

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 4, October 9, 1975

Present: Barnes, Breitman, Camejo, Hansen, Jenness, Lovell,
Sheppard, Waters

Chair: Waters

Visitors: Gersh, Lyons, Stone

AGENDA: 1. Portugal
2. World Movement Report
3. Correspondence with OCI
4. Teachers Desegregation Campaign
5. National Committee Plenum
6. Membership

1. PORTUGAL

(Foley, Frankel, J. Hansen, Novack invited for this point.)

Sheppard reported.

Discussion

2. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORT

Waters reported.

Discussion

3. CORRESPONDENCE WITH OCI

Barnes reported.

Discussion

Motion: To send letter in response (see attached).

Carried.

4. TEACHERS DESEGREGATION CAMPAIGN

Jenness reported on a meeting he had with the teachers fraction in Washington, D.C. about taking the next steps forward in implementing the P.C. decision to initiate a committee for school desegregation in the AFT and NEA.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

5. NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

Barnes reported on proposal to hold a National Committee plenum in Milwaukee January 2-4, 1976 with the following agenda:

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1. World Movement Report
2. Political and Organizational Report
3. Campaign in Preparation for Party Trial
4. Election of Political Committee

Discussion

Motion: To approve the proposal (see attached).

Carried.

Motion: To invite as observers to the plenum branch organizers, representatives from party organizing committees, department heads, and special guests.

Carried.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Jeness reported the recommendation of the St. Louis branch to readmit M.F. and the Brooklyn branch to readmit T.S. into membership in the party.

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the St. Louis branch to readmit M.F. and that of the Brooklyn branch to readmit T.S. into membership in the party.

Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

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14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
October 9, 1975

Dear Comrade Lambert,

Thank you for your two letters dated September 23, 1975.

We are happy to hear that you have decided to invite the United Secretariat of the Fourth International to observe the convention of the OCI. The address of the United Secretariat has been changed since your last correspondence. It is now: Gisela Scholtz, Boite Postale 1166, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. It would be good for you to send copies of the agenda and documents directly to the above address as they come out.

The SWP Political Committee appreciates your invitation to send observers to your convention. Could you send us three copies of each of your documents as they are printed?

We, of course, have no objection to your informing your membership through internal bulletins of your correspondence with the United Secretariat and other groups. However, none of the internal material that we began exchanging according to the agreement of the meeting of October 15 should be made public unless it has been released by those concerned.

We did not know about the meeting you had with Comrade Moreno when he passed through Paris until we read about it in your letter. The LTF steering committee met at the end of August, but it did not ask anyone to initiate such a meeting.

I have not yet received the reply you said you intended to write in response to the article by Comrades Pierre Frank, Livio Maitan and Ernest Mandel which appeared in the September 8, 1975, Intercontinental Press. We assume that when it is finished you will send a copy of the reply to the United Secretariat at the above address.

We are forwarding copies of your two letters to the United Secretariat and also to Comrade Moreno.

Comradely,
/s/
Jack Barnes
for the Political Committee
Socialist Workers Party

cc: United Secretariat
Hugo Moreno

ORGANISATION COMMUNISTE INTERNACIONALISTE

(pour la Reconstruction de la 4 Internationale)

Paris, September 23, 1975

Jack Barnes
National Secretary, SWP

Dear Comrade:

First I should like to thank you for the fraternal reception you accorded to our delegation and for the facilities that you made available to them so that they could inform themselves as completely as possible on all the various activities of the SWP.

Comrade François has reported to us on the SWP convention and our Central Committee has thus been able to study the step forward taken by your party.

The Central Committee of the OCI has assigned me to invite the SWP to send a delegation to the Twentieth Convention of the OCI which will take place in Paris December 26-30, 1975.

As both sides put it at the time of the meeting with a delegation of the United Secretariat on October 15, 1974, the discussion on the problems raised by the Tenth Congress of the United Secretariat -- which, according to the expression used in your declaration of January 2, 1975, on the subject of this meeting, concern "all organizations claiming to be Trotskyist" -- must be followed up in one way or another. But it would be preferable, in the interests of Trotskyism, if this were done in a common, organized framework.

It was from this concern, and the desire to give a certain form to the debate, that the decision to exchange internal documents was arrived at. The decision taken by your leadership to invite the Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International to attend the SWP convention, with the status of observers, fits into this framework.

Likewise, it is from the same approach that our Central Committee has decided to invite the SWP to send a delegation to our convention. Your delegates may, if they wish, have speaking rights in the discussions at our convention.

We will send you shortly the agenda for the convention and, as they appear, the documents submitted for discussion.

Accept, dear comrade, my fraternal Trotskyist salutations.

For the Central Committee of
the OCI

Pierre Lambert

TRANSLATION

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ORGANISATION COMMUNISTE INTERNATIONALISTE

(pour la Reconstruction de la 4 Internationale)

Paris, September 23, 1975

Jack Barnes
National Secretary, SWP

Dear Comrade:

In a few days we will send you a short reply to the article signed by Mandel, Maitan, and Frank, which appeared in the IP of September 8, 1975.

This reply seems to us all the more necessary because we are directly attacked in this article and in a manner that we consider unfair.

We propose that this reply appear in Intercontinental Press.

But, as you know, Comrade Moreno in passing through Paris had a brief meeting with some members of our Central Committee. He stressed in particular how important the question of the form of the discussion is, at a moment when necessarily this discussion -- and in particular the debate on the problems of the Portuguese revolution -- must become public. Comrade Moreno was conveying here the opinion of the responsible leaders of the international faction with which you are in political solidarity. And by "form" we think that what is involved concerns not only "tone," but also the consideration of the opportune moment to publish this or that document in this or that publication, etc.

Hence, while we think that it would be a positive thing if our answer were to appear in Intercontinental Press, we are prepared to take into account your opinion on this subject and we do not by any means present the question of its possible publication in the columns of Intercontinental Press as an obligation in regard to the "right of reply" but as a proposition which must be considered from the standpoint of the necessities and the depth of the discussion.

The same attitude holds, it goes without saying, for the form of your presence at the convention of the OCI. We are aware of the fact that the relations between the SWP and the OCI take place, for you, in a framework accepted by the United Secretariat. Hence, if you consider it necessary, we have no objection to inviting the US to attend our forthcoming convention.

In any case, in the framework of the preparation of the convention, it is necessary that our members should be informed of the international activities of our Central Committee. To fulfill this obligation we ask from you authorization to publish in an internal bulletin the whole of the correspondence concerning the evolution of our relations since October 1974.

Fraternally,
Pierre Lambert

copy to J. Hansen

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
October 9, 1975

TO ALL NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The National Committee plenum will convene at 10 a.m. January 2, 1976, in the Wisconsin Room at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Please fill in and return the plenum attendance form below so that the national office can make the necessary arrangements.

Single and double dormitory rooms one block from the plenum site will be available for \$4.50 per person beginning January 1, the night before the plenum. Please indicate whether the national office should reserve a room for you the nights of January 1, 2, and 3. A limited number of persons may be able to stay with local Milwaukee comrades.

The dormitory rooms are available only during the plenum and not for the entire YSA convention. Housing arrangements for the convention should be made through the YSA.

Comradely,

Barry Sheppard

Barry Sheppard
National Organization
Secretary

Clip and return to: 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014

_____ I will be able to attend the National Committee plenum in Milwaukee January 2-4, 1976.

_____ I will not be able to attend the National Committee plenum in Milwaukee January 2-4, 1976.

_____ Please reserve a dormitory room for me during the plenum for the nights of January 1, 2 and 3.

_____ Please make other arrangements for my housing.

Signed _____

City _____