

SEEK TRUTH FROM FACTS! OPPOSE GOSSIP AND SLANDER!

Regarding a Malicious Rumour About the Relation Between RSM-GTA and the Defunct Mass Organizations of RCP-Toronto

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“The gossips have no facts whatever to go by. The scandal-mongers of Martov’s circle are incapable of organized action, of calling together a committee, collecting information of political interest or significance, of verifying, analyzing, jointly discussing, and formulating an official and responsible decision for the guidance of the proletariat. The gossips are incapable of doing anything like that.

“But then these intellectual gossips are past masters of the art of scandal-mongering, of going to or from Martov (or other filthy slanderers like him) and encouraging insidious rumours, or picking up and passing on insinuations! Whoever has been hut once in the company of these scandal-mongering intellectualist gossips will certainly (unless he is a gossip himself) retain for the rest of his life disgust for these despicable creatures.

“Each to his own. Every social stratum has its own way of life, its own habits and inclinations. Every insect has its own weapon. Some insects fight by excreting a foul-smelling liquid.”

– V.I. Lenin¹

The Greater Toronto Area section of the Revolutionary Student Movement (RSM-GTA)² hereby takes the opportunity to alert comrades and supporters of the pan-Canadian RSM, as well as all genuine Communists at large, to a certain misconception regarding our section which we have recently come across. By all indications, this misconception seems to be stemming from the Toronto cell or Central Committee (CC) of the “Revolutionary Communist Party” (RCP).

It seems that in the past few weeks or months, a rumour is being promoted in Toronto and other cities which vaguely insinuates that RSM-GTA has been trying in some underhanded way to take over the social media pages of a couple of defunct mass organizations fraternal to RCP-Toronto. We do not know

1 Lenin, Vladimir Ilyich. “The Bourgeois Intelligentsia’s Methods of Struggle Against the Workers.” *Lenin Collected Works*, vol. 20, Progress Publishers, 1972, pp. 455–486, www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1914/jun/x01.htm.

2 Follow RSM-GTA on our social media pages: www.linktr.ee/torontorsm.

how such an impression could have arisen, since the facts regarding our relationship to RCP-Toronto and the mass organizations fraternal to it are quite clear and show this story to be not only false, but likely also a deliberate fabrication. Therefore we have no choice but to present these facts publicly and set the record straight for anyone who has heard or might hear of this baseless rumour.

The Facts

Aside from RSM-GTA, all mass organizations that have been even nominally fraternal with the RCP in Toronto have ceased to exist since long before we began building RSM-GTA in August 2020. Soon after our formation, we began looking at potentially reviving two of the most recently deceased of these mass organizations to serve as vehicles for the mass work of our section, namely Toronto Against Fascism (TAF) and Serve the People – Toronto (STP-Toronto).

The reason we wished to revive and work with these organizations was that, in the case of STP-Toronto, there already existed several other STPs across the country which we would be joining, allowing for our work with this mass organization to contribute to a broader national effort under the STP banner. Although STP-Toronto had been conceived in April 2020 as an economistic “red” charity and operated as such for the duration of its roughly one-month existence, this was not the case for many of the other STP sections elsewhere in the country, and there were internal struggles within RSM-GTA over a rectification of the economistic line if STP-Toronto were to be revived. As for TAF, the reason for our interest was that, although TAF had likewise been built along lines which were incorrect in our view, it nonetheless had a three-year history, much experience, and former membership who could have been re-mobilized if we took the initiative to do so; therefore we wanted to work with these people to rectify TAF and get it back on its feet. Working with either STP-Toronto or TAF would also have provided an avenue for two-line struggle with the RCP in the context of concrete practice that both of our organizations would have been involved in, which may have been a productive additional way to work through the many serious ideological-political criticisms that we have toward the RCP (as opposed to letters and polemics alone, which we have also written).

We put forward proposals to this effect to RCP-Toronto as early as September 2020. This was initially done via one of our two points of contact with them, who was also a member of our section at the time. We later also made the proposal to the other of our two RCP-Toronto contacts, who also happens to be on the CC of the RCP.

While initially these proposals were not met with much enthusiasm, they were not rejected either, and our two points of contact with RCP-Toronto indicated that they would fulfill our specific requests in relation to the general proposals regarding both STP-Toronto and TAF. These requests largely involved: putting us in touch with any former members of those organizations who were still involved in each organization up to the point when the organizations became inactive; sharing contact information for the periphery of the organizations; connecting some of our members with the national coordinating group for the existing STP sections; giving us access to the social media pages of the organizations; and in the case of TAF, working with us to bring together an invitation-only meeting with former members

and close periphery of TAF, along with new contacts gathered up by our section who were interested in anti-fascist work, plus members of RSM-GTA and RCP-Toronto, who together would work to initiate a critical assessment of the prior three years of TAF's work as well as its eventual fizzling out, and on that basis chart a path forward for the redeployment of a red anti-fascist organization in the GTA along a more consolidated Maoist line.

While agreeing to these requests in words, RCP-Toronto proceeded to ignore them in deeds by continually failing to carry them out over a period of around four months. From roughly sometime in September 2020 when we first began engaging RCP-Toronto with our proposals on this, until sometime in early January 2021 when we gave up hope that RCP-Toronto had any genuine desire for common work with us on these projects, we were told repeatedly by our RCP-Toronto contacts that they will look into and follow up on the agreed-upon tasks outlined above. And yet, weeks would go by with nothing heard back from them, until we would take the initiative to check in with them again, at which point they would tell us the same things as before, and the cycle would then repeat itself.

