

Dear Jack,

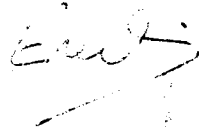
Thank you for your letter of September 11 and joined material, which I found here after returning from Mexico on September 21. There is no objection against including Bob and Berta Langston's material on Argentina in the IIDB, although Alan did not mention this at our last meeting. As the French bulletin is already at the printer's, we won't be able to include that article in the first bulletin, but I don't think this matters. It can go into a second one.

I am not sure whether the September USEC minutes are out

or not. Jens handles these matters and he is away in Denmark. W'll find out and can deal with the mailing of the SWP Political Committee answer to the LCR CC letter, to all the recipients of that letter, in the appropriate way, as soon as we know the situation of the September minutes and can discuss it with you.

Please let us know when you expect to be here, so that we can set time apart for lengthy discussions. Since we met more disturbing things have occurred which make it imperative to have a candid exchange of how both sides see the development of our future relations. For instance, I found in Mexico a definite withdrawal on behalf of the LS of the course towards fusion set only a few months ago. The arguments used were all the more disturbing as they are of obvious universal application, to wit that "it has to be tested out in practise whether, given the depth of the political differences, coexistence in a single organisation is possible". Both at the world congress and at the last IEC we acted under the assumption that this question can only be answered with an unequivocal "yes", without additional "tests". If some doubts have arisen since, this should be frankly discussed. I also see a drift towards two public fractions each applying publicly different lines, on a great number of issues, regardless of world congress, IEC or Usec decisions which should be considered morally binding for both sides at least at the level of general political orientation (not of national tactics and of leadership composition of course, which we never asked). It was reported to us that at your convention definite statements in the opposite sense were made. We should like to discuss that too.

Fraternally yours,



14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
October 2, 1975

Dear Ernest,

We received your letter of September 24 today. The mail service continues to deteriorate; it took exactly one week for your airmail letter to arrive.

We will go ahead as you suggested in including the Langstons' article in the Internal International Discussion Bulletin. There's no problem about which French bulletin it goes into. That is a practical matter the comrades putting out the bulletins can work out.

Thanks for informing us of the decision to put out with the September secretariat minutes the SWP Political Committee reply to the LCR Central Committee so that those people who received the LCR letter with the previous minutes can see our answer.

It isn't clear to us exactly what happened in Mexico that disturbed you or who it is that you discussed with. If we had known you were going there one of us could have arranged to be there to help maximize clarity in any discussions. The only thing we can assure you of is that we have not changed our minds since the discussion in Montreal; in fact, you will note in the Leninist Trotskyist Faction statement on the situation in the International we reaffirm our position on this question. We'll have to discuss with you and the Mexican comrades to see if something has changed since late August, but we have no information besides the brief two sentences in your letter.

We share your concern about the possible dangers arising from the internal discussion spilling into the public. You will recall from our discussions in Montreal that we agreed that it is hard to keep the discussion completely internal under the circumstances. The key point, of course, is to responsibly control the public debate so that it clarifies and attracts forces to the International and doesn't degenerate into some sort of dog fight.

I think you will be reassured when you read the IAF resolution on Portugal. We wrote it carefully so as to make it appropriate for publication. I assume you won't agree with the line of the resolution, but you will see it wasn't written to heat things up. We took the same approach with our world political resolution at the last world congress, and it worked out well. Anyway, we haven't changed our view on this question either since Montreal.

I don't know the nature of the reports you received about our convention, but if we understand your sentence, they were not accurate. There was nothing new in Barry's or my report beyond what we have said previously and discussed with you. Anyway, I'm glad you called it to our attention and informed us of the rumors circulating. We propose to put Barry's and my reports in the IIDB along with the IAF resolution and statement. That way we'll end any ambiguity and the entire international can correct whatever wrong impressions it got from the rumors.

We note in your previous letter that you said the dates for the November secretariat are still tentative. November 22-23 would be best from our point of view. I hope these dates can be agreed upon. It is clear we need to discuss a number of things in a calm way prior to any precipitous formal action being taken that could have extremely negative repercussions under the current circumstances.

I am sending this letter and enclosures with the comrade who is leaving tomorrow since there is no way to get it to you before the secretariat meeting, the way the mails function.

Have you received my letter of September 23 with the enclosure? As you know, the enclosure is extremely important. By the way, the court has set February as the tentative date for our trial. We'll give you a full report on this when we see you.

Comradely,

Jack

enc: "The Key Issues in the Portuguese Revolution"  
 "The Portuguese Revolution and the New Problems  
 That Face the Fourth International"