

TRANSLATION

Copy to United Secretariat

Brussels, January 20, 1976

To the Political Committee of the SWP

Dear Comrades,

We thought it was important to send you this letter concerning the recent trip to Paris of Comrades J.B. and M.A.W. We think, in fact, that certain problems must be raised and clarified.

Comrades J.B. and M.A.W.'s coming to France was motivated above all by the desire to assemble documentation concerning acts of violence that the OCI has been charged with recently. We made every effort to help the comrades of the SWP on this. In fact it was Comrade Dominique who suggested that they see leaders of Lutte Ouvrière for information, and who arranged the meeting with them on Friday, December 12. But we were surprised and shocked several times by the attitude of Comrades J.B. and M.A.W. For example, they expressed the desire to go to the bookstore of the OCI to purchase documents there. Comrade Dominique then asked them to wait for a decision by members of the secretariat of our Political Bureau, thinking that, given the present situation, one of our members should be sent to get the literature they wanted. Comrades J.B. and M.A.W., finding difficulty in meeting Comrade Dominique Friday morning (at the headquarters), did not wait before going to the S.L.I.O. [OCI bookstore]. But this was not the most annoying.

The meeting with the leaders of LO was organized to enable the SWP comrades to complete their files in regard to acts of violence by the OCI. Nevertheless, Comrades J.B. and M.A.W. saw fit not only to explain their attitude in relation to discussions taking place in the United Secretariat (particularly concerning possible attendance at the congress of the OCI), but they also made specific proposals to LO which had never been discussed beforehand with the leadership of the LCR.

Comrades J.B. and M.A.W. stressed at great length the importance of the commission of inquiry which there has been an attempt to set up at the request of LIRQUI and which has not yet seen the light of day due to the sectarianism of the latter. Then Comrades J.B. and M.A.W. proposed that the SWP participate in this commission of inquiry as it was, explaining the importance that this question assumed for them and the possibility of effectively putting pressure on the Lambertists to stop the acts of violence. Once they had made this proposal, the SWP comrades stressed the extreme urgency of the matter, going so far as to make an appointment for the next morning with LO at the station where they had

to take their train in order to get a letter of invitation to form the commission of inquiry, even though LO had proposed to send it to them by mail. Comrades J.B. and M.A.W. also put forward the idea of organizing a political discussion with the United Secretariat, including the exchange of internal bulletins, formation of a structure appropriate to a discussion by the "Trotskyist movement," and mapping out of subjects for the discussion.

On none of these points was the leadership of the LCR or the FI consulted beforehand. For our part, we think that under present conditions it is totally incorrect to make this kind of proposal to an organization outside of our movement, and we say this without prejudging the substance of the question. We think that the attitude of the SWP comrades is all the more regrettable given the number of incidents that have already occurred in regard to the Lambertists. According to the resolutions of the United Secretariat, the most stringent correctness is called for in these relations.

Fraternal greetings,

For the Political Bureau
of the LCR

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