

2602 North Burling Street #1  
Chicago, Illinois 60614  
June 26, 1974

The Political Committee  
Socialist Workers Party  
14 Charles Lane  
New York, New York 10014

Dear Comrades,

I write this letter in my capacity as the National Coordinator of the Internationalist Tendency of the Socialist Workers Party and as a member of the International Majority Tendency (even though the Socialist Workers Party is prevented by reactionary legislation from membership in the Fourth International.)

At the most recent Plenum of the Socialist Workers Party, the Political Committee put forth a motion to the National Committee to set up a control committee investigation of the May 11 demonstrations in conjunction with the activities of the comrades of the Internationalist Tendency. We were told that materials such as the letters of various Party branch organizers and letters written by Cde. John Barzman, Cde. Cathy Matson and myself had also been given to the N.C. as part of the basis for the Control Committee investigation. This was the entire specifications announced at the Plenum. (The letters of the various organizers have never been seen by us of the I.T.). The N.C. voted for this recommendation without discussion of any type (we presume there must have been some discussion in the two official Leninist-Trotskyist Faction meetings that took place in conjunction with the Plenum or in the majority of closed sessions of the Plenum from which not only were Cde. Barzman and myself excluded but also Cde. Aubin of U.S..

However in discussing with Cde. Horowitz of the Political Committee and now of the Control Committee, I was told that the control committee will investigate anything it feels needs investigation and that the May 11th events are just one item. Cde. Horowitz proceeded to ask me details concerning the life of the International Majority Tendency, the International Tendency, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, etc.. He also informed me that these were to be considered "official" questions. (This "official" meeting of the Control Commission took place while I was waiting for Cde. Aubin and Cde. Barzman to leave the Plenum room since we were not welcome to stay for the next session dealing with "Opponent organizations", I believe). Only Cde. Horowitz was present. Not only was I shocked by the informality of the control commission, in that it can just walk up to a comrade and start popping "official questions", but by the lack of clarity as to what the specific nature of the investigation is. Does this suggest that any member of the control commission or the body as a whole can just wander up to individual IT comrades anywhere in the country and start a session of the "investigation" on any topic "they" think needs investigation? The the hodge podge of information is put together to build a case for the disciplining of the I.T. as a whole?

With regard to the only question mentioned in the P.C. motion, May 11th, both comrade Barzman and myself spoke on this matter at the Plenum. We both acknowledged that our Tendency as a Tendency but also

as loyal supporters of the Fourth International gave out the statement of the Fourth International on Chile and sold the Old Mole supplement on Chile in addition to carrying out our regular assignments. In many areas we acknowledge that ~~this was done after we had requested the Branches of the Party to carry out their responsibilities in this regard.~~ If it is true to say that the IT had a national policy to hand out the FI statement on Chile and get out the positions of the FI thru the Old Mole Chile statement it is also true to say that the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party had a national policy to not carry out the line of the FI on Chile. This is not a case of tactical implementation but of refusal to carry out the essence of the line of the Fourth International. On this basis the Control Commission is our penalty for carrying out the line of the FI. Further it is meant to intimidate and provoke comrades of the I.T.. Further still it is meant to intimidate other comrades of the Party or the YSA from joining us on the basis of our political ideas, being warned in advance, "that this is what you get if you are loyal to the Fourth International in the United States.

~~For the reasons of lack of specificity as to why we are being investigate I as coordinator of the Internationalist Tendency have counseled the membership of the I.T. not to cooperate with this control commission until we have been notified as to the specific and concrete charges or areas of investigation and until the material which forms the basis of the charges or investigation is made available to us.~~

Secondly, the Internationalist Tendency will ask for an official investigation of the procedures taken by the SWP leadership in this case, that investigation to be made by the International Control Commission or by the United Secretariat. If comrades in political solidarity with the FI can be harassed and punished for giving out the line of the FI on Chile at a Chile demonstration and can be harassed and punished for selling a special supplement of an official group of the Fourth International, on Chile at a Chile demo-and for carrying out the essence of the line of the FI in this regard while the SWP leadership consciously avoids the implementation of that same line-then the idea of a democratic centralist International is a ludicrous joke. This is not the case, however, as we feel will be shown in relation to this "investigation" approved by the SWP National Committee which only allows members of the LTF to sit among it.

We will await you reply before we can give cooperation to this investigation, so we would appreciate an untypically fast reply.

Comradely

  
Bill Massey, Coordinator  
Internationalist Tendency

cc:U.Sec  
IMT  
IT membership