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We People of this Land have suffered enough
OUR CHAINS MUST FALL!

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THE MARXIST-LENINISTS AND THE WORKING PEOPLE'S PARTY

What will be the relationship between the Marxist-Leninists and the working people's party which must see the light of day in 1989?

The working people's party itself should strive to recruit as many workers, peasants, artisans, professionals, youths, women, and socialists as possible into its ranks. Party membership can be made up of the most active elements only among these. This kind of party is called a cadre party. On the other hand, party membership can be made up of all those who accept the party programme and are willing to work for the party in accordance with its principles and directions. Both types are found among working people's parties in the world.

This matter is subject to debate. We believe that at the present time, in order to collect, train and direct the radicalising intelligentsia, workers, peasants and underprivileged women and youths and detatch them completely from capitalism, tribalism, regionalism, religious chauvinism, traditionalist sentiments and personality cult, the party membership should be as wide as possible. However, we should approach as near as we can to the cadre party type. If we do not, the party will be swarmed by opportunists, since it is going to be a democratic party and no party member can be prevented from attending general meetings and voting. In fact, opportunistic factions will develop in the party if it is simply like the People's Redemption Party in which anyone who accepted the program could become a member.

Four conditions must be imposed on membership.

First, a member has to accept the party programme. Specifically, he has to believe that socialism is the urgent need of Nigeria, that socialism can only be realised by putting the working people in power and that the power struggle must be the focus of party activity. A mere vague belief in 'socialism' is not enough.

Secondly, a member will have to undergo a probation during which he must receive party education as prescribed by the leadership. During the probation period, a member must satisfy his comrades that he is loyal to the party programme, steadfast, disciplined and active. The party must be no respecter of persons and must be ready to do away with the membership of anyone who does not fulfil this condition.

Party education is a continuing thing. The minimum education should not be a long-drawn affair. It can consist of four or five lectures and discussions which can be completed at a week-end seminar. It would be better for the party to run a correspondence course and prepare a set of printed lectures with questions for this purpose. In this way the party educators can reach as many literate people as possible.