December 22, 1972

Dear Peter,

Your letter of December 14 was a great big surprise, not because of its content, but just I hear so seldom from you and I had not even got your congratulatory note and here I get a seven page quite comprehensive critique of Why Hegel? Why Now? You're right, there's no point to answering briefly when the whole 350 pages of Philosophy and Revolution on which I labored nearly a whole decade is the answer and that is not yet off the press. I wish I had received it sometime before in the years I had beeen asking for it. In any case I thank you very much, and I'm especially apreciative of the fact that you give me permission to make the critique public. I don't know exactly when but I will someday, probably nearer to the publication of P&R which is supposed to be October, 1973, but they're doing a lot of playing around also with the date of spring, 1974. Since the contract mentions both dates I don't know whether I'll succeed in making them forget the second one.

Did I tell you it's simultaneously to be in hardcover (Delacorte) and paperback (Delta)?

Finally, there is one thing I must take exception to at once rather than wait for a different timing, and that is your "accusation" that dealing with Hegel is an evasion, a movement from practice. You know almost as well as I that if anything has characterized my life it is practice and not theory into which literally I was <u>forced</u> because none from Trotsky down was paying any attention to <u>reality</u> either the objective state capitalism or the subjective new forms of revolt. When you add to that that in the United States I alone have taken at least two years to do nothing but help in the <u>self</u>-development of a proletariat, Black, to take over the prerogatives of intellectuals--editing a paper--and the whole paper (N&L) being overwhelmingly for the voices from below, not to mention my own activities in every field from anti-war to farm workers strikes, it is really peculiar to see that all this info had not stopped you from making your <u>theoretical</u> point that "Hegel now" is an evasion.

Yours,

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