

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
October 21, 1975

TO ALL NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

The following is a recent editorial from the Workers World and a reply by Andrea Morell.

Comradely,

Doug Jenness
Doug Jenness
SWP National Office

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SWP Calls on Secret Service

Did you catch this news item on September 29? "Peter Camejo, the Socialist Workers Party Presidential candidate, asked today that Secret Service protection be provided for all Presidential candidates."

The SWP considers its election campaigns to be real steps to socialism -- the SWP version of the CP's "peaceful road," as it were.

Now it has invited the secret police of the imperialist state to watch its every move and accompany its candidate on the road to power.

Humorous as this may strike us, we should hold our laughter long enough to remember all those pompous articles in the Militant warning against betrayals by the CP, the "Maoists," the "Stalinists," etc., etc., in Portugal and elsewhere.

Inadequate as the tactics and program of some of the above may be, how wonderful it is for the Portuguese (and American!) proletariat that the party of the Secret Service is not leading the revolution!

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October 21, 1975

Workers World
New York, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

In an editorial October 10 headlined "SWP calls on Secret Service" Workers World wrote, "Did you catch this news item on September 29? Peter Camejo, the Socialist Workers Party Presidential candidate, asked today that Secret Service protection be provided for all Presidential candidates." The editorial goes on to denounce the alleged request as a violation of socialist principles.

The quote cited is presumably a UPI item which appeared in the September 30 New York Times and other papers across the country. However, this news item was completely inaccurate. Neither Peter Camejo nor Willie Mae Reid, the Socialist Workers party vice-presidential candidate, made the statement attributed to Camejo.

Camejo and Reid issued a news release September 29 in response to the assassination attempts against Gerald Ford but nowhere did they request that Secret Service agents be assigned to accompany them on their campaign tours. Attributing the attempts on Ford's life to "the bipartisan policy of the U.S. government to foment disregard for human rights," they asked, "Will the widely voiced concern for Ford's safety now prompt government authorities to provide adequate protection for all candidates and defend the right of all political parties to function?" This was no academic question since, as they pointed out, during the 1976 election campaign, the SWP campaign headquarters in Los Angeles "has been bombed twice, with campaign workers narrowly escaping death. Nazis publicly boasted of the attack, yet the police and FBI refuse to act."

"It is our firm belief," they concluded, "that the only way for the government to curb the violence and safeguard political freedom is to start enforcing equal rights under the law for everyone, regardless of their race or political beliefs, and to call a halt to its own secret-police campaigns of harassment and violence."

It is regrettable that Workers World simply reprinted the UPI item without bothering to check its accuracy.

Sincerely,

/s/
Andrea Morell
Socialist Workers 1976
National Campaign Committee