

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014

July 21, 1976

TO ALL NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Attached is correspondence from Jeff Beneke relating to his resignation from provisional membership in the Socialist Workers party.

Comrades are referred to the previous correspondence with Beneke which was attached to the Political Committee minutes (#35) for June 24, 1976.

Comradely,

*Doug Jenness*  
Doug Jenness  
National Office

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6724 Lawndale  
Houston 77023  
July 1, 1976

Arturo Ramirez  
Northside Houston SWP

Dear Comrade,

This is to inform you of my decision to terminate my provisional membership in the Socialist Workers party.

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter which I am sending to supporters of the majority of the Fourth International in the SWP.

Comradely,

s/Jeff Beneke

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6724 Lawndale #4  
Houston, Tx. 77023  
July 1, 1976

To Supporters of the Majority of the Fourth International in the  
Socialist Workers Party

Dear Comrades:

For the past two months I have been allowed to function as a provisional member of the SWP by the SWP leadership. This brief letter is being written to inform you of my reasons for terminating this membership.

In a broad sense, my reasons are personal, but with some important qualifications:

1) They are not "personal" in the sense that I have found some new goal in life which I wish to pursue. That is, my commitment to socialist revolution and to the construction of the Fourth International as the indispensable means of achieving this goal is as strong as ever.

2) They are not "personal" in that my belief in the present strategy being pursued by the Fourth International and its supporters in the United States -- to build and be a part of the SWP while seeking to reverse the drift of its revisionist course -- has not fundamentally changed.

They are personal in that I have become somewhat "battle-worn" playing bargaining pawn in the SWP leadership's overt and covert war against the FI. You are all familiar enough with the unscrupulous political and organizational "norms" of this leadership, so I won't bother you with a redundant summary of them.

The decision of the SWP leadership to grant "provisional" membership status (as if the membership of a supporter of the majority of the Fourth International in the SWP isn't provisional enough) to those members of the former IT who were purged in July, 1974 was, for me, the last straw. This decision was protested in a letter sent to the SWP NO by myself and other comrades in Houston just prior to the last SWP NC plenum -- just after I learned that my past years collaboration with the SWP was soon to result in my "being considered" for "provisional membership". This letter very specifically pointed to the depth into which the SWP leadership had sunk in its flight from Leninist organizational norms. It documented the utilization of lies and Stalinistic fabrications by the SWP leadership in Houston which were used to smear and slander the real activity and beliefs of comrades seeking reintegration. It also included several requests to the party plenum which were motivated by a desire to decrease the continuing factional tensions. Coincidentally, as I was preparing this letter I received a reply from Barry Sheppard to our letter sent to the NO two months ago (better late than never, they say). Rather than summarize the

contents of Sheppard's letter, I will send you copies of this exchange of correspondence upon your request.

The net result of this development is my conclusion that I will be able to function in a more worthwhile manner as a Trotskyist militant outside of the SWP. I do not at all rule out any future work with the SWP. Nor do I rule out the very probable reaction on the part of the SWP leadership to my resignation -- that it "proves" the insincerity of my lengthy collaboration and integration efforts. Though such a conclusion would be false, I have no intention of answering it.

Let me emphatically state, in conclusion, that:

1) I am not urging, or even suggesting, that other comrades leave the SWP,

2) I do not intend to become a part of any other political formations,

3) I do intend to function as an open and vocal supporter of the Fourth International.

I look forward to continued personal contact and correspondence with all of you.

Internationalist Greetings,

s/Jeff Beneke

Copies sent to: Laird - Houston  
Kershner - St. Louis  
Matson - Chicago  
Stodola & Wald - Ann Arbor  
Langston & Langston - New York  
Detamore - Philadelphia  
Capuzzi & Barzman - Los Angeles