

17 December, 2008

MOTION FOR SWP CONFERENCE

Annual conference must take a number of decisions, however provisional, to guide our immediate practice in the months ahead. But the period of intra-party discussion should not be terminated at the conclusion of conference, as is usually the case. There are three reasons for this.

- First, none of the pre-conference CC documents provide a detailed perspective which bridges the gap between our global analysis and our day-to-day tasks. We move from world economy to paper sales without mediation. Of all the major nation-states, Britain will be hit hardest by the recession, yet we have no detailed assessment of how this is likely to impact on different sectors of the economy or of the potential for resistance which it will provoke. We need this before any long-term strategic thinking can take place.
- Second, as a result of this absence of perspective, our actual strategy is impressionistic, incoherent and based on little more than an interpretation of the united front tactic which appears to recognise no limits and which has divided the party. Attempts by the CC to impose this on the Party in January without further discussion will simply result in demoralisation and demobilisation of party members at a time when their informed and committed activism is most required by the working class.
- Third, these problems have arisen because of a need to reconcile different positions within the CC itself—differences which have been apparent at NC meetings but have not been communicated to the majority of party members. This suggests that both the composition of the CC and its relationship with the broader party needs to be reconsidered, which will involve redrafting of the Constitution.

We therefore propose that:

- the period of pre-Conference discussion be continued for further 3 months after which a recall Conference should be held, at which a new strategic orientation and Constitution can be agreed; and

- elections to the NC and CC should not be held in January, but postponed until the recall conference at which they should be conducted under the new Constitution; and
- comrades elected at last years conference should remain in place until then.

Signed:

Neil Davidson