

April 23, 1971

Dear John and John;

Went to the airport with Joe yesterday noon and then got Manon onto the Zurich express around three---attended the meeting that JGS organized for Tarique Ali up at the university and here it is 2 o'clock on Friday--the first time in some period that I have had an opportunity to sit down and write.

Good to get the note on Mike's trip over here. Yes it was a highly conspiratorial action. Now word of it got to me although I have seen everyone since his trip --haven't been to Paris but Pierre and Sandor were here for the United Secretariat meeting, ~~Tariq~~ Tariq wasn't here but Uphali, the Ceylonese was as was Pat---and not one word was said to me. Of course anyone with experience would know that such a visit would leak out sooner or later but naively they are even acting as conspirators. I told various comrades that I would probably go to England this weekend--Ernest told me that the bureau meeting would be Wednesday so I said of course I will be back in time. But when I turned up yesterday at the headquarters and told Vergeat that I did not think I would be leaving he immediately told me that the meeting was changed by Ernest to Tuesday, that he is going to Paris but would be here by then. Are they cooking up anything for Tuesday ~~when they~~ thought I would be away? I doubt it very much.

Well I raised the matter with Uphali. He is a Ceylonese who just recently joined the IMG--was in Healy's outfit for a period. I have a very poor impression of him. In passing I ~~mentioned~~ I asked him if he had met a Canadian comrade who I understood was in England for a short period. He said oh yes, but had not had a chance to talk with him but no doubt Tariq had spent some time with him. On the evening of the 21st Joe and I took Manon up to see Ernest and Gisela. Ernest involved Manon in a conversation along lines which that I am as competent if not more competent. I think I noted in a Dear Joe and Barry letter that he has never ever taken out time to have a discussion with me on any level of importance--except for one bureau meeting that didn't come off where we had a hassle on Britain. He has never enquired about the Canadian movement, what I think of the US situation the SWP etc etc. So the conversation which for reasons she did not explain to me Manon did not feel comfortable about struck me as highly amusing. At any rate while he was looking for a book I mentioned in passing that I understood that Mike Mill had passed through Bruxelles--that you had told me. He expressed surprise---hadn't the Parisian comrades told me. Then he said that he had got a phone call from Mike and went down and met him in the station where he had had a short discussion. He did not offer anything on the subject of the conversation ~~and~~ I said nothing further and he was apparently happy to let the question drop. If Mike had not volunteered that he had been in Bruxelles and London we would probably have never known---probably something would have been said ultimately in Paris.

Not only has Mike not received a letter from Bala calling for demos here there and everywhere but no one else has either--there is no such letter. At the turn of events in Ceylon we got a wire here telling Vergeat not to come and a letter would follow. Subsequently --about 10 days later a letter arrived which I read and which I gather was received by ICP. They will no doubt be publishing part of it and we should take our lead from it. Since

then there has been one other letter received--Ernest showed it to Joe and I when we visited with Manon on the 21st...three days after you wrote your letter to me about Mike. This is a very cryptic letter as between members of a family--the main point of which is to tell us that he has not been arrested --although of course as you know there is a curfew and very limited freedom of movement. Of course it does not call for any action. And as you will have noted the United Secretariat also does not call for actions in Canada or elsewhere. There have been none here in Europe--They wanted Uphall to go on a money raising speaking tour of the US which Joe scotched because of the unfavorable time of year from this point of view.

There is no information here on Ceylon other than what is gleaned in primarily the British capitalist press which they are all now following with great avidity. It would seem that the JVP (Peoples Liberation Movement) is of some scope and I would gather that it is not at all excluded that there might come out of itsome kind of guerrilla movement. Of course you can imagine how they here interpret everything. Of course they are saying nothing about the fact that our movement missed this entire expression of the youth radicalization in Ceylon and are grabbing onto the fact that a short while ago we held a common meeting with them in Ceylon. Bala apparently heard of this movement when some of his union members started to join it. I am not at all sure what kind of relations our comrade actually formed with them. In the mimeographed information sheet that you have received along with the minutes etc there is some confusion I gather. Vergeat was translating this into the French for Royce and he said that there was an inaccuracy. In the process of this conversation (Uphall was here too as author) I am doubtful if any serious kind of front of any continuing character was formed with them which I gather the statement says(dont have a copy here) but that that meeting was a one shot affair. But as we know from previous reports the LSSP(R) is pretty much a one man operation--with the one man overwhelmed by his union responsibilities. Vergeat was saying the other day about Bala's concern about his security and how he is carefully grooming a fellow to fill his shoes--who turns out not to be a LSSP(R)er.

