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New York, N.Y.
July 14, 1971

Dear Comrade Kolpe,

The comrades in Brussels forwarded a Xerox copy of an English translation of an editorial which they note as having "appeared in 'Larai,' the Bengali journal of the Socialist Workers' Party, Indian Section of the Fourth International." It is entitled "The Future of Bangla Desh and West Bengal."

I assume that you are already familiar with this item. If by chance you are not I can airmail you a copy.

There are three paragraphs in particular that I should like to call to your attention:

"The tasks which confront the revolutionary left forces in Bengal as a whole therefore come into sharp prominence:

"In Bangla Desh (Eastern Bengal) the most important task is laying the foundations for a protracted people's war against the West Pakistani Army. This can only be done by a process of intensive selection and the establishment of mobile guerrilla units consisting of trained fighters and political cadres. The most important job which confronts the latter is establishing a degree of confidence among the masses, who have become extremely disilluioned and very bitter as a result of the Awami League's inability to lead the struggle. This can be done by a process of selective sabotage and terrorism designed to bolster the morale of the workers and poor peasants. Thus the assassination of Gen. Tikka Khan and other military commanders carried out after intensive planning and preparation, could have an extremely positive effect on the masses. The liquidation of all Bengali politicians who collaborate with the military regime could be carried on simultaneously and Fazlul Quader Chowdbury (a former Cabinet Minister in Ayub's regime) and Ghulam Azam (a leader of the neo-fascist Jamat-i-Islami) are the two scoundrels whose death at the hands of the liberation forces would be welcomed by the Bangali masses as a whole.

"Of course we do not advocate individual terror in isolation. But no one can deny that it would take place with the backing of 75 million people whose rights have been brutally taken away from them, but even more importantly, we consider that it is essential if a start is to be made on constructing a revolutionary army based on the support of the masses. Individual terror in this case, far from isolating the vanguard from the masses, would draw the two closer. The base would thus be laid for a long-term struggle, the leadership of which would, from the very beginning, be in the hands of the revolutionary left, a crucial factor which would pave the way for a Socialist Bangla Desh as a new base against U.S. Imperialism in this region."

Does this represent the line of the Indian section? It appears to me to stand in polar opposition to the line laid down by the Central Committee of the Socialist Workers' Party of India, particularly in differentiating from positions held by the Naxalites and others under Maoist influence. It also appears to follow quite a different line from the one reflected in your articles on the developments in Bangla Desh.

It is quite clear that Yahya Khan's decision to employ genocide in a desperate gamble to maintain his grip on Bangla Desh will stir up mass resistance on a scale that will surely defeat the occupation force and eventually bring down the military dictatorship itself. That is one thing. For our small group to advocate (and try to practice?) assassination of designated figures is something else again.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you about this -- the reasons for such proposals and especially whether they represent a change in the line of the Indian section.

Separately I am sending you by airmail materials that you would ordinarily receive after some delay. There are two items. One is International Information Bulletin No. 4, which is just off the press. The other is a copy of a letter from the Political Committee of the American SWP to the United Secretariat. These are self-explanatory. After studying them, any comments you might have to offer would be welcome.

With warmest regards,
Joe