

X: PC, Human, Sparrow

September 3, 1976.

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SEP 8 1976

Dear Jack,

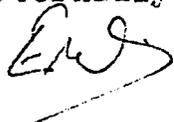
Thank you for your August 26 letter. Enclosed you'll find the copy of a letter I just received from the "International Committee of the Fourth International".

We agree that an informal discussion before the October USEC meeting would be useful. We shall set aside October 14 and 15 for these discussions, and would prefer that you could arrive on October 13 to be over the jet-lag on these two days.

We regret very much the absence of any North American comrade for the September meeting, all the more so as that date was fixed for a long time in advance, by common agreement, and on special request of some of your comrades to make their participation possible. I suppose that can't be helped now. Some political matters will have to be dealt with at that meeting, as they cannot be postponed. To one we hope you won't have any objections: to start an international campaign for the defence of the South African freedom fighters.

As to your proposals for new material to be included in the IIDB, please do not go ahead printing before the next USEC meeting. Formally, only the USEC can agree on the composition of these bulletins. Some of your proposals include answers to material not previously published, which is abnormal. Some other include what seems at first sight factually inaccurate material, which might heat up things unnecessarily if factual rectification is not published simulatenously. So it would be necessary to wait till the USEC meeting before deciding the exact contents of any additional IIDB. As the USEC meeting takes place in 10 days, this is certainly not an exaggerated delay.

Fraternally yours,



X: PC, Human, Sparrow

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

Secretary: Cliff Slaughter

21b Old Town  
Clapham  
London SW4 0JT  
England

Wednesday August 25th 1976.

To the United Secretariat.

Dear Comrade Mandel,

As you are well aware, the International Committee of the Fourth International is campaigning for the setting up of an international committee of inquiry into all aspects of the assassination of Leon Trotsky and the crimes of the GPU in the Trotskyist movement. Up to this time, the 'United Secretariat', of which you are a leading member, has refused to support this demand. This refusal is in the sharpest contrast to the picture which is building up of GPU penetration into the Trotskyist movement, and its bloody consequences. Since the assassination of Comrade Trotsky 36 years ago, the guilt of the GPU, in the person of Mercader, has been established beyond doubt. The counter-espionage investigations of the imperialists in the United States then brought out the indisputable fact that our movement was infiltrated at the very highest levels by the GPU agent Zborowski (Etienne), and that he and other agents used their positions to perpetrate the murder of leading Trotskyist cadres.

Even this would require a full scale investigation, as essential preparation for the Fourth International in the impending revolutionary struggles against capitalism and its Stalinist henchmen. But the question is made even more urgent by the complicity of Joseph Hansen of the Socialist Workers Party, an organisation which works 'in political solidarity' with your United Secretariat. How did it come about that Zborowski entered the US in 1940 with the help of leading Socialist Workers Party members, even though the circumstances of Sedov's death, as well as the warnings of Krivitsky and Orlov, pointed to the urgent need for an investigation?

How is it that, even when his GPU affiliation was declared in court, no investigation by the SWP followed? Who has an interest in covering up these matters which were so amenable to investigation by the SWP leadership, and which are of vital concern to the whole international movement?

You also know very well that Hansen, after almost a year's long silence, has now admitted his liaison with a GPU agent in 1939, a fact which would have never met the light of day except for the investigations carried out by the International Committee into US government archives.

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Why was this information concealed from the whole movement, even though it was, on Hansen's admission, divulged to an official of the US state machine in 1940? Why does Hansen continue to repeat the clearance given by the SWP Political Committee ('an exemplary comrade') in 1950 to Sylvia Franklin, GPU agent and personal secretary to James P. Cannon Secretary of the SWP, even though she was named ten years later (1960) as an un-indicted co-conspirator in the Soblen spy trial?

Is it not criminal to stand aside, as the United Secretariat is doing, while Hansen puts up a smokescreen of counter-accusation against the International Committee, and in particular Comrade G. Healy, in order to avoid an inquiry into these life-and-death matters? At this late date, Comrade Mandel, will you not speak out against the cover-up of the vital historical questions? If Hansen had nothing to hide, why would he fight so desperately against an international committee of inquiry? Our documentary book 'How the GPU murdered Trotsky' has brought the facts together and demonstrated the urgent necessity of this inquiry. Vereeken's 'The GPU in the Trotskyist Movement', recently translated from the French edition of 1975, with which you must be familiar, has supplemented this with an intimate account of the work of the GPU in the Trotskyist International Secretariat in the 1930s. A conclusive picture is being built up. It is the historical responsibility of every comrade who has worked in the Trotskyist movement to complete the detailed and ruthless investigation and struggles initiated by Comrade Trotsky himself against the GPU and Stalinism.

Those who protect Hansen and Novack and the others who have covered up these crimes, will share a terrible historical responsibility. The International Committee therefore addresses to you, Comrade Mandel, this call: speak out now and demand the immediate setting up of an international committee of inquiry into the Stalinist GPU penetration of our movement, their murder of Trotsky and countless others, and the complicity of all those who facilitated and covered up these crimes.

*C. Slaughter*

C. Slaughter  
For the International Committee  
of the Fourth International.