

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

The United Secretariat
of the Fourth International

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a letter sent by me to the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party. I also enclose a copy of three letters sent on behalf of the Internationalist Tendency to the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party (2 of them-one by Barzman and the other by myself) and the leadership of the Young Socialist Alliance (one of them signed by Cathy Matson, Coordinator of the YSA Internationalist Tendency).

As the above material makes quite clear, our Tendency after attempting to persuade the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party to carry out the line of the Fourth International with regard to the Chile solidarity campaign, took it upon itself to carry out that line in the forms of the distributing of the September 1973 statement of the Fourth International on Chile and the sales of a special supplement of the Old Mole on Chile. I stress the fact that this was done without in any way neglecting or absenting ourselves from carrying out the assigned tasks that the leadership of the SWP Branches gave us. This same situation is the case with the YSA non-SWP comrades.

The fact that the leadership of the SWP charges us with having done what we already admit to having done would seem to obviate the need for a control committee of investigation. What does need investigation is the fact that the SWP leadership adopted a national policy in opposition to the essence of the line recommended by the International. Not only this but the fact that the leadership of the SWP is now embarked on a campaign of which the Control Committee "investigation" is only a part, to intimidate, provoke, harass and punish those comrades who showed their loyalty to the International leadership. To investigate comrades on the basis that they handed out statements of the United Secretariat on Chile and sold a special Chile supplement of the RMG, the official sympathizing group of the FI in Canada is an expression of the deepest hostility on the part of this leadership to the democratic centralist concepts of the International and its own Party.

We see this investigation now being used as a general fishing trip to cause an atmosphere of complete intimidation for members of the I.T. in the SWP and YSA. This is reflected in the fact that Cde. Gus Horowitz states that the Control Commission will investigate whatever needs investigation. Everyone who is aware of the "Barzman letter" conspiracy syndrome of the SWP leadership can imagine the atmosphere developing with the constitution of a Control Commission which has the intentions to investigate everything that needs investigation. Secondly this investigation and new reprisals against the I.T. has the flavor of a blackmail attempt against the International Majority-the leadership of the F.I.. The attacks on the French Sections election campaign and the investigation of the I.T. are used as pawns to attempt to balance the IMY's actions of the PST in relation to the agreements of institutionalizations. This is a very cynical maneuver on the part of the LTF but one that in keeping with past practices of this bloc.

Because of the situation existent under these conditions, I, on behalf of the Internationalist Tendency, formally request that the United Secretariat

take this matter up and make a formal decision as to whether:

1. Comrades of the I.T. in the SWP are subject to investigation and disciplinary actions against them for selling the Old Mole Chile supplement and distributing the Statement of the P.I. on Chile at the May 11th Chile demonstrations.
2. Whether members of the Fourth International or supporters of the FI in areas such as the SWP, where reactionary legislation prevents membership, can be forbidden to sell the press of the International. Clarification on this is needed not only in relation to May 11th, but in general. This situation has been brought about by the fact that several SWP branches are now voting regularly on what press can be sold at various events. The only constant in this process is that the International press, such as Inprecor and the Old Mole are not recommended and therefore "not allowed". Members of the I.T. do not accept such a restriction and would like to know as to whether they are correct or not?
3. Can a Control Commission be set up to investigate everything that it feels needs investigation or must it have a specificity about the nature of its investigation? Do those comrades under investigation have a right to see what specific charges are being brought against them?

I feel that prompt attention to these matters is in order since in my judgement this series of actions on the part of the SWP leadership is meant to drive or provoke our Tendency out of the Socialist Workers Party by making life within it as unbearable as possible. While we will not allow this to happen it creates an atmosphere that is very damaging to political collaboration and political discussion within our Party. The fact that the Control Commission was set up at the recommendation of a leadership that denied our Tendency minority representation on the National Committee that approved the PC motion to set up the control commission speaks volumes. The fact that that commission is headed up by a member of that same PC is certainly alarming.

With the warmest comradely greetings

Bill Massey, National Coordinator
for the Internationalist Tendency

cc:SWP PC
I.T.
IMT