

JAN 20 1978

January 23, 1978

Dear Comrade Mikado,

Thanks for your letter of December 12, which we received January 4, and for the report on the current situation of the LCR which it contains.

We are encouraged by your report on the political progress you have made towards a fusion with the GCP. On the organizational questions you say remain, perhaps the experiences of the recent fusions in Mexico, Canada, Spain, and Australia would be of some help to you. In these instances, too, such problems arose, but were overcome by both sides making compromises, so that both felt comfortable with the new organizational set-up. The question of both sides feeling that they have adequate representation of their own choosing in the new leadership is especially important for the work of establishing real collaboration following the fusion.

Keep us informed on the progress of the fusion, and when you have a firm date for the conference let us know as soon as possible. Given our financial situation, it will be difficult to send a representative, but we will do everything we can to do so. The earlier we know a firm date for the conference, the easier it will be for us to arrange a trip, since we might be able to combine it with visiting other countries.

Concerning the project of publishing books in Arabic. This is, of course, an important objective which would greatly aid in building the Fourth International in the whole Arab world. The United Secretariat itself, however, is not in a position to be able to advance any capital towards this project at this time. We would like to refer this proposal to sections which could be interested in helping with this project. In order to do this, however, we would like to have more information. Are the items you list for publication already translated into Arabic? If not, what arrangements do you propose to accomplish this? Perhaps others could help with the translations. The printing costs you give seem high. Do they include the costs of composition in Arabic? Do you think we could do this cheaper in another country? Could we possibly have the material typed and pasted-up in an Arab-speaking country or in Israel and printed elsewhere (Europe or America)? If this was done, could you import such books?

The Bureau is still discussing the reestablishment of the Arab Commission. We want to come to a clear understanding of the relations this commission will have with the Bureau and with organizations of the Fourth International in the Middle East. When we are ready to make a proposal, we will certainly inform the LCR right away.

Comradely,

*Stateman*

Stateman, for the United Secretariat Bureau