

Mexico: Letter from Ricardo Hernandez to the United Secretariat

(no date)

To the comrades of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International

Dear Comrades:

In this letter we want to inform you of certain events that recently occurred in the Liga Socialista, sympathizing section of the Fourth International in Mexico.

The Second Congress of our organization was held December 19, 20, 21 and 22, 1975. Two counterposed positions were expressed in this Congress. They dealt with substantial questions relating to concepts, organizational methods, membership criteria, and the relationship to the class struggle that should be maintained by a party that considers itself to be Bolshevik and Trotskyist. These two positions were crystallized into two tendencies. The majority, called the Militant Tendency, obtained more than two-thirds of the votes (33 delegates out of the 48 present). The minority, called the Bolshevik-Leninist Tendency, obtained less than one-third (15 votes). In the course of the Congress the Bolshevik-Leninist Tendency declared itself a faction, taking the name Bolshevik-Leninist Faction.

On the third day of the Congress, under the relevant point on the agenda, both sides presented their list of candidates for the new Central Committee in proportion to their representation. Objections were raised against four members of the outgoing Central Committee, who were members of the Bolshevik-Leninist Faction, comrades Jaime, Horacio, Cristina and Calvo, because serious charges of a moral nature weighed against them. These charges were essentially the following:

- 1) Having falsely and slanderously accused Comrade Ricardo, a member of the outgoing leadership and a founding member of the Grupo Comunista Revolucionaria and of the Liga Socialista, of being a police agent.
- 2) Having used this accusation to open a personal campaign at the leadership level of the party to keep Comrade Ricardo from being elected to the Political Committee at the September 15, 1975, Central Committee meeting prior to the Congress.
- 3) Having handled this matter entirely on a personal level without making it known to any party body (Central Committee, Political Committee, or Control Commission).

At the Congress these four comrades admitted having committed this "serious mistake" as the tape recordings show, though we do not have these tapes in our possession because they were taken by these same comrades. The Congress decided by 33 votes in favor, 13 against and 2 abstentions to suspend these four comrades from any leadership posts and to call for an international commission to investigate the case. As a result the new Central Committee was composed of members of both sides in proportion to their strength in the Congress, with the exclusion of these four comrades whose places were filled by alternate members chosen by the Bolshevik-Leninist Faction.

Regarding this same matter the role played by an unidentified member of the leadership of the Socialist Workers party of the United States of America was brought into question. According to statements by comrades Cristina and Jaime this person was the first to insinuate, in a personal discussion with Comrade Cristina, suspicions about Comrade Ricardo. Since Comrade Mary-Alice Waters, from the national leadership of the SWP of the U. S. was present at the Congress, she was asked to state her position on this matter and to promise, in the name of her party, to investigate the matter and take the appropriate measures. Faced with Comrade Mary-Alice Waters' refusal, the Congress decided by 28 votes in favor, 17 against and 3 abstentions to suspend relations with the SWP and bring this case before the same International Commission.

Comrade Mary-Alice Waters, a fraternal delegate of the SWP; Comrade Eduardo, fraternal delegate of the PST; the comrades of the Political Bureau of the GCI, a sympathizing section of the Fourth International in Mexico, and Comrade Julieta, fraternal delegate of the German section of the Fourth International, were present at the Congress and can give testimony to the events which occurred there.

Following the Congress, on December 22, 1975, the new Central Committee met. The new Political Committee was elected. It was composed of 7 TM members and 3 FBL members, the same proportion as represented at the Second Congress and in the Central Committee. This Political Committee held a regular meeting December 23, 1975, at which the 3 FBL members were present. It was agreed that the P. C. would meet again January 2, 1976. But between the 1st and 2nd of January members of the FBL entered the central headquarters of the Liga Socialista and removed the greater part of the party's assets (electric and manual typewriters, a mimeograph machine, the party

library, all of the party's funds, technical and photographic equipment for making up the newspaper, the archives, tape recordings of the Congress, and other material). This act was carried out without presenting any open statement to the party or to any of its leadership bodies about a supposed decision to split, and consequently no attempt to fraternally discuss the division of the party's assets in proportion to the strength of each side at the Congress. Faced with this fact the January 2, 1976, meeting of the Liga Socialista Political Committee took the position that this was a robbery of a sympathizing section of the Fourth International which could not in any way be justified, not even by an a posteriori declaration of split, and that unconditional, immediate return of the assets taken was the only possible condition for maintaining any kind of political relations with these comrades, whether in the same or in different organizations. The Political Committee resolved:

- 1) To suspend all FBL members from the Liga Socialista;
- 2) To call a Special Congress to consider their expulsion;
- 3) To request that the relevant bodies expel those implicated in the act from the Fourth International;
- 4) To call all FBL members who declare that they were not consulted or informed in advance about the robbery of our organization's assets, and who repudiate the act, to remain in the Liga Socialista as members with full rights.

Later, on January 4, 1976, the FBL comrades began to distribute a newspaper (presumably prepared with the materials stolen from the central headquarters) with the same name as the Liga Socialista paper, El Socialista, and bearing the date December 26, 1975, as the time of closing the edition. In this newspaper they call themselves the authentic Liga Socialista, despite having been a minority at the Second Congress, having participated in the Congress, having declared (as the stolen tapes state) that they would remain in the Liga Socialista as a loyal and disciplined faction, and despite having participated in a normal way in one CC meeting and one PC meeting.

In the face of this new deed the Liga Socialista Political Committee resolved:

- 1) to ratify the January 2, 1976, resolutions:
- 2) to request the International Executive Committee, in keeping with the resolutions of the Tenth World Congress of the Fourth International, recognize the Grupo Comunista Internacionalista and the Liga Socialista as the

only sympathizing sections of the Fourth International in Mexico and not recognize the new group that usurped the name of our organization and of our public organ as members of the Fourth International. Our request is based on the fact that the Second Congress of the Liga Socialista was completely authoritative, that this authority was supported by the presence, participation and votes of the FBL and by its presentation of members to form part of the Liga Socialista leadership and who were incorporated in the same proportion as they were represented in the Congress. Finally, the FBL comrades did not announce their decision to split at this Congress, just the opposite, they stated their decision to remain loyal and disciplined members inside the Liga Socialista as a minority faction;

- 3) to request that the International Executive Committee exclude Comrades Cristina and Jaime from the IEC since they have voluntarily left the Liga Socialista which they represented in that body and have formed a separate group which is not a part of the Fourth International. We request that, in replacing them, Comrades Telésforo and Ricardo be included in the International Executive Committee as their replacements as proposed by this Political Committee.

Finally, the Liga Socialista Political Committee declares that it will make every effort to reverse the splitting process started by these comrades. The only conditions we set for this are:

- I) The return of all assets taken from our organization;
- II) Termination of publication of the newspaper that falsely bears the name "El Socialista;"
- III) A public statement by the FBL comrades recognizing the full authority of the Second Congress of the Liga Socialista and the full and exclusive right of our organization to use the name Liga Socialista and to publish the newspaper El Socialista.

On the basis of these three conditions the Political Committee promises to review all the resolutions taken since January 2, 1975, in the spirit of attempting to reverse the split process. At worst, it will fraternally discuss the division of the party's assets in proportion to their strength in the Second Congress of the Liga Socialista with the comrades who insist on forming another Trotskyist group of the Fourth International in Mexico.

The purpose of this communication is to provide a first report to all the bodies and sections of the Fourth International requesting that they suspend all types of relations with the FBL until it meets the three conditions above. We also report that all former post office boxes and addresses are now ineffective (except that of the central headquarters),

and that all international correspondence should from now on be sent only to the following address: (address in original).

Finally, we want to make it clear that this report will soon be complemented with all documentation relating to the events as contained in the minutes of the Congress, tape recordings of the September 1975 Central Committee meeting, the minutes of the Liga Socialista

Political Committee from September 14 to the present and statements made about these events at the Second Congress.

Fraternally,  
For the Political Committee of the  
Liga Socialista (Sympathizing  
Section of the Fourth International)  
/s/ Ricardo Hernandez

cc: Various Sections of the Fourth International.