

April 24, 1971

Dear John and John;

Last night I went through your recent letters to make sure that I missed nothing

Yes John R I mentioned to Ernest that your mother had an opportunity to go to Africa and did he think that there was anything such a sympathizer could do of use to us. He suggested she drop into Nigeria to see a fellow there but it is to laugh. The sad fact is that we really do not have any thing in Africa—certainly no one who your mother could help us with in anyway. Too bad.

Yes I think that the \$40 is fine to the international. Dont send any more money for Bengal. We are one of the few sections that has come through so far. In fact at that meeting we looked good indeed—the of the few who paid in full on the European literature fund drive too. If we have any more coming in for Bengal hold it, put it aside for the next appeal. Of course we already have the World Congress fund appeal, upon us.

I had a talk with Joe H about t is following a detailed discussion he had with Gisela. They have not yet accepted the suggested quota. ~~They~~ They dont agree with the suggested 5 delegates coming. They intend to send eight not counting the youth. That would raise their travel costs to 4,000 If their contribution to the travel pool remained as suggested at \$6000 that means that their total cost would be 10,000 . That makes them a way higher than anybody including the French who have accepted the \$7,900 Joe has made no commment. They may well suggest that the \$6,000 be dropped a couple of thousand so their total cost would be something like the French around \$8,000

I think that our two is not adequate. After all we have a unique national problem which we certainly want represented—I think we should say we want to send three persons. I gather since they put \$800 for travel that they estimate airfare from Canada is cheaper than US (\$500) which it is not. That three is not counting our youth either. I think we should suggest something like 1,450 total with \$250 going to the travel pool. That is a considerable amount more than Britain or Germany which claim the same membership are going to pay in total. We can justify that out in the travel pool contribution down from 500 on the basis that we feel that there is no justification for \$1,000 going to the Philippines where there are in actuality only two comrades one of them a visiting Canadian. There are other cases like Algeria¹⁹⁸⁷ you think that we can raise 1,450 for the congress? Give us your opinion as soon as possible then we can let them know. There are several phonies in the list—besides the two mentioned —also Cyprus

Incidentally Gisela mentioned to Joe that they would like to see minorities represented—meaning I suppose their recent visitor Mike Mill. Well we have no objection to his coming over—paying his own way in the light of the insignificance of the minority vote at our pan-Canadian convention. That of course opens the door for representation of the British tendency.

No the fact that Art changed his line at the last moment doesn't cause me to change my opinion on the necessity of his coming out at all. I think that he must come out. We should have done it before and we are now able to do it even though it is somewhat disruptive. ~~Art's handling~~ Aside from his handling of the minority problem and his clique in my opinion he didn't ever really come to grips with the problem of developing our Quebecois—of giving us a Quebecois leadership. Jean H should have been in there long ago...and I dont understand the stall with Manon's sister. There is the failure to integrate into the leadership one of our top cadre Colleen. He has to come out—and I hope that John R who I feel confident can take Mike in his stride and pull together a Quebecois leadership will be out within a year. This of course is not to in anyway deny Arts

I do not understand your comment John R—however correct his judgement may turn out in the end. ???what judgement are you referring to. Surely not the handling of the minority. On this there is no doubt at all in my mind that he is wrong—and doubly wrong because we are in this case handling a minority of international significance...we tended to forget this I think.

Yes I see now you did suggest that Joan move in on the central office. But even though we are short of cadre—if she really enthusiastically agreed I am most in favor of her going to England. After Italy the class struggle in Europe is highest in Britain—in Britain there are more persons who call themselves Trotskyists than anywhere else. My own impression is that the IMG leadership are out to cut out the minority in Britain and we may well be forced with the necessity to begin anew again. This would require some forces—and Joan could make a real contribution. Well you will have to have that real open talk with her.

I am not too sure about Belfonte. A terrific guy but he has real problems—very unstable to move in and play a key role in the Toronto branch. But perhaps some of those problems of his have been solved in my absence. His enthusiasm and energy seems to be so close to the surface—not deep rooted that can continue on in adversity. Is he through school this year. I would like to look a little more deeply into our 70 odd people—and I am am thinking in terms of a woman comrade too. Do you think of Kate A as a youth?

