

Feb. 25, 1968

Dear Friends:

The third and final chapter of Part II--Why Hegel? Why Now!--has been sent to LA for typing (HI is doing the 2nd chapter and the largest, but, though this that is sent to LA is smallest, that local did 1st chapter.)

You now have (or will have within a week) the part that I wish to discuss with you on this trip. Chapter 3 on Lenin's Shock of Recognition and *Iskivlenie* in Philosophy may seem incomplete. This is because at that point where it ends is where a rewritten state-capitalist and Marxist-Humanist pamphlet would become a chapter in order both to complete Lenin by going from his Philosophic Notes to their utilization as methodology by himself, and because we then see him from our age. You have had the pamphlet and we may, or may not, include that in the discussion. I doubt it since the chapters you have, especially the first on Hegel, will be difficult enough to handle in a single day's conference.

I hope that before you hear me--actually I'll be reading more than talking at the conference since the importance is to see reaction to the content when no "personality" enters to disturb--you will already be formulating both your questions and your comments. If this book is to be a joint effort--and our writings always are--it is imperative that some serious grappling with problems is done in the solitude of your "souls". It is no easy matter to internalize Hegelian methodology. If Marx and Lenin had problems, then think of poor us. And yet without it, no revolution that will not soon be "assured." That is to say, no foundation for its not occurring has otherwise been laid.

This theoretical conference is an exercise in the principle we alone practice--the abolition of the division between mental and manual labor. Philosophy is not a private province for intellectuals. The proletarian, once it is given the confidence that its thoughts are philosophy, will make the greatest contribution, not just to a book, but to make themselves into shapers of history, and the forward movement of thought as well as of freedom struggles.

Also, please do not forget to have your tape recorders in good working condition, and that the results of the discussion belong to me. It is the only time I believe in "private property", though it is not mine, but in "appropriating" your thoughts I cannot leave at the stage of first hearing and first reaction on my part, but must continue to "consult" with the tape when I get to rewriting.

You will not get any more parts of the book for, although I have a couple of weeks more before the tour starts, it will be on an altogether different aspect which I hope to have a chance to work out some time during the summer to present to the plenum Labor Day. We may want to have at least one session on it then, but we cannot tell this far in advance how many urgent current problems will be pressing on us by then to be considered in the two days. You will hear sufficiently in advance so that you can help make decisions then. For now Part I is the topic of our conference and you can begin preparing for it now, keeping a good balance between your preparations for it and that for the public meeting on a current topic, so that we can begin attracting the type of new members who are ready to take up the theoretical challenge of that 40-year void in the movement since the death of Lenin.

Yours,

Raya

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