

January 6, 1976

New York

Dear Caroline:

I want to call your attention to two things in the latest Rouge (Jan. 2). First, on page 20 is laid out the policy for "open spaces" in the daily for all currents of the far left and left currents in the SP and CP, as well as for workers in struggle (as in Portugal with Republica). Not included are groups having little or no representation, or who practice physical violence and insults instead of discussion.

Second, on p. 16, there is an attack on Avanzada Socialista for writing in its newspaper that it does not consider the guerrillas as political prisoners but thinks they are "military" prisoners, and for saying that it does not call for their liberation.

Michelle read a rough translation of major portions of the Avanzada article to us, and compared the translation in Rouge with the Avanzada article. The Rouge translation is exact. The Avanzada articles are going to be translated for everyone to read.

It does seem that they do make a distinction between the Argentine guerrillas and all other political prisoners on a world scale, including the Palestinian guerrillas, the FRAP, etc. And the article does say that "we do not call for their liberation."

Mario attended this meeting of the LTF and said that since the guerrillas were a petty bourgeois nationalist formation, they were outside the workers movement, and therefore should not be defended. This is not a matter of tactics, of not calling for a campaign at one or another time. He compared this with our action in calling the cops against the NCLC.

There was a rather long political discussion on this. The comrades think that the position of Avanzada is not correct. While pointing out that the actions of the guerrillas can provide opportunities for provocations and attacks against the working class, and are objectively against the interests of the workers, nevertheless they are political prisoners and not simply military prisoners, and they should be defended.

After the articles in Avanzada are translated, the comrades here will write a statement for internal distribution. The article in Rouge is a good opportunity to explain that the Ligue has given up all pretense at an internal discussion with the PST or anyone else in the international, that it has given up all pretense at even publishing a bulletin, and to make the point that if the section can publish a daily it also

has the capacity to print international discussion bulletins. Already, Raphael's cell has passed a motion condemning the public nature of the attack.

The comrades also plan to include their position on the Avanzada articles in relation to the defense of the political prisoners. A more complete discussion will be prepared for the next meeting, when the articles are translated.

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Nat and I are going to interview a person from one of the soldiers committees on Saturday. Then sometime toward the end of January or mid-February, we plan an interview with Ben Said on the daily. This has been tentatively scheduled with the leadership, and they are favorable to the idea. They have been very cooperative on our articles and interviews.

I am preparing a book review of Quand Les Femmes se Disent. The book has now been reviewed in the PSU paper, Critique Communiste, and the International Herald Tribune. Except for the Critique review, the SWP is favorably mentioned (or else Evelyn or Linda are mentioned). We thought it would be interesting for the comrades to read about the wide respect we have won for our work.

I should be finished with a preliminary draft of the abortion article by the end of the month. I had two very good pieces of luck--someone going down to Spain got a fair amount of information on the struggle there, and an Australian comrade came through so I got a quick interview on tape about the work there.

Finally, the PCF is holding its convention the first week in February. We will try to get our hands on a copy of their program, and we are following some of the discussion going on publicly over it. Along with the dispute between Moscow and the PCF over the concentration camps, it might make a good article. What do you think?

Comradely,

Becky

cc: Nemo