

# Socialist Workers Party

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X:PC, NFOs, DOs

To: Iowa City CRSP

November 22, 1978

Dear Comrades,

On November 6 we received the letter outlining your views on a number of issues and asking several questions. Hopefully this response can help answer those questions and direct you to a number of useful documents and articles that will better acquaint you with the political positions of the Socialist Workers Party.

Your letter states: "If you can suggest some materials on the question of Angola (we are not sure of the position of neutrality taken by the SWP?) we would be glad to study them."

The SWP did not take a position of neutrality during the Angolan war. Our position can be summarized in the following five points:

1) Recognition that the major political task of U.S. revolutionists was to aid the Angolan self-determination fight by getting out the truth in the Militant and helping to bring as many forces as possible together for teach-ins, rallies, and demonstrations around the demands: "U.S. Hands Off Angola! South Africa Hands Off Angola!"

2) support for the MPLA and Cuban troops in their fight to defeat the U.S.-engineered South African imperialist invasion;

3) opposition to the political programs of all three petty-bourgeois nationalist groups in Angola, while recognizing that the MPLA, UNITA, and FNLA had all participated in the fight against Portuguese colonialism and had significant popular backing in regions of the country;

4) opposition to the grave betrayal by the UNITA and FNLA in September 1975 in endangering the entire Angolan freedom fight by cooperating with the South African invaders in the course of the fratricidal civil war among the contending groups, together with opposition to the MPLA's collusion with Portuguese imperialism in the period directly preceding and following formal independence; and

5) the perspective of building a section of the Fourth International in Angola that could advance a revolutionary socialist program able to meet the needs of the masses for liberation from imperialist domination, national oppression, and capitalist exploitation.

Below are some suggestions of where to look for a more complete explanation of the SWP's views:

. The most recent would be David Frankel's pamphlet, Upsurge in Africa, which places recent events in southern Africa and the Horn of Africa in the context of the Angolan events and the Ethiopian revolution.

. The resolution of the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction on Angola, available in Intercontinental Press, October 11, 1976. The document is based on an oral report presented to the International Executive Committee of the Fourth International the previous February.

. The recent Education for Socialist Bulletin by Gus Horowitz, entitled: "Revolutionists and the Fight Against Imperialist Intervention in Angola."

I am enclosing copies of these articles for you.

On Portugal, you write: "As to Portugal, the same lack of basic documents and material leaves us in the position of criticizing without concrete knowledge (did the SWP support the SP over and against the CP--a stalinophobic reaction as has been claimed by Weiss)."

The answer to that question is no (although Weiss clearly did support the CP over the SP). The SWP opposed both parties' class-collaborationist political program of support to the Armed Forces Movement and the refusal of the CP and SP to use their Constituent Assembly majority to fight for a workers and farmers government against the capitalist military regime. The most compact explanation of these ideas is contained in the resolution of the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction presented to the February 1976 IEC meeting already mentioned. It is available in the March 22, 1976, IP, which I am also sending to you.

You also request material to help your work in the labor movement. I am enclosing two "Party Organizers," which reprint Jack Barnes's report from the February 1978 plenum on "Leading the party into industry"; Joel Britton's report from our August plenum on the initial stages of the industrial turn; and excerpts from union fraction meetings held at our August Active Workers and Socialist Educational Conference.

Finally, I will be in the Midwest at the end of December. I would be glad to stop by Iowa City to discuss these and other political questions you may have about the SWP. Please let me know soon if this is possible.

In any case, we look forward to hearing your reactions to the documents I am sending.

Let us know if there is anything else we can do to further clarify our positions.

Comradely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Clark". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Clark".

Steve Clark