

March 25, 1971

Dear Darry and Joe;

First you must get Pete to send back here via airmail the copy of the International Discussion Bulletin with Livio, Ernest and Gisela on LA, that I had marked up for my own use, and the copy of Direct Action (Australia) which is the airmail copy and belongs to the file here. He took them with him in error.

Got a couple of Luxembourg comrades this afternoon who had just got the first issue of their paper off the press. Thank god it is not another Mole. Put it on exchange **Klassen Kampf**

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Luxembourg

All I think that you will agree that it was good to have sent Pete over. Before he had arrived I had learned that Livio was coming in from LA and so too was Jean Pierre and of course I do not know what is going on in LA. Peter clarified it all. I am enclosing advance copies of the Uruguay and Argentina resolutions and the last page of the minutes which we got out this afternoon along with a bonus statement on April 24. Gisela and Vergent were not going to put this material out--at least not the minutes until Ernest had an opportunity to approve them. You see I take them but then Ernest goes over them changing them as he sees fit. But on Monday morning he went off with Livio to Italy so what is to be done. Ernest called a little meeting of the four of us and I say we will put the minutes out without him--Gisela and Vergent say ~~now~~ but Ernest is ~~shamed~~ into agreeing and we finally pull it off today with the two of them except for a couple of changes agreeing to my version of the minutes. We were also held up with translating and typing up a statement by Vergent on Sudan.

So as you can see I got the essence of Pete's view of the Revolutionary Peoples Army and also I think the essence of what the Verdad group is doing into the minutes. Then too the amendment to Livio's resolution and the vote. I did not see how I could get anything on Bolivia as they had no declaration that we could handle. As Pete probably told you they had a long resolution on Uruguay ~~which~~ the purpose of which would have been incomprehensible to any normal mortal. It was such a petty factionalist job that it embarrassed Ernest and the others. So I guess it was Pierre's shortened version that was finally accepted. I did not recall that Peter did not vote--I thought he abstained. But Gisela has him not voting and promising a statement which he never submitted to me. That is not unuseful so you can decide what to do for the next meeting.

We also had a very worthwhile discussion with Connie and Alan. Connie had sent me a copy of Jordan's draft political resolution and several other items which I managed to study before their arrival and I think we were of help in giving Connie direction for the balance sheet she was assigned by the tendency to draw up. Connie is somewhat overwhelmed and we will have to shortly talk about sending some Canadians or ~~USA~~ USers over there to school to give them a hand. My impression is that the tendency ~~is~~ is in fairly good shape. Much much better shape than the IMG brass. I think Connie gave Peter a copy of Pat's draft--an incredible document. Pentonville is pushing the tendency to the wall on women's liberation. They stole Socialist Women of the Nottingham movement (two different issues appeared at the Trafalgar Demo--Nottingham's and Pentonville's. And they are demanding that the tendency comrades in Nottingham publicly repudiate the Nottingham women's liberation group for not ~~approving~~ approving of its rape. I and Alan were called aside with Pat by Pierre. I do not know whether we succeeded in calling off the dogs--Pat has sold his soul.

The meeting had its humorous aspects. Pat gave a little talk on their intentions towards the Irish revolution. It seems IMG is in touch with two groups--a circle of 'Mole' readers in Belfast and some persons who break away from that Dublin group--League for a Revolutionary Party??? At any rate he said that the latter did not believe that there was such a thing as an Irish national question. I couldn't suppress a guffaw. Then I had to ask Pat to take up that ~~question~~ matter of the Canadian's attacking the 'Mole'. I gave them shit--Alan got a real bang out of it. They took exception to my characterizing Blackburn as an ultra leftist of international reputation. . .so I gave it to them about that bastards recent article on the US left which not only fails to even mention the YS but takes the FBI's frame-up of the Berrigans as proof the depth and scope of the new wave of radicalization. Pat didn't know what the hell they wanted and of course I seized on the idea that we would circulate any reply they drafted. I am looking forward to receiving this item. This may well turn into one of the best items for the international discussion. Did you see their last International with the articles showing that our view on Terrorism is to be determined by which article you read of Lenin or Trotsky. The British situation is really pretty sick. Pat's interpretation of British events was so wrong all down the line that Ernest felt called upon to make some gestures in support of my evaluation .