It would be good to get all the information from Mike you can get. I wouldn't bother arguing with him--using information that I have sent you against his---be affable-find out what he has to say. We dont need to hold any demos on Ceylon at this time. In fact I gather even in England where there are a great many Pakistani's and Bengalese with their figure of Tariq the IMG is holding no demos on Bengal. They are being carried by Bengalese and Pakistani probably with our participation--although in all the reports of them in the British press I never see Tariq's name appear. I asked him yesterday about the paper he put out in his language---they do not have any copies of any recent vintage and are only thinking of putting something out in the future.

Tario's meeting here last night was only attended by a hundred people and they brought in persons from Liege and Ghent--and it was low key-ed certainly not indignant or action oriented.

Yes we do not need to pay any attention to Mike. I am not interested in hearing him sound off at a plenum. Let him put a document into the discussion which we will circulate.

Incidentally Joe had a lengthy discussion with Gisela on the world congress assignments and Gisela told Joe that they hope that minority tendencies will have representation at the world congress. ..I suppose Mike. But it also means the British tendency too. I see no objection except in light of the fact that the minority amounts to almost nothing we wont pay his way--

This time we should consider sending Manon or Jean Herivault--it will be



conference is important. I have the documents for their congress here and will take a stab at them this weekend and give you a bit of a precis This will be the most important congress since the WC--and of course the tendency is looked upon by the international majority as part of the international minority. In the enclosed dear Barry letter you will note that the majority wanted very much to call the cops on Intercontinental Press.

On the other hand there is Canada whose future and the internationals are at this juncture peculiarly intertwined.

Joe early raised to me the matter of Intercontinental ~~being~~ on the character more of an international project even physically --it is now looked on as SWP. You will perhaps recall at another time when Dick's role was not too clear he very strongly urged us to send him to Intercontinental --he earlier had made a big ploy to get Keith L down there for a period before he went to New Zealand . When I told him that I am somewhat worried about ~~Max's situation in Montreal~~ Art, he moved right in---just the man we want in Intercontinental.

What is the score with Art? How has he taken the whole development? While he has done so very much to keep the Montreal operation going and to attract the new elements--the transformation that we see opening up before us --may well be looked upon by him as a defeat for himself--instead of essentially as his achievement. So he is coming into Toronto--I suppose you must be thinking of the paper. I wonder how he will operate with Dick. And where do you see me fitting in---back into the room upstairs ? ?

And what about Penny. I seem to recall that Nanon says she is already there What is her relationship with Art. While I knew it was on the rocks ~~she~~ Nanon does not have that impression at all

So you have to have a very serious discussion and tell me what you want to do--when you want me to come back taking into account all matters-- including Joe's proposal that I stay until the IMG conference. After you make the decision you have to inform the south--phone Joe--listen to him ~~and~~ be prepared for his arguments and tell him your decision. At the same time as you do this you should send me the money to get back there.

I am here without a return fare. The Iceland ticket either took me back at the expired date or suddenly became a mere \$28 dollars upon which the rest had to be added. Damn it we are not in too good a position to demand the return fare when we decided to return in disagreement with our partner. But \$200 or whatever it is cant be in anyway a deciding factor. Of course if you decide that I should return the first of June or thereabouts I will have met whoever the south sends over here for another talk at the May 22-23 United Secretariat meeting

Another matter that I would like to say something on before all bridges are burned. I understand that Joe was first talking about his going to Montreal but now clearly understands that it is John R who has to go. However I hear that he is now talking about his going to Ottawa. There is of course some positive merit in his going to Ottawa. ..particularly as he wishes to move into the Quebecois area and Hull is very close. Possibly he also wants an new surrounding --I hear that he and Ellie have broken up and that is a really big thing for both of them. ~~if you are in a position to~~ I am against Joe leaving the center. I think since that hassle we had last summer Joe has real possibilities of developing as a pan Canadian leader not just in the youth but in the league. It would be a big step backward in that process if we let him go to Ottawa. You can be a national leader in Quebec and a

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and a Pan-Canadian leader to boot--but you cant be a pan-Canadian leader from Ottawa. I do not see the crisis that would justify moving back in this way. There are no doubt about it many leading and promising comrades who we could send into Ottawa. After all Montreal is only four hours away or less by bus...so that constant help from the strong Quebec operation is instnatly available.

I thikn that it is excellent that Phil(Vancouver) goes to Hamilton ---I am a little uneasy about Stu--of course I would gather he still holds his job down with Hugh, which is important, even though living in Hamilton. I

I am going to close off here and get the whole thing into Friday's mail so that you have the advantage of the weekend in transit . Will continue tomorrow.

comradely

Ross