

Xs. Jack, MA, G-2, IO

Paris

June 28, 1978

Doug Jenness
SWP NO New York

Dear Doug,

Thanks for the letter and material on anti-nuclear work and also the books- they are great and will be really helpful. I received them yesterday after having been away for almost three weeks which accounts for this reply being a little late.

On the questions you raised on the progress of the draft and the results of the meeting to discuss the Swiss call:

I wrote a letter a couple of weeks ago proposing a couple of possible dates to Robert and Didier for the meeting to discuss their outline. Although I have also followed this up with numerous unsuccessful telephone calls, I still have no reply. However, I will be attending the Swiss comrades' conference this weekend and so will have the opportunity to discuss everything with them firsthand. The international meeting was to have taken place last weekend and as yet I have had no report of what happened. I will make sure a circular is sent to all sections and to you with this information as soon as possible. The Japanese conference may have also been discussed at this meeting. Jim will be in Tokyo in a couple of weeks and will find out if our comrades will be participating, and see if they can send us a report on it at least.

Comradely,

Walter Keig

95. Will reply on Oberlin talks soon.

28/6/78

Dear Doug,

Just a bit more news I thought was too chatty for the file letter. Did you see the issue of La Breche that came out a week after the last anti-nuclear meeting (No. 183 May 13). It was a special anti-nuclear issue prepared in time for the Lausanne demonstration and the material was quite good. (Also might be good for your French!)

I finished the Patterson book that I had when you were over here. It had a lot of basic scientific/technical material as well as some history, accounts of various accidents etc. His politics, insofar as they were apparent, were pretty conservative and he raised the old argument about nuclear weapons in the hands of "crazy" regimes, and terrorist sabotage and so forth. I will be able to start on some of the ones you sent soon, as I have some train travel ahead.

Jim and I went to the Swedish CC a few weeks ago and then spent about five days up at Tom Gustaffson's and his companion's holiday house near Boden in the north of Sweden. It was about 70 or 80 miles south of the arctic circle and it was light 24 hours a day. The sun would set about 11.30pm and rise again at about 1.15am just a little further along the horizon. Doubly fascinating if you come from a country with very little twilight! Anyway, it was very pleasant and we had some good discussions with them. Bitsy and Ove were at the CC and we really enjoyed their company.

Then we came down through Denmark and had a meeting with the Copenhagen branch where we reported on the situation in the International and also on our work in Australia at the moment. The discussion was really good and covered everything from the relationship between branches and fractions, ~~and~~ and electoral tactics to Colombia. Then we split and Jim stayed in Copenhagen to talk a bit more with some of the PB comrades and I went to visit a couple of branches. At Odense (Hans Christian Anderson's birthplace in case you didn't know) it was a similar experience. I even got down to explaining how to produce charts and other visual aids with branch reports on sales and finances to help the political motivation. There is a real hunger for organisational advice and ideas. Unfortunately I muffed the next section of the journey. I didn't realise I had to change trains on my way to the next branch and by the time I realised my mistake and got to the ~~right~~ right station I was an hour late and there was nobody there. I had no addresses or phone numbers (mistake number 2) and after waiting for an hour or so longer, decided to catch a train back to Copenhagen. I didn't fancy spending a night in a hotel in outer Denmark.

While in Sweden we got a call from the office for us to get to the German and Austrian conferences on the way back, so I continued on overnight to Frankfurt. The GIM conference was an extraordinary one which took no votes. It is here I think that you see the leadership crisis at its most acute. The section has lots of good people, a very respectable apparatus (if a little messy and disorganised), plenty of opportunities and a leadership vacuum. They have no majority line from their last conference, the most crude and low-level workerist faction which ~~unfortunately~~ unfortunately gains from the leaderless situation, and a widespread cynicism about their own prospects. This special conference opens a pre-conference discussion period leading up to their conference in October. I had some good talks with the ex-LTFers who filled me in quite a bit, and also had one discussion with one of the main comrades who is on the IEC but we have decided to send a bigger Bureau delegation ~~some~~ some time in July to see if we can't have some thorough discussions and help them to set a course leading towards their conference.

Jim went to Vienna and things were a little more positive there although once again the leadership question is their biggest problem.

This Secretariat meeting looks like being an interesting one with the major discussion of course on the World Political resolution draft. I am not yet sure when I will be travelling across for Oberlin but hope to come a few days early if it is possible. I read your report on Iceland - maybe one of us from the Bureau can call in on the way back.

Regards Nite