

COPIES TO POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
September 4, 1976

Alan Jones
England

Dear Alan,

Barry has already left on his vacation, so I will answer your letter to him. Jack sent a copy of his letter to Ernest to you. In it you will notice that almost everyone here has either left for vacation or will shortly, so that we will not be able to come over until the October meeting. You might want to give a preliminary report on our convention to the September meeting. However, it would be useful if the final discussion on it and any controversial questions arising from the convention, could be held over until the October meeting when we will have a number of comrades present.

I understand that the recent Central Committee meeting of the LCR adopted a resolution stating that it was incorrect to prohibit individual members from attending the SWP convention. If this is accurate, a motion requesting the Political Bureau to reverse its position is no longer needed. Perhaps what is now needed is a short resolution concurring with the Central Committee decision on this and restating the rights of members to visit other sections to learn more about the international movement. The U.S. could reaffirm its opinion that the act of attending and observing the convention of another section is not an act which is subject to disciplinary action. In fact, such visits should be encouraged. We better take a look at the text of the LCR Central Committee motion. I'm sure we can agree on a motion if one is appropriate in light of the LCR's action.

We would also like to pursue the discussion we began at Oberlin on the last day you were there. In Jack's letter, you will notice that he proposed a rather lengthy informal discussion prior to the October meeting and that it would be useful if both you and Adair could be present. If for some reason you are unable to be present for this discussion, we can certainly arrange another time to meet. The discussion we had before you left here was fruitful, even if it was very preliminary and sketchy. We will make the effort to continue it.

I assume the September meeting will act on the documents submitted to the IIDB in Jack's letter.

Comradely,

John (init)

encl.

Dear Barry

AUG 27 1976

YES 7-1014, Ed. Joe. B.
5.
E6

I intend to resubmit my resolution on the LCK action on attendance at the SWP convention to the next U. Sec. For reasons which are wholly obscure to me the LTF members at the last Secretariat voted against. Please try to let me know before the Secretariat whether your/their position is based on some principled or major reason or refers to details, or whether there is no problem as they/you/LTF aren't in real opposition. It is absurd to have ~~any~~ ^{any} resolutions if there is no real difference. I hope also we will be able to have a discussion at the time of the U. Sec. Please ~~erase~~ ^{erase} the terrible ending and parts of this note but I sent on vacation immediately I got back to Britain and I don't have access to a typewriter.

Many thanks to you and your parents for your hospitality in the United States.

Yours faithfully

Alan Jones.

P.S. I think it would be a good idea to continue the discussion we had just before I left if you have a chance.

SEP 11 1976

23 Albert Rd

London N.22

6 September 1976

Dear Jack,

I hope you will take up the invitation of the IMG Political Committee enclosed. I have thought very carefully while on vacation concerning the SWP Convention and the discussion we had following it. I had intended to write a substantial letter setting out my views on this. However the latest rancid outburst of Healy makes it necessary for me to rapidly write a major article on this issue so my time is taken up. Very briefly my conclusions are as follows

- i. The underlying cause the situation in the International is of course political. Given my political views evidently I consider the wrong political line of the LTF responsible for this in the main - although the IMT undoubtedly makes errors of an ultra-leftist character.
- ii. The chief task is to fight for the correct political line, and that means being within the IMT, but this does not exclude, but on the contrary necessitates, a real fight for correct organisational relations in the International.

In relation to the latter the following are the areas where I consider the SWP and LTF have legitimate arguments.

- i. The lack of a balance sheet on Latin America
- ii. The non-translation of documents
- iii. The refusal to discuss with the Lambertists
- iv. De facto exclusion from much of the work and information of the International centre.

