

X: PC

Hedda Garza
200 West 79th Street
New York, N.Y. 10024

November 9, 1978

To: Upper West Side Branch--Socialist Workers party
Att.: Branch Executive Committee

Dear Comrades:

As you are aware, on October 30, the Upper West Side Branch voted to drop me from provisional membership several weeks before the usual three-month provisional period. Prior to this action, I was informed the previous day that this issue was being brought up before the Branch and that the Executive Committee was recommending this action. At no time did the Organizer discuss with me the accusations being made against me or the identity of the comrades making these accusations. My only knowledge of such matters came from comrades, one being Lisa G., who were called in before the organizer and told that I was forming an embryonic clique, was an Abernist, and had organized a disruption of the meeting the week before over the question of being dropped from an assignment.

Since the Executive Committee, neither collectively or individually, asked for my statement on these matters, and since I emphatically deny these alleged accusations or any other accusations relating to my loyalty to the Party, I am requesting to meet with the Executive Committee to reopen this discussion and ~~xxx~~ to appeal my dropping from provisional membership.

I urge the Branch leadership and members to give full consideration to this request for respect for my democratic rights to defend myself against accusations resulting in my loss of provisional membership.

Comradely,



Hedda Garza

Addressed to PC

X:PC

NOV 15 1978

November 13, 1978

Dear Comrades:

I would like to protest the dropping of Hedda G. from provisional membership in the Upper West Side branch of New York City, and also to urge you to grant her appeal to be reinstated.

My understanding is that Hedda was dropped because her history as a "trouble-maker," especially in relation to the IT, made some comrades feel that her loyalty could not be trusted.

It seems to me that there are several things wrong with this line of reasoning. First of all, loyalty is not an abstract concept to us, but something real, which we see in day-to-day activity. The comrades of the Chelsea branch worked with Hedda over a long period of time, watching her participate actively in building the branch and recruiting people to the Party, and voted overwhelmingly to make her a provisional member. Since she has only been connected with the Upper West Side branch for a very short period, they have had little opportunity to judge the quality of her participation. Second, if comrades' association with a dissolved tendency in the past is enough by itself to keep them forever out of the organization, there are a number of us who should not be in. Most ex-ITers currently in the SWP feel that we wrongly broke discipline on several occasions, but maintain the attitude that we were unjustly expelled and did not split from the organization. Should Hedda be treated any differently than us, and than the comrades who fused with us or joined from opponent organizations? Third, disagreement and debate do not necessarily mean disloyalty. Some of the best discussions the New York City local has had in recent times have occurred because comrades had questions about our strategy. A healthy organization is one which has room for people who disagree, as long as they confine their disagreements to within the Party. Hedda has been very careful to do this.

Finally, I think it's very important to understand that not long after the shock of our expulsion wore off, Hedda was one of the leading people in the IT pushing hardest for reintegration. Like many of us, she did not join the "IT New Faction" because she didn't like the way it was formed. She wanted RMOC to be a public faction and disassociated herself from it when it called the SWP reformist and urged other comrades to do the same and to apply individually to the SWP, because it was the only place for a revolutionary to be. Since she applied for reintegration -- and that was earlier than the other RMOC comrades, who are already full members in good standing (as far as I know) -- she has worked tirelessly to build the organization, despite ill health, a heavy work schedule and a daughter to take care of. It would be a real shame to lose a comrade like this, when every person in the Party is so valuable and so badly needed.

I hope this has been helpful toward your considerations.



Martha G.
Lower Manhattan Branch
New York City