

May 23, 1971

Dear Raya

Your text "Lenin and Lenin" was published in No. 5/6 of Praxis, 1970, pp. 957-973. You are in the company of Ernst Bloch, Enzo Paci, Ernesto Geronzi, Maximilien Rubel, Ernst Mandel, Eugén Fink and a group of Yugoslavs including us. This was the edition in Serbo-croat. The international edition did not yet appear.

Now about Marxist humanism in Eastern European countries. I have written a favorable preface for the translation of Henke's Abstract and Concrete in Marx's Capital, one of the best books in the Post-Stalin era of Soviet philosophy, and since that time the poor man is strongly suspected and cannot get the visa for any trip abroad. The reason why I now avoid writing surveys of East European philosophy is that the consequence of praising anybody is a considerable reduction of his freedom at home. Or else the picture will be inadequate.

Boya I like the broad perspective of your ch. 8 and the way you show the connection of the theory and practice. Besides, I am very grateful to you for mentioning me and even quoting a few places. What is lacking in the chapter is

- (1) more information about humanist tendencies in Soviet philosophy (Henke, Matroshkova, Ron, Batishchev etc) and (2) about Yugoslavia
- a) Year 1948 should at least be mentioned
- b) in Praxis Marxist humanism was seriously studied, there was a number of symposia and published writings, c) the group that emerged published Praxis and started Borichko Summer School (in 1963) with clear international tendencies. d) the practical results were June days 1968
- stratagems and the seven days occupation of the Belgrade University

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c) during the last decade there were hundreds of workers strikes all over ~~the~~ Yugoslavia.

I advise you to reflect the name of Pejović with that of any other Yugoslav who took part in Socialist humanism. Pejović changed, split with "Praxis" and is now ~~at~~ one of the leading ideologues of bureaucracy.

The impression remains that you speak about the Middle East crisis in a very one-sided way and blame only Russia. But clearly there are many others to be held responsible in addition.

I still receive News & Letters; thank you very much for sending it to me. Best regards to John.

I Promise to write more often. Love Yours  
Mihailo