Eventually in the case of STP-Toronto, we were essentially told that our requests cannot be fulfilled because STP-Toronto is a mass organization that is fraternal to the RCP and is currently being "rectified", meaning we cannot have access to its social media, and furthermore, no concrete avenue for our involvement in the organization and its "rectification" was offered either. We criticized this as an arbitrary and bureaucratic measure which disregarded our willingness to work with RCP-Toronto on reviving the organization as a common project between us. We also pointed out the error of a paper "rectification" which was being done entirely apart from practice, with no members from STP-Toronto left at all to actually implement it, nor anyone from RCP-Toronto available to do so, all while arbitrarily barring RSM-GTA from lending ourselves to the task. Our criticisms were dismissed by RCP-Toronto without principled engagement or reasoning, and today STP-Toronto remains defunct, nearly a full year since it became inactive.

As for TAF, there technically remains a standing commitment from RCP-Toronto to help connect us with former TAF members so we can work toward the invitation-only meeting mentioned above. Yet our current RCP-Toronto contact has simply stopped responding to our messages asking for a follow-up on that (the last of which we sent around early to mid-January) with no explanation provided.

Gossip and Slander: RCP's Methods of "Struggle"

The above is the short account of the facts. And it is important to emphasize that the only entities who would be aware of any of this, apart from us in RSM-GTA, would be the Toronto RCP cell and the CC of the RCP. That is why we say that the insinuation that we had some malicious, underhanded, unprincipled intention in our engagement with RCP-Toronto regarding these mass organizations seems to be stemming from the RCP. How else would such a rumour have turned up in an entirely separate section of the RSM, several provinces across the country, aired by a member of that section with some notably strong personal relationships with several CC members of the RCP? No one from our section has ever spoken with this individual about the events in question; most of us have never spoken to them

at all nor know of them. It should be highlighted that this individual first brought up the rumour in the context of a discussion within their RSM section regarding the recent liquidation of another section, RSM-Montreal, which occurred under very questionable circumstances that we will not delve into here.

As for how any of the facts we have recounted can be misconstrued as an attempt to “take over” anything, it is entirely beyond us to explain. Surely a “take over” would not make every conceivable attempt at principled unity and struggle with the RCP in order to revive these mass organizations on a more solid basis than ever before, so that they may actually fulfill their role in the revolutionary movement? But of course, this is precisely the nature of a malicious rumour: it relies on the recipient to not think critically but instead give into a complacent passivity – not attempt to seek the truth from facts, which always takes a bit more effort and discernment than lazily accepting a sensational falsified narrative. In other words, those self-styled “Communists” who might concoct or perpetuate such gossip and slander (surely with the aim of underhandedly isolating their ideological opponents before the masses) in fact demonstrate a tremendous contempt for the masses, a reactionary class stand which is firmly opposed to the interests of the masses. And on *that* basis they must themselves be exposed and isolated, not through desperate and ineffectual methods like rumour-mongering, but openly and with support from the masses, who in reality always turn out to be far more clever than the revisionists would hope.

Conclusion

We ask all comrades and genuine Communists in Canada to not spread the rumours originating from this reactionary clique, and to combat such active attempts at disrupting the historically inevitable struggle to reconstitute the Communist Party of Canada (CPC). We must point out that it has been our experience of this and many other such instances of the RCP’s bad faith, lack of principles, refusal to struggle, abdication of their responsibility to lead, and much more, which has informed our position that they cannot be considered Revolutionary, nor Communist, nor a Party. Two sections of the RSM have already jointly condemned the RCP as a band of postmodernist intellectuals and bureaucrats obstructing the road to reconstitution and People’s War.³ Our hostility to this clique is solidly rooted in Maoism which teaches us to despise and combat revisionism implacably, relentlessly, serving the advance of the revolution in Canada as part of the World Revolution.

We hope that comrades in all quarters will take our experiences seriously and not be easily fooled by attempts at smearing and slander such as this rumour. These appear to be done entirely in reaction to our efforts at deepening the two-line struggle everywhere we can, our attempts at curing the sickness of revisionism in order to save the patient. But the patient appears committed to remaining sick, and what’s more, it is vomiting up all sorts of noxious perfidy in defiance of any attempt at a cure, demonstrating that the contradiction between Marxism and revisionism is indeed unavoidably antagonistic despite our best efforts at unity–struggle–transformation. Other instances of such underhanded tactics have already been documented and must surely come to light in due time.

³ *The Path to Women’s Emancipation Can Only Be Achieved by Abolishing Imperialism and Patriarchy Inseparably!*
8 Mar. 2021, www.mer-rsm.ca/iwwd2021.

We reiterate that as the ongoing two-line struggle over the reconstitution of the CPC continues to be deepened, we fully expect more and more of such desperate attacks to be launched against organizations, comrades, and leaders who dare to swim against the current and rebel against the prevailing rot. We have seen it before and will see it again. The whole history of the International Communist Movement shows us that those who take strong and principled positions will become the targets of revisionist dung flung from every shadowy corner, in the hopes that something will stick. This is an expression of the ideological and political bankruptcy of revisionism: it cannot simply engage in open, aboveboard and principled two-line struggle without resorting to such dirty tricks, because it knows that it stands no chance otherwise. But such desperate manipulations will be easily swept aside as long as all honest and decent comrades – regardless of where they may currently stand in the two-line struggle – make the effort to keep vigilant and critical, seek truth from facts, and always actively investigate before making up their mind.

It is the duty of every true Communist to firmly oppose any slick attempts at liquidating two-line struggle with gossip and slander.

— *A statement from the leadership of RSM-GTA*

