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October 25, 1979*

Professor Robert Bellamy
Russian Institute
NYU 10027

Dear Professor Bellamy:

Nothing like a revolution, though it be 75 years gone, to arouse my interest to the point of putting aside my ever-so-slowly germinating work, Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation, and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution, and accept the Russian Institute's invitation for Jan. 30, 1980 to talk on 1905. Kevin Anderson has asked me to write to you directly both as to acceptance of lecture topic and date and to suggest a precise title. The latter makes me think that you credit me with being a 20th c. --late 20th c.--person adept at brief titles for busy Americans accustomed to reading no further than headlines, instead of what I really am, living in early 19th c. of Hegel-Marx where a title is a veritable book. Nevertheless let me try. Here are 3 suggestions, each of which would have some overheadline,

On the 75th Anniversary of the First Russian Revolution
with 1st variant of main title being:

FROM 1905 THROUGH 1917 TO 1980

2nd variant could be: REVOLUTION, COUNTER-REVOLUTION, PERMANENT REVOLUTION

while 3rd variant:

ITS IMPACT ON THE EAST, FROM PERSIA-AFGHANISTAN
TO CHINA-JAPAN

Let me also let you into fact that I thought of subheadings on all 3 variants to also have something like: In Fact and In Theory: Luxemburg,

Lenin, Trotsky

May I also offer some explanation for my long-windedness? Originally, in my correspondence with my friend, Kevin Anderson, I had raised the question of the month of January as key because it is the month in which Rosa Luxemburg was murdered, and that, therefore, I wanted to talk, the Life and Death of Luxemburg, and since I did not wish it to dwell on the tragic death, and not to remain in 1919, but to look at it with eyes of today, it should be preceded by: Revolution and Counter-Revolution. As it happened I had just completed the chapter on the 1905 Revolution, as it was discussed at the 1967 Congress where all tendencies in Russian Marxism--from Mensheviks and Bolsheviks, to Bundists and "Poles"--had theorized so that every view for the later revolutions, both West and East, was actually touched upon. And, of course, that included both the actual developing revolution in Persia, 1906-1911 while we looked at what is Iran, 1980. Now I can't possibly deal with all ramifications in fact and in theory, so you see cut mercilessly (that's what I think of editing) the topics I suggested so that it fills what the Institute wished to single out of that revolution of 1905 for today.

Will look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Yours,

*If you consider that accidental dating in the old calendar, then of course it is Nov. 7th and also the 100th anniversary of the birth of Trotsky who kept from acknowledging his birthday from fear of being accused that he "made it up." As for Luxemburg's love-hate of Russia, it goes thru also in her literary criticisms of Dostoevsky, genius, is judged: "And thus the reactionary Dostoevsky becomes the artistic agent of the insulted and injured..."

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