

May 3, 1974

TC POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Below you will find a copy of the letter Bob and Berta Langston sent to Dennis Richter, the Lower Manhattan organizer, and the letter Ralph Levitt sent to the national office.

May 3, 1974

Dear Comrades,

This is to inform you that we have withdrawn from the Internationalist Tendency caucus. We remain ideological supporters of the International Majority Tendency's political positions.

Comradely,

x/Bob Langston
Berta Langston

MAY 9 1974

Ralph Levitt
1076 Carol Lane, #99
Lafayette, Ca. 94549
May 7, 1974.

Political Committee
Socialist Workers Party

This is to advise you of my resignation from the Internationalist Tendency. I remain a supporter of the International Majority Tendency, on the political basis outlined in previous documents.

Fraternally,



Ralph Levitt

cc/IMT

6 Frankfurt/M.
Robert-Mayer-Str. 52
West-Germany

April 20, 1974

Mary-Alice Waters
SWP N.O.

Dear Mary-Alice,

I've started at the University of Frankfurt, so please note the new address. I just sent it to the YSA N.O. I'm certainly learning a lot of different things here.

Dieter shows me the faction documents, so you don't need to send them to me, at least as long as he's in Frankfurt (he's planning on taking a long vacation in July-August and then moving to Heidelberg). Also, I get copies of the IIDB's here.

Dieter, too, gave me a report of what happened at the World Congress, full of anecdotes about playing electric ping-pong with Geoff Mirelowitz and so forth.

I was not only at the GIM Conference, I even was a delegate, due to the rather strange system the GIM had for delegate representation (I was the only LTT supporter in the Hamburg branch, so I automatically became a delegate with 1 vote). In some ways it reminded me more of an antiwar conference than a Trotskyist convention, with all the pounding on tables and heckling -- only the LTT delegates didn't participate in that.

Of course, my German didn't enable me to understand everything at the Conference, but I could usually get at least the general points that were being made. It seemed that the best result of the Conference was the way it showed up the unviability of Compass. That certainly happened at the end. First Karl capitulated and handed over the GIM to the IT, but then wanted to attach a couple of small conditions that the IT didn't like -- holding the next Conference at the latest in January, 1975; having a monthly internal discussion bulletin of 50 typewritten pages. And when the IT wouldn't accept these, the LTT-Compass majority voted them in anyway. Karl was all ready to give the IT some perhaps 'abstract' thing like a Central Committee majority, but the first time it came to a concrete question, he turned around and used the LTT-Compass majority against the IT. That was an obvious contradiction that everyone could feel. I got the impression from talking briefly later to a couple of local Compass leaders in Hamburg that they were a bit perplexed and demoralized by the actions of the Compass leadership at the Conference. Also, especially on the last day of the Conference, the LTT and Compass both pounded away together at the IT, reinforcing each others arguments -- really de facto cooperating. Most importantly, there is certainly nothing like the hardness in positions among the

comrades that you feel in the SWP. There we've discussed everything out and almost everyone's confident they've chosen the right side. But in the GIM the comrades often aren't familiar with some of the basic positions of the tendencies, and what's important, generally they realize that and are trying to understand better. That exists certainly even among comrades who voted for the IT. For example, the LTT Women's resolution was co-signed by an IT member in Cologne. Two comrades I knew in Hamburg voted for the IT, although they told me 'on an international level' they are between Compass and LTF. They didn't like Compass's rejection of student and women's work, and seeing the IT as the only immediate alternative for the GIM leadership, they voted that way.

All those factors together with God-knows-what experiences the new IT leadership will give us certainly favor a growth of the LTT, although obviously it will take awhile.

There were a couple of specially interesting contributions at the Conference. At one point a delegate, who had voted for the IT line in his branch, attempted to be called on to speak as an independent, that is, without using up a slot from the allotted number of IT speakers. This was protested. In reply, Winnie, a key national ITer, explained that this comrade had voted this time for the IT, but really shouldn't be looked on as an ITer because he "isn't organized in the tendency."

Pierre Frank made a really blundering type of intervention at the end of the Conference in the debate on Karl's proposed conditions. He explained how he had refrained from intervening in the political debate, but that now it was necessary that he intervene, as it is the responsibility of the international leadership to help give direct leadership to the individual sections. He explained that he had made a similar necessary contribution at the last IMG Conference.

His contribution was so factional that it provoked loud groans even from the Compass delegates. He informed us how the sections of the FI were no discussion clubs, etc., and therefore we shouldn't have this continuing internal bulletin, rather let the majority carry out the practical work of the section (forgetting, naturally, that no majority existed). He asked rhetorically, "Do you want to discuss this Carrero Blanco assassination more?" A few of the LTT delegates shouted back "Ja!", which seemed to shake him up a bit.

Perhaps the most interesting thing to me at the Conference was the functioning of the LTT, which really worked together very well as a team. At the tendency meeting during the Conference we had to decide if we would vote to put the Compass in as the majority leadership. Naturally, all the comrades supported that, but at first one of the leading comrades suggested we demand certain things from Compass in return for our support, like not tampering with the student and women's work. The meeting simply discussed that for

while and reached a consensus, without any real difficulty, against making any such demands.

A lot of talks by the LTT comrades at the Conference were really good, especially Siegfried's summary under the Perspectives point, which probably evoked the most response of any contribution at the whole Conference -- and a favorable one from both Compass and LTT members. He used almost all of his 20 minutes to clearly show the differences between the IT and the LTT.

The other thing that impressed me at the Conference, and in general in discussions I've had with Compass people, is their tendency to defend the SWP in spite of all the slop that's been thrown about. And in the GIM, that slop is certainly considerable. I've enclosed a copy of Sybille Plogstedt's report on the SWP Convention, in case no one there has seen it (unfortunately, in all the bulletins page 3 is missing). This report is so slanderous it honestly makes 'Old Wives Tales' look like a defense of the SWP. It says straight out that we don't call for victory to the NLF, that we defend the democratic rights of fascists, that we call for self-determination for women in the same sense as we call for self-determination for Vietnam, and that 400,000 dollars was raised at the Convention for 3 purposes, one of which was faction work in the Fourth International. At one point she wrote, "The demand for the limiting of the apparatus of the SWP he [B. Sheppard] met with a question, who the SWP should let go (a consideration for the direct material interests of a self-designated autonomous layer of bureaucrats?!)".

So much for the GIM Conference. I only wanted to mention one other development here. At the Goethe Institute in Lüneburg I became a friend of a Turkish student, who has been involved with the movement in Turkey for several years and is interested in the FI. She was a member of the THKO, the Turkish People's Liberation Army, which did work among students and workers and carried out several terrorist actions. Now the group is dissolved and the former members are involved in very deep critiques and discussions in order to build a new group. They have, for example, decided the terrorist actions were incorrect. They designate themselves Marxist-Leninists, are firmly anti-Maoist, and call the Soviets revisionists. There are probably only 10-12 militants left over from the THKO after the repression and losses to the Maoists, but they are also discussing with other small groups in Turkey.

I introduced the Turkish student to the comrades in Hamburg, and we began having weekly discussions which they have continued after I moved. Naturally there are a lot of difficulties involved, since her German is no better than mine. She and I have also had discussions, and last weekend she visited me here. We were able to spend a lot of time with Dieter.

Comradely,

Vereck Jellers