

Office

October 12, 1981

Ana Maria Portugal  
Jr. Quilca 431  
Apartado 2211  
Lima 100, Peru

Dear Ana Maria Portugal:

What a great American writer, Herman Melville, once called "the shock of recognition" is always an exciting experience, and <sup>is</sup> <sup>more</sup> so for me than when I first heard of your letter, asking permission to publish in Spanish some of my essays on Women's Liberation. You can gauge the importance we attach to that by that fact that my colleague, Anne Jaffe, is coming to carry on the dialogue with your organization in person.

You no doubt also know that I have finished my study of Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution. Allow me to elaborate subjectively as well as objectively what the work means to me as a way of seeing whether it strikes a "shock of recognition" also in you. It never fails that, no matter how fully you know a subject, when a new force and Reason of revolution arises (as Women's Liberation has arisen in our age) you feel you have known nothing until that new moment of illumination.

It is then that the individual and the universal have merged in what Hegel calls the "birth-time of history" and that is why everything -- the familiar as well as the unfamiliar -- is so totally new. This is the way I felt about Rosa Luxemburg, about Women's Liberation, and about Marx's philosophy of revolution. Though I have lived with these subjects my whole adult life. All are so intimately inter-related that it is impossible to assign a primacy only to one. And it became clear to me that not one of all the books on Luxemburg had grasped her as a total person and as a revolutionary. Even more is that true of the Women's Liberation Movement, which has such a vast untapped field to work out that the activities seem to overwhelm the philosophic ground needed.

That is why I feel it becomes imperative to grapple with the whole new continent of thought and revolution that Marx discovered, and why, at each age, he becomes more alive than at the age before. Because I tried to unite all three elements in my latest book, I feel it is not only relevant but urgent for our age. This is why I wanted to write to you about all this even before Anne arrives there: I have signed a contract for Humanities Press and Harvester Press to bring my book out simultaneously in the U.S. and Great Britain early next year -- and I am very anxious to have it published as soon as possible in Spanish also.

Enclosed is the contents page and the Introduction; Anne is bringing the complete manuscript with her. Would you know of any publishers Anne could see when she is there? Could you accompany her? Better yet, could you set up an appointment for her with a publisher even before she arrives?

Do let me hear from you.

Yours,

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