

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

July 4, 1978

Karl Andersson
KAF Political Bureau
Sweden

Dear Comrade Andersson,

We received your letter of June 14 addressed to Mary-Alice Waters, concerning the decision of the United Secretariat to require payments for the IIDB. The impression that you had-- "that the payment was to cover the actual production costs for the bulletins"--is correct. The price of the bulletins is designed to cover the costs of production and mailing. No profit is included.

This change is long overdue, and the need for it should be apparent. Initially, the proportion of bulletins distributed outside the United States was very small, and the payments received from the individual sales in the USA were sufficient to cover the production costs. With the growth of our movement internationally, however, the proportion of bulletins distributed in the USA is not as high as before, so that the payments received from sales in the USA no longer cover the production costs. Furthermore, production costs have been rising due to inflation, while the cover price of the bulletins had not been rising in a commensurate way. So a price increase was called for.

Now, if the old system of free distribution to other countries were kept in effect, this would mean that the price increase would have to be huge--in other words that the individuals who bought the bulletin in the United States would in effect be subsidizing the free distribution of the bulletin in Sweden, Britain, and elsewhere. The United Secretariat correctly decided that this was unfair. The decision was made to spread the burden evenly among the comrades of the advanced capitalist countries with the highest wage levels, while continuing the free distribution to the colonial and semicolonial countries and allowing a discount to some advanced capitalist countries where the wage levels are lower.

With this in mind, I would urge you to reconsider your decision to cancel the order of IIDB's being sent to Sweden, since this would deprive the members of the KAF of the opportunity to participate fully in the discussion. Do you think it would be possible instead to make a judgment on how many copies you can sell in Sweden, and adjust your order accordingly? It is important that we know this soon, because we will have to adjust the size of the press run based on the number of anticipated sales. And if your order remains only 15 there is a risk that some bulletins would not be available when you wanted them.

KAF

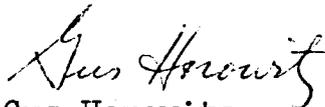
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As for the question of retroactivity. Only one bulletin had been published before the United Secretariat decision, IIDB Vol XV, No. 1, March 1978, "The Responsibilities of the Leninist Trotskyist Faction in the New Stage of the International Debate," by Melan, Nemo, and Sarah. All of the other bulletins were published afterwards. It seems correct that you should pay for the cost of the bulletins that we sent to you after the decision was made; so we ask you to reconsider this.

As for your idea of exploring other possibilities of distribution in Europe, that is, a separate European edition or a centralized distribution point: this is a matter for the sections in Europe to consider, weighing the practicalities and costs. If a better system can be worked out, fine.

All we are concerned about is that the comrades who read English have the opportunity to purchase the bulletins in a quick and efficient way.

Comradely,



Gus Horowitz
SWP National Office