I propose doing the following about it

- i. If the IMT does not produce a balance sheet on Latin America making it clear that the IMG will do so. If the IMT does not produce one also actually producing, within the IMGs limited resources, its own view on this question.
- ii. Making it a condition of participation in the World Congress that the three month periods of translation of documents in blocs must

at the end of the discussion. (This evidently applies to English and French only as in Spanish, let alone other languages, there are genuine technical problems). If this is not met making it clear that the World Congress cannot be considered democratic and will not take place.

iii. I will write a text on the Lambertist issue if the U. Sec does not in fact initiate a discussion - and probably actually I will write a text on this issue anyway. I am sure the IMG will support a discussion.

iv. On the work of the centre I have a definite proposal, which I think the IMG would endorse, but it is rather ambitious and the work of the centre involves security questions so I think it better to discuss this verbally rather than in writing.

Naturally these points are quite separate, and do not at all exclude, taking up other points which in my opinion are not primarily tendency questions such as the action of the LCR Political Bureau on invitations to the SWP Convention, and the action of the SWP leadership in regard to the OCRFI.

In relation to the points above I think it is clear that the IMG leadership would have to take a clear public position within the International in relation to the above issues. This is what I think the discussion at the Political Committee we have invited you to will start to thrash out. On the basis of the discussions I have had with cdes I am hopeful that the majority of the IMG leadership would agree with the above course.

From your remarks at the SWP Convention it may be that you consider any course of action of the above character as irrelevant 'bleating'. If not however I think it would be very useful for you and other cdes to come to Britain to the PC meeting we propose and to leave some time for further informal discussion. We could then discuss whether the above proposals were in line with whatever is decided at the October U. Sec and whether there is agreement on them.

I regard this letter as part of the informal discussion which you refer to in your letter to Ernest, and it should only be distributed as such. At the IMG PC however I think it will be necessary to move towards taking a formal position - this I regard as highly desirable as while informal exchanges are absolutely necessary to precede and clarify the taking of formal positions they must not

become a substitute for them. I have attempted in the last year to at least understand more clearly the position of the LTF and in particular the SWP and at least clarify your minds on what at least one section of the Fourth International thinks about present differences. I am sorry if you interpret all this as 'bleating' but I am sure the IMG is a stronger organisation for it, and certainly no one today is going to build a serious Trotskyist organisation outside of the IMG, and while the British section is far from the strongest section of the International, on the external front it does have a certain strategic position in the political geography of the International which gives it a certain weight to be used in a number of projects. Furthermore we naturally don't intend to stay at our present stage indefinitely. For these reasons, after the important October meeting of the U. Sec, I hope that either you or Joe, or both of you, will be able to come to Britain when, both at the PC and informally, we can discuss these matters further. I am sure Tariq and Brian Grogan would also be extremely pleased to have the chance for a discussion.

If for any conceivable reason the trip of yourself and Joe is postponed we would simply extend the same invitation to Barry,

fraternally

Alan

P.S. I don't want to get 'world historic' but I must say that reading the latest volume of Trotsky's writings expressed perfectly my view on the course revolutionaries should presently adopt within the International. I in particular recommend Writings 1937-38 p105-6 and the 4, 5 and 6 paragraphs of the article on those pages. If the points I made at our discussion in relation to the politics of the LCR made you angry, which they evidently did, I think Trotsky expresses the necessary tasks much better than perhaps I formulated it.

SEP 11 1976

23 Albert Rd

London N.22

6 September 1976

cc. U.Sec

Dear Jack,

The IMG Political Committee was informed that yourself and Joe would be in Europe at the time of the October U.Sec. We would like to invite either, or both, of you to attend a meeting of the IMG Political Committee which we would devote entirely to the issue of the present situation within the Fourth International. If you agree to this proposal please inform us as to which date would be most suitable and we will arrange a special Political Committee meeting for that day. We would propose that you give a report on the situation in the Fourth International, both political differences and organisational issues, and the steps which have to be taken in your opinion to deal with this situation. If however you would prefer some other format to a discussion on this point we are sure this could be worked out. Whether you would wish to speak on behalf of the views of the leadership of the SWP or the LTF, or both, would of course be up to you. In view of the present situation in the Fourth International we hope you will agree to take up this invitation,

fraternally

Alan Jones

For the IMG Political Committee