

Opening Statement to the Second South Asia Regional RIM Conference

A Regional Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organisations in South Asia upholding the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* has been successfully concluded. The conference was an important step in the consolidation of genuine Marxist-Leninist forces in the region and reflected the growing strength of the RIM. The conference carried on fruitful discussions of important questions of revolution in South Asia and those regarding the RIM. The following statement by the Committee of the RIM opened the work of the conference — AWTW.

Comrades,

The Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement extends its warmest welcome to all of the participating parties and organisations of our movement in the South Asia region.

This regional conference is taking place at a very important moment. The revolutionary situation in a number of countries in South Asia continues to develop rapidly. The grinding poverty of the majority of the masses, armed resistance of oppressed nationalities in India and Sri Lanka, the intensifying conflict in the ranks of the enemies themselves, and the scrambling of the different imperialist powers to increase and solidify their spheres of influence all create more favourable opportunities for preparing and launching the armed struggle for power.

It can be said that, in the three years since the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement was formed, important efforts have been made to come to grips with some of the key questions facing the Marxist-Leninists in the region. At the same time it is also clear that the Marxist-

Leninist forces in the region must still “race to catch up” with the favourable conditions for revolution, just as must our movement internationally.

Although each of the countries in the South Asia movement present their own particularities and it is neither correct nor possible to map out a common line for making revolution in all of these countries, it is also true that historical links, certain common socio-economic features, the mutual influence of the revolutionary movement in neighbouring countries and current geopolitical realities all make it imperative that the genuine Marxist-Leninist forces of the area, especially those participating in the RIM, carry out a vigorous exchange of experience, struggle over political line and develop practical cooperation. It is in this spirit that the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, in consultation with the participating parties and organisations of the region, has called this conference.

In a number of countries, the need to form, or reconstitute, a Marxist-Leninist vanguard party is glaring. As the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* points out, it is the task of the entire international movement to assist in carrying out this task. Indeed, in each of the countries of South Asia in which our movement is present (with the exception of Sri Lanka), there has been more than one participating organisation, and in all of them there are forces whose political positions approach those of our *Declaration*. Thus the problem exists of uniting the genuine Marxist-Leninist forces on the basis of a correct ideological and political line.

In our view, the *Declaration of*

the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement plays a critical role in this process. It provides an important basis for distinguishing Marxism from revisionism and provides clear and correct guidance for the Marxist-Leninists on a whole series of questions. It is not possible to envision principled unity with forces who attack our Movement and its *Declaration* as opportunist. Nevertheless, the *Declaration* still reflects the fact that the unity of our movement on an international level is not complete and this unity must be raised step-by-step through discussion and struggle. Furthermore, the *Declaration* cannot analyse the particularities of different countries — their socio-economic makeup, the specific history of the Marxist-Leninist movements, the specific form which people’s war must take, and so forth. All of these questions, also, are vital in the process of uniting the genuine Marxist-Leninist forces around a correct revolutionary line.

The discussion and debate amongst the different parties and organisations affiliated with the RIM in the South Asia region has been going on for several years and will undoubtedly continue in the future. The Conference cannot and should not attempt to definitively settle the many outstanding questions which appear on the agenda. But by fully exploring different viewpoints, by waging principled political and ideological struggle, this Conference can contribute to raising the level of the debate not only in the region, but in the RIM as a whole. □

Statement by the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement