

Letter to All Members of the ICL

In Fear of a Fight, SL Leadership Declares Minority Faction “Non-existent”

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Our 16 April 2016 “Declaration of the Better-Late-Than-Never Faction: Return to the Road of Genuine Spartacism! Regroup with the IG/LFI on the Basis of *Their* Revolutionary Continuity!” was a factional declaration, **not** a statement of resignation. It was the necessary opening act of a principled faction fight in the ICL to win the majority and fight for leadership on the basis of what we believe to be the program of genuine Spartacism.

In order to maintain the right to wage this fight internally, we continued to abide by party discipline and explicitly did **not** make contact with the IG/LFI, even after we came to the realization that the struggle to lead the ICL back to Spartacism was precisely the struggle to lead the ICL towards regroupment with the revolutionary continuity maintained by the IG/LFI since its foundation by leading cadre and youth who were expelled for fighting the ICL’s degeneration two decades ago. We are proud autodidacts who took on the task of researching and writing this factional document entirely by ourselves. For the SL leadership to assert that this is impossible – that our factional declaration was “self-evidently composed in close collaboration with the Internationalist Group (IG)” – is to denigrate the intellectual and political capacity of the ICL membership and to (unintentionally of course) compliment the IG.

That the SL leadership would consider as its best recourse to swiftly mislabel our factional declaration as a “statement of resignation” and then “accept it” is (self-evidently) a product of the SL leadership’s inability to politically defend their revisionist course in the face of a genuine Trotskyist critique.

In “The SWP – A Strangled Party” (*Spartacist* No. 37-38, Summer 1986) the SL explained:

“The SWP leadership decided to codify its bureaucratic treatment of the RT [Revolutionary Tendency – forerunner of the Spartacist League]: this is what organizationally consummated the strangling of the party.

Stripped of the jumbles of paragraphs taken here and there from past SWP organizational resolutions, Dobbs’ document amounted to the destruction of the rights of any minority. Opposition to the majority line was equated with ‘disloyalty’ to the party. In essence, the 1965 rules boil down to the following syllogism: (1) factions are permitted in the SWP; (2) factionalists are disloyal people; (3) disloyal people are expelled from the SWP.”

Following in the footsteps of Dobbs (minus the window dressing of quotes from any organizational resolution), in essence, the SL leadership’s non-political knee-jerk response to our factional declaration boils down to the following syllogism: **(1) factions are permitted in the ICL; (2) factional declarations can be considered resignation statements; (3) resignation statements can be accepted.**