

JAN 11 1978

737 Burnett St.
S.F., Ca. 94131
1/7/78

Jack Barnes

Dear Jack,

I understand that the National Committee has concurred with the recommendation of the Political Committee that a literary discussion be opened following the Plenum on Cuba as well as on the resolutions for the coming World Congress. This discussion, as I understand it, is to open up in the next couple of weeks.

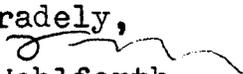
It seems to me that the best way to begin the literary discussion on Cuba is to publish in one bulletin the following: 1) Shelley Kramer's report to the expanded Political Committee meeting at Oberlin; 2) Larry Seigle's report to the expanded PC meeting and/or Larry Seigle's report to the National Committee meeting; 3) my report to the National Committee meeting.

Of course it is entirely up to Comrade Seigle and the comrades sharing his view on Cuba, now the majority position of the National Committee, to decide whether to submit one of these reports, both of these reports, some combination of these reports, something entirely new, or nothing. I understand Comrade Kramer has requested that her Oberlin report be printed.

I wish to request that my report to the National Committee be printed. I would appreciate a stenogram of that report for editing ~~to~~ for the discussion bulletin as soon as possible. I would also like to know how comrade Seigle's material is to be handled so that I can keep this in mind while editing my own material. If his speech to the plenum is to be published essentially as given then it seems to me that it would be best that my speech appear essentially as given. If extensive revisions are planned then perhaps I would also make more revisions than otherwise in the editing process.

The question therefore is whether or not we are to present to the membership as the first stage of the literary discussion basically what has already been presented to the expanded PC and the NC or whether we are to make essentially a fresh start in the literary discussion. I, myself, would prefer the former process so that there is some continuity in the discussion.

Secondly I wish to request that my document "The Postwar Social Overturns and Marxist Theory" we printed in a bulletin following the one containing the NC speech as basic background to my position on Cuba. As you know this document was presented for a leadership discussion in April of 1977, almost two years ago. If this is agreeable, then I would like to write a short introduction to the document simply to place it in proper context and make clear its relation to other material such as the recently published book 'Communists' Against Revolution.

Comradely,

Tim Wohlforth

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Dear Jack,

I thought I would drop you a separate note on another matter. During the Christmas holidays period I received a call from Alan Thornett who was in San Francisco, I assume visiting the Selzter people. I agreed to meet with him.

The meeting was not very productive as Seltzer and Cagle were present. Thornett presented to me his views of his efforts to get his document discussed within the Fourth International and to participate in the upcoming world discussion. I made it clear that this was not really a matter in my hands but in the hands of the leadership of the USec.

Then the discussion shifted to the question of Moreno. It appears that Moreno has been expending serious effort on the hopes of winning the WSL to his international group. A representative of the WSL attended their recent conference in Bogota. He appeared to be very favorably impressed with Moreno. While I had no recent information on Moreno I went over in detail what I knew of his positions, his history, and his tactics. While it is not clear exactly what impact this made on him, I do feel he brought up the Moreno question because he had his own internal doubts on Moreno and wanted to hear honestly what I had to say on the matter. But we will see.

I also told him that in my opinion the party's turn into industry was very real, very determined, had already had important successes and would be persisted in. While, of course, he has many criticisms of the SWP on union matters, he did seem to feel this turn was a good thing. I also let him know (and Cagle and Selzter who were sitting there) that nothing that had happened in the last period in any way changed the opinion of Nancy and myself of the correctness of our decision to join the SWP-- quite the contrary. Of course Selzter and Cagle did not appreciate this.

I will not say that I left the meeting in an optimistic mood. But we will see.

Comradely,

Tim

