

SEP 8 1976

23 Albert Rd

London N.22

2 September 1976

X: PC, Hansen, Sparrow

cc. Ernest Mandel

Dear Jack,

I received this morning a copy of your letter of 26 August to Ernest. In the list of items to be printed in the IIDB you unfortunately omitted one item. The resolution of the 3-4 July U.Sec "Relations with Trotskyist Organisations, or Groups Claiming to be Trotskyist, which are Outside of the Fourth International" states as point 10 "This resolution should be printed in the IIDB". As this resolution was passed including this point by the U.Sec it means that this resolution is already agreed for publication and should be added to the list.

In relation to printing your Political Committee reply to the U.Sec resolution on the invitation to the OCRFI I cannot see how this is understandable without also printing the U.Sec resolution itself - an item not included in your list. Although the U.Sec has not formally passed this resolution for publication in the IIDB I am sure this will be sorted out at the September meeting.

It may be that Ernest dealt with these matters in his letter but unfortunately I am unable to contact him as he is out of Brussels for a week so I cannot check. As you indicate in your letter that you are going straight ahead with the resolutions in printing them in the IIDB I thought I had better write immediately even before contacting Ernest to raise these points.

One final point which is of course simply a request. The resolution of the IMG Political Committee which is printed as Appendix II in SWP IIB No.9 in 1976 requests that "this letter, together with the (U.Sec) resolution referred to, be placed in the IIDB". You only propose to print the PC resolution so, to comply with the IMG PC request and avoid printing the same thing twice, I would like to propose that you add to that appendix the text of the U.Sec resolution. As Ernest is receiving a copy of this letter I am sure that he will let you know if he disagrees but I can't see that anyone could - if the resolution isn't added to the appendix it merely means that it and the IMG PC resolution will be printed as a separate item in another IIDB. Printing

it in the way I suggest simply saves space,

fraternally

Alan Jones

10 September

Dear Dick,

Thank you for your letter. I shall certainly reply to your points on the question of the Workers and Farmers government - in particular as you suggest on Joe's articles. However I would be dishonest if I said I could promise a letter on this point for a few weeks as I have a heavy writing schedule at present in producing a reply to Healy on his line in the period he was in the IC, a big document on the OCFI, and a document on the IMGs line at the next elections. The latter is of course wrestling with the problem of how to combine unprincipled electoral agreements with centrists with support for Popular Frontism. This is extremely difficult as our wretched reformists will insist on attacking the working class without actually entering into alliances with bourgeois parties - most annoying reformists they are! Under these circumstances I am finding it hard to decide who to adapt too - don't worry however I am sure the British IMT will come up with something! After successfully liquidating the party however I definitely will write you on the issue of the workers and farmers government because it is both very important and, as I said, perhaps the most serious theoretical, and perhaps eventually programmatic, difference with the LTF. I think an exchange could clarify ideas.

On something which can be done in motion immediately however I spoke to Tariq, who has been put in charge of producing the new International series as full time editor, on the proposal you made to reprint the article on raw materials you mentioned. He is enthusiastically in favour. However it does need an introduction ~~for~~, as you ~~said~~, it only takes up Ernest ~~very~~ indirectly and ~~and~~ therefore the connection is not immediate. An introduction stating ~~the~~ chief issues involved and relating the two articles more directly is definitely needed - don't worry too much about space as Ernest is never better than when he is engaged in a polemic, and the more we can provoke him the more likely he is to write a reply and start up a good discussion. Certainly a debate on US imperialism and need in relation to raw materials would be an extremely important one to have and we would be very keen to start it up. As we have had a very successful fund drive to raise money to completely re-equip our typesetting set up, and raise the cash to launch International

on a regular basis, the sooner you produce the article the sooner we can get on with printing it! In general we would be extremely pleased to print any material which either you or other eds in the SWP would like to write. As there is not at present an English language theoretical journal of the International, something which urgently needs correcting, don't hesitate to use (the ICGs) International. We might not agree with the conclusions but provided it is good, and doesn't openly declare that European Trotskyism is dominated by the greatest revisionists since Bernstein, we will certainly print it,

On the Fowkes translation of Capital it isn't merely that it is so readable but also that the 100 page newly translated unpublished section is of quite extra-ordinary theoretical interest. In fact it must be one of the most brilliant things which even Marx ever wrote, ^(which is saying something!!) and my copy is so heavily underlined already that I can hardly read it,

Yours

John