

FEB 13 1979

Feb. 4, 1979

New York

Dear Comrades,

I wanted to report on two points that came up at the Bureau meeting two days ago.

First, we had a discussion on the European elections platform. The general lines of this were approved at the last United Secretariat meeting, but this meeting was to finalize the platform for publication in the next Inprecor/IP and in a brochure.

The draft as Ernest had written it and edited it had not one word about the peasants, so I proposed that we add in a section on them. Ernest launched into a polemic against this, saying: You don't realize the huge change in social composition that has taken place in Europe. Peasants who are not employers of wage labor hardly exist any more. France and Italy are the only European countries where small peasants are more than 10 percent and in five countries they are less than 5 percent. It makes more sense, from these figures, to call for a workers and students government than a workers and farmers government.

Moreover, he said, we have to take account of the hostility ~~in~~ in the trade unions to the peasants' demands because the peasants demand higher food prices. Also, the CPs and the centrists have reactionary positions on the peasants, calling for protectionism through higher food prices. (All the above is in his terminology.)

Jim and I finally got him to agree to include a small section on the peasants, so as not to change the FI's program on this question without even any discussion. But it was clear that there is a big difference here. It is reflected ~~in~~ throughout the sections in Europe; they almost all ignore the peasants.

We (with the help of Nat, who could hardly restrain himself during this discussion) are going to try to find out some facts on this subject, and if you have any over there on the peasants in Europe, send it.

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On Cambodia, Ernest proposed in the Bureau that Pierre R. draft a United Secretariat declaration on the Cambodia-Vietnam conflict, "more substantial," as he put it, than the Inprecor editorial. The proposal was strange because Pierre had just gotten back from his Asian trip and has not yet explained his position on the question, except for saying informally that he didn't like the Inprecor editorial.

(to be discussed at next U Sec meeting)

(Charles-Andre is still not back from his mother's death and medical work in Switzerland, but he has also told various comrades he does not like the editorial.)

We will send you a copy of Pierre's draft as soon as possible. After the United Secretariat discussion, Ernest proposed, we could print both the majority and minority positions in Inprecor and IP to begin the discussion. Until then, nothing on Cambodia-Vietnam will be printed in Inprecor.

Comradely,

*Caroline*

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PS: a message for Jack: does he still need a copy of La Question Paysanne en URSS, which Mary wrote us about several months ago? It is out of print, but I could photocopy the whole book if he still needs it. (Michaloux has a copy)