

(translation)

X:PC

Internal Information Bulletin

September 1979, Costa Rica

Strictly limited to CNDC

OST

\*

\*

\*

Introductory note from the executive team of the leadership.

We are putting at the disposal of the membership a letter that comrades Sara and Félix sent recently to the United Secretariat and which, at our request, they sent us a copy.

The contents of the document itself don't require any special explanation. It is clear enough by itself, concerning the context in which the actions of some members and delegates of the United Secretariat come in arranging the discussion on Nicaragua.

We think that it is a piece of information that the membership ought to know, as much for the inherent gravity of the method of threats against revolutionary Marxist militants who are applying themselves to the task of building a revolutionary organization, as for the light which it throws on the evolution of the different positions existing on Nicaragua in the International.

\*

\*

\*

Nicaragua, September 6, 1979

United Secretariat  
of the IV International.

Comrades:

This letter is to notify you of an aspect of the activity of the United Secretariat delegation in Nicaragua.

Sunday, September 2 we had a meeting with comrades Barry Sheppard, Manuel Aguilar, Udry, Peter Camejo and Fred Halstead, at their request, at which they professed to speak in the name of the United Secretariat.

They began attacking us violently for having sent a letter to the United Secretariat in relation to actions of members of the U.S. previously in the affair of the Simon Bolívar Brigade. They referred to a letter which we sent along with comrade Galene to you and the organization and people concerned on August 20.

"The Simon Bolivar Brigade played the role of provocateur With the letter you wrote you were defending provateurs." (Peter Camejo). At no time did they question the facts describes in the letter in their attacks.

The comrades went on immediately to order us to abandon

the political work we have undertaken to build a party here and to dissolve ourselves as an organized group. "Your line is petty bourgeois, we have to be defending the sandinistas. We ask that you dissolve your group" (Peter Camejo). "We don't believe that we ought to be raising the banner of the Fourth International here" (Barry Sheppard).

The "requests" rose in tone. "Our hands are free to deal with you in what ever way we consider suitable. If we have to treat you like devils, we'll do it" (Barry Sheppard).

The element of political debate was absent from this conversation. "We are telling you, not discussin (Barry Sheppard). "We only came to give you a report" (Peter Camejo). "We will be having a debate on Nicaragua. Only if you submit will you be able to participate in the debate"(Udry).

As a final threat: "If you have problems, we are not going to defend you especailly as Trotskyists" (Barry Sheppard). "To sum up, if you don't submit and dissolve, you can consider yourselves outside of the Fourth International"(Barry Sheppard).

In a meeting held two days later with comrades Barry Sheppard and Jean-Pierre Beauvais, we asked that they repeat for us in writing their positions in the previous meeting. We were intersted especially to find out what is the treatment reserved in these cases for "devils." They refused to put anything in writing, alleging that their positon was not official, although they assured us that at the next meeting of the U.S. they were going to make it official. "You are intelligent and you know that at the next meeting of the U.S. our opinion is going to carry weight" (Barry Sheppard).

The quotes (within quote marks) are taken from written notes taken by us during the two meetings.

It is absurd that in face of a new and complex problem to try to impose a line of dissolution on a Trotskyist group without privious discussion. It is absurd to make as a condition for participating in the discussion that those directly involved accept dissolution previously. It goes against all revolutionary priciples that they tried to impose a line on members of the Fourth International through threats.

In the context in which we find ourselves and in light of the facts related with relation to the Simón Bolívar Brigade in our letter, the threats take on a much more serious character.

We think that the U.S. cannot elude the responsibility for the actions of its members.

The delegates of the U.S. ought to explicitly pormise not to collaborate with the Sandinista Front in the persecution of any current of the workers movement and especially look out for the security of revolutionary Marxists in Nicaragua.

OST letter/3

If the method of threats is wrong, it would be much more catastrophically wrong to carry them out.

We are sending this letter because it seems obvious to us that the U.S. is responsible for the actions of its delegates.

Bolshevik greetings,

Sara            Félix