

Draft of Mission Statement (July 1999)

Our small group will be working to unite with revolutionary forces, which have arisen from the 60s to the 90s, to build a new revolutionary communist movement in what is now called the USA. We bring our individual and collective experiences of 30+ years of revolutionary practice and theoretical understanding to this task.

At this point we recognize several important points that define our group:

- (1) The necessity for mass armed struggle to topple reactionary state power, in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. Revolutionary military struggle will take a different form in the countries oppressed by imperialism, where the vast majority of the world's peoples live, and in the imperialist countries. In both situations, the theory and practice of People's War, first developed in China under the leadership of Mao Tse-tung, contains valuable lessons for revolutionaries in the U.S. and worldwide.
- (2) While some dismiss the necessity to continue the revolution under socialism/"dictatorship of the proletariat," (citing the unsuccessful conclusion of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China), on the contrary, we believe that it is necessary to sum up that failure/defeat so as to enable socialist revolutions, wherever they arise, to advance as far as possible in the future.
- (3) The continuing importance of a Leninist view of the Political Economy of Imperialism, as distinct from current views on "globalization" that remove recent international developments from their material context.
- (4) A revolutionary internationalist stand, which includes protracted and serious struggle to uproot Eurocentrism, white supremacy and all other forms of national chauvinism.
- (5) Practice of the mass line, as developed in the Chinese revolution and in other revolutionary struggles worldwide.
- (6) In the face of the attempts of the international bourgeoisie to declare "communism dead and buried," and the discrediting of communism by some political forces in the field today, we see a pressing need to redefine what it means to be a revolutionary and a communist in the world today. For us, this means that revolutionary communists struggle against all oppression and for a communist future.
- (8) While we base ourselves on the revolutionary tradition founded and developed by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Mao, we are serious about making a critical assessment of this tradition (the "international communist movement") as well as other revolutionary traditions that have made valuable contributions to the struggles of the oppressed. We will uphold what we determine to be correct in these traditions, discard "revolutionary" conceptions that have proven to lead to a dead-end, and unite with and learn from new revolutionary practice and theory that is constantly arising in the world today.
- (9) If you share our basic political views and the orientation of our current work, we need your contributions!