first workers state, the Soviet Union. We identify ourselves with the struggle of the Left Opposition against the Stalinist degeneration of the Soviet Union and the C.I. We consider ourselves a part of the movement to build a world party of socialist revolution--a part of the Fourth International which is dedicated to the application of Marxist principles to contemporary social reality.

The Degeneration of the Socialist Workers Party

Many of us have a common origin in the early Socialist Workers Party. Although we left the SWP at different times and apparently over different issues, we are all convinced that the SWP has degenerated into a bureaucratic, monolithic, and centrist formation moving in the direction of the Social Democracy. Together with other comrades who have embraced the general program of the 4th International, we undertake the difficult, but unpostponable, task of re-creating an organized expression of revolutionary Marxism in the United States.

The opportunistic and Stalinophobic degeneration of the SWP was clearly revealed in its reaction to the momentous upsurge of revolutionary struggles in Western Europe, i.e., the overthrow of the 48-year-old fascist dictatorship in Portugal. The SWP veered sharply to the right, toward support--in company with the U.S. State Department--of the Portuguese Socialist Party's offensive against the revolution, an assault led by Soares on behalf of Portuguese capitalism and world imperialism.

This class betrayal by the SWP was compounded by its adoption of a neutral position in the Angolan civil war, a great social conflict between neo-colonialists backed by the U.S. and South Africa, and the revolutionary masses led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of the Angolan People, the MPLA. So blinded was the SWP by Stalinophobia that it could not recognize the reality that was so clear to Washington and world reaction: that the outcome of this battle was decisive for the development of the revolution unfolding in all of southern Africa.