I think that the Waterloo affair has to have simultaneous translation. From what I see this is not too big a problem. I feel that this project has to be all Canadian—draw everyone in from Quebec in particular.

Well what kind of offer have we got for the press—you make no mention of this although you go into detail about its moving. Harry S and George Bryant know all about the moving problem—the wall adjustments. If I recall correctly there is no big fuss. What has Harry S done about selling it—what kind of cash offer possibilities are there—cash on the line only.

Yes—we need some very methodical comrade strong comrade to move in on Jeff. Jeff doesn't need a helper—he will only demoralize him or her. He needs a leader to make the contribution he can. Surely we can find such a methodical energetic person.

I will go along with taking some space for the CO and the Excl director in the pool hall. All the dope about selling pool tables I am pretty sure is down in Coral's file with the pool hall account. If it is not there it is in the CO file. You will have to advertise to sell the tables at once. I think all the necessary information is in the file with Coral. You can't move the tables you know—you have to sell the ones right where you want the space.. The back toilet has to remain available for the pool hall use. I think we will have to cut a window or two into the wall—I think we can do this without going through that permit shit. Hope George and Harry are available.

Yes it would be excellent for Vern to move right into the Waterloo project. I hope we can rewrite Gerry Foley's article on Bolivia in the next issue. What a scandal—waiting to organize guerrilla struggle when we actually have soviet forms in existence.

I get the feeling from Art's letter that the comrade didn't even take Mike on on the Red Mole's scandalous line on the Quebec struggle not to speak of his rotten attitude to his own sections financial problems and its really excellent financial record with the international. Hope we can get my letters to him to read over. It would be very good if Mike would write his views down for us—the sooner the better. I can hardly wait for the British item we have been promised. I dropped a note to Pat to get him one—and at the last meeting he told me we would have their material within a couple of weeks of today's demo. I hope they move in boldly on this matter—before Joe H's document gets out and cautions them—give us their while line. This could be one of the most valuable aspects of the discussion in the world movement. Yes I agree John S we are going to have to challenge comrades with assignments. Where is George's article on...

So John L. ~~knows~~ know what it means--Joe Y is doubtful---all us smart hip characters know exactly what we mean when we use the term. But what do others think it means---I know how the head of the PQ interpreted it --that we were trying to force the English---40 % of the Quebec population and many many of them proletarians--who have to be won to the Quebec struggle--to give up their language--~~with us~~ French is the language in Canada of Quebec independence--but English is not the language of Quebec oppression--the language of oppression is capitalism--imperialism that speaks many tongues *Ernest tells me that there is considerable Belgian capital going into Canada*

I would like very much to hear your opinion of this latter point too. The essence of my opinion is that we have to spell this out---French the language of ~~the~~ work---French the language of instruction in the schools like English is in the public schools in Ontario---every one can understand that and it is very clear then how the language question is the very essence of the Quebec question.

I would like you to pass what merit there is in these comments along to the comrades involved --even the editorial board--as your own opinions --the ones you don't agree with let me know eh

all the best

Ross

But of course the paper is excellent---and the next will be better.

I think that it would be very good to establish immediately our line on the pan-Canadian nature of the struggle---and of course do it time and time again. The paper carried the line of the majority---Mike must know that--the majority of the Canadian section. Hope you publish something on the ~~soviet~~ soviet forms in Bolivia--and of course the kidnapping in Brazil is of course right up the Quebec alley--maybe we should make it more concrete. --after all Quebec had its own

The intel majority is watching the Quebec paper of our

I think we should consider telling the center here to cease stop and desist sending you minutes or whatever else they send direct to you there in Montreal. This may become a matter of importance if we have to take on life. There is one center--that is Toronto where the PC is--and the executive secretary--although I see I am already out according to

George and John Steele is in--Prague protest - ...