The report on the European Workers conference preparations was pretty gloomy and would seem to show how artificial their orientation to the union movement and the working class is. The documents that were supposed to be out for circulation prior to the conference even though hell was raised about it at least two weeks ago are still not out. The French wholeheartedly inject a certain élan in every European operation told the United Secretariat that they are only sending two persons. Everyone was scandalized particularly Livio . They have money to traipse over Hungary but apparently not enough to send more than two to a neighboring country. It was so scandalous that I think they will have to come across with more. While everyone is playing up the commune this meeting finally saw Pierre have to take on the statement which we hope will be ready to commemorate its collapse in May. Did Pete give you the changes in the dates-- The French congress has been postponed now till May 30-31 and the IMG conference till June 19-20. And did he get you a copy of the political resolution for their congress? Krivine told me that they will be formally launching a youth organization at their congress and are putting their youth paper out on a monthly basis. They have big problems in France. It appears that they are not just able to handle Quatrieme--Krivine responded to Pierre's complaint with the motion to evaluate Quatrieme itself. The French also dumped the publication on the Red Europe conference pamphlet and the Cahier Rouge project on Guinea to Ernest's chagrin.

There is something being cooked up for you and Intercontinental Press. Pat's notion following the Uruguayan discussion is not accidental. Ernest has been expressing continual impatience with what he would call the failure of ICP to respond to his directives. Gisela was giving me the shots about your not publishing contributions from Bala Tampa. In the discussion on Britain Livio remarked that the line of my articles was at variance with Pat's report

Ernest said a few words to Pete about the Frankfort ~~amendment~~ proposition. I have since learned that the whole question of the post has now to go to the Senate. This is a severe test as such appointments are for life. I think G told me that they have to make their decision within 6 months.

Incidentally there is a book that we must pick up. I do not know

the title--no one knew it. The author is Claudin--a former leader of the Spanish CP who broke in 1966. It is only in Spanish so far. It apparently has some sensational material in it.

I was talking to Peter about our utilization of the information he has. It seems to me that we should open up in the press--The Militant. The developments in Bolivia are all new to me as I suppose to almost everyone else. Embryonic soviets and Moscos^o ^{Walls} their further degeneration and collapse so that then we can carry on with the rural guerrilla struggle. I think that it is crucial that this general information and the challenge to Bolivian revolutionists be made available to the world movement. I don't doubt there are several ways to handle it.

Looking forward to Joe's further contribution to the LA discussion and the material on the British. Yes I think we have to step up our political attack on the IMG--it can only help the tendency--can't harm the

Tomorrow I am headed off to Italy and the trade union conference. Goddam expensive however Livio revealed that it has become a major effort of the Italians. In giving the French shit for their report that only two would be going he revealed that of the 4 pc members functioning in his absence one had been working full time on the project for a couple of months and another for at least a month. So it should give me some kind of a picture of the situation there. It appears that there is no translation problem. I will go on from there to Paris where I will see the Pengs. I have written them that I am coming and raised with them the proposition that Pi-Lan see Krivine's father about her teeth if she is agreeable. So I will for about 5 days or so.

Not getting much done on my projects. The books etc that I sent two months ago to Britain had not been delivered by the time Al and Connie left for here. Really unfortunate. This week was shot with the US meeting and its aftermath. I hope when I get back I will be able to allocate some time--and that the books are in by then. Lots to write on here but after tomorrow's British evaluation I think I will taper off if events permit. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Two nights ago I came out of 27 to walk over to the post office and I walked into the shambles that the farmers made of the main street. All the rails, kiosks, advertising pylons, directional lights smashed up--plate glass everywhere, tear gas, paving stones. A real mess. But as I say I am going to try to taper off. What with my reading of the Times, The Guardian, Herald Tribune and Le Monde from time to time I am surprised how much I already know about all the things that Ernest and others pass off as the inside dope from our connections here and there.

I hope you have given some thought to the material in the Intl bulletin hitting Peng. I did not take it up as you had said nothing to Pete. And what do you have to say about things over here and what I am doing. By the time of the next US we might have some hot water to shave and wash with. I paid the rent tonight and the landlady told me that they have yet to put another vent in the wall before the gas company winds up the job. Big deal.

comradely

Ross

Why don't you send me ~~the~~ your PC-NC material--I haven't seen any of your plenum stuff. Getting ICP, Militant ISR and YS Builder ok.