

JUL 10 1974

3817 Graustark  
Houston, Texas 77006  
July 5, 1974

Political Committee  
Socialist Workers Party  
14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Comrades of the Political Committee,

I wish to register my protest at the expulsion of the Internationalist Tendency from the Socialist Workers Party. I do not deny that some of the recent actions by the IT have put into question the loyalty of some of their members to the discipline required of members in the SWP. However, there have been numerous provocations by the LTF which have also been unwarranted and have put the norms of democratic centralism in some jeopardy.

Although I have never joined the IT, I want to reaffirm my substantial agreement with the International Majority Tendency as opposed to the LTF. This agreement has increased since the Tenth World Congress, on the basis, especially, of recent developments in Argentina and Portugal.

Because of this position, I am extremely alarmed by what appears to be a stepped-up drive toward split of the Fourth International on the part of the LTF - beginning with the expulsion of the IT. Obviously I cannot support this perspective and feel my own party membership is jeopardized by it.

I am sending a copy of this statement to the Houston SWP National Committee member/Organizer and requesting it be read at the next branch meeting.

Comradely,

  
Debby Leonard

cc.: Nelson Blackstock

3817 Graustark  
Houston, Tex. 77006  
July 10, 1974

Political Committee  
Socialist Workers Party  
14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Comrades,

Prior to the last World Congress I voted for only one of the resolutions submitted, namely, "The Building of Revolutionary Parties in Capitalist Europe." In my opinion, events in that sector of the world, including Portugal, confirm the basic analysis of this resolution, particularly as it relates to the crisis of capitalism and resurgent class struggle.

After more than 20 years of modest efforts on my part to help build the Trotskyist movement in the U.S., I found myself in disagreement with the leadership of the SWP on a key political question for the first time. This is the reason I did not join the LTF, although I had previously been a member of the LTT on the question of Argentina.

I now consider the decision of the LTF to expel the IT and call for a World Congress to deal with the organizational question a serious mistake in political judgement.

It is quite clear the IT violated the organizational norms of the SWP and the LTF has a strong case for their expulsion. But you have combined the expulsion with a frontal assault on the IMT, which poses the serious threat of a worldwide split.

This course can only appear to serious revolutionaries as an attempt on the part of the LTF to gain by organizational means what it has not been able to gain by political means and that is the majority of the World Movement.

Unfortunately for the LTF this decision occurs at a time of increasing class polarization and actions, coupled with the resurgence of reactionary and fascist movements which are already taking a toll of Trotskyists and other militants around the world. Both the opportunities and the danger to our movement require redoubled efforts to maintain unity.

If you are convinced that it is impossible to do this in the Trotskyist movement as defined by the 10th World Congress, then I can only conclude that the LTF has adopted a split perspective.

I am therefore submitting this statement in opposition to the motions of the Political Committee on both the expulsion of the IT and the immature call for a special World Congress since I consider them a synthesis.

As a former member of some years on the National Committee, during which I developed great respect for many members on that party body, I wish to make the special request that this statement not be confined to the P.C., but be sent to the entire N.C.

Comradely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Leonard".

Tom Leonard

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JUL 20 1974

Sandy Hall  
Lafayette, Calif.  
July 18, 1974

United Secretariat of the Fourth International

Dear Comrades:

I am writing to the United Secretariat of the Fourth International with regard to my recent expulsion, carried out by the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

The expulsion of the Internationalist Tendency was, of course, contrary to the norms of Trotskyism; it was carried out without a trial or even a serious investigation.

My own expulsion was quite different. While I was expelled for being a member of the IT, I am not a member of that tendency nor was I a member at the time of the expulsions. This I am prepared to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt. Even a cursory investigation by the SWP PC would have revealed this fact.

Normally, my appeal would be directed to the PC of the SWP. However, since this body carried out the expulsions in violation of the norms of democratic Party functioning, it would be out of the question to expect anything more from this quarter, which has proven that it acts only out of factional considerations and without regard for Trotskyist tradition.

Although I intend to appeal to the next Party convention, that gathering is over a year away.

Therefore, I appeal to the World movement to investigate my expulsion and use its influence to restore my membership in the Socialist Workers Party.

Fraternally,

Sandy Hall  
1076 Carol Lane, #99  
Lafayette, Calif.  
U.S.A.

cc: SWP PC  
Oakland-Berkeley Branch, SWP

August 8, 1974

To Members of the Political Committee

Today I had a call at home from Bill Massey who said he was coming to New York next week and wished to speak with me. I told him there was no purpose to a discussion, but that he could drop a note in the mail telling me what he wanted to talk about. He said he wished to discuss "their reintegration into the party as outlined in their letter of July 17, 1974." I told him there was nothing to discuss, so he hung up.

Jack