

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 15, January 9, 1976

Present: Barnes, Blackstock, Breitman, Camejo, Gersh,  
Hansen, L. Jenness, Lovell, Lund, Lyons, Scott,  
Seigle, Sheppard, Stapleton, Thomas, Waters

Chair: Hansen

AGENDA: 1. YSA Convention  
2. World Movement  
3. Militant Coverage of Plenum Material  
4. Dates for National Gathering  
5. New York City Branch Expansion  
6. Membership

1. YSA CONVENTION

(Bailey, Berman invited for this point.)

Berman reported on recent YSA national convention.

Discussion

2. WORLD MOVEMENT

(Benson invited for this point.)

Waters reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report and send the proposed letter (see attached).

Carried.

3. MILITANT COVERAGE OF PLENUM MATERIAL

Lyons reported on proposal to publish Angola report adopted by plenum; feature article by Sheppard based on the Portugal statement adopted by plenum; and feature on Political and Implementation of the Turn reports adopted by plenum.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

4. DATES FOR NATIONAL GATHERING

Sheppard reported on proposal to have this summer's national gathering August 7-14.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the proposal.

Carried.

5. NEW YORK CITY BRANCH EXPANSION

Sheppard reported that the New York Local Executive Committee has decided to establish new branches in Queens, East Flatbush, and the West Side in Manhattan, in addition to the existing Upper West Side, Lower East Side and Brooklyn branches.

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Sheppard reported on the recommendation of the Houston branch that D.L., D.R., and R.E. be readmitted into membership in the party.

Discussion

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Houston branch that D.L., D.R., and R.E. be readmitted into membership in the party.

Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

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14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
January 9, 1976

Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire  
Workers Socialist League  
Lutte Ouvrière

Dear Comrades,

The plenum of our National Committee, meeting on January 4, decided to cooperate in the commission of inquiry into the accusations made by the leadership of the OCI against Michel Varga and the counteraccusations made by the LIRQI against the leadership of the OCI.

We have asked John Benson, Gus Horowitz and Ed Shaw to be our representatives on this commission and to do everything possible to gather, in a preliminary way, documentary material and various opinions on these matters. They will get in touch with you in the near future to discuss the organization of the commission and the exchange of information that should be available to all the members of the commission of inquiry.

We've also asked the other members of our leadership to aid the commission in any way possible when they are in Europe.

Please keep us informed as to the results of any preliminary findings.

Best comradely regards,

/s/

Barry Sheppard, for the  
Political Committee  
Socialist Workers Party

cc: USFI  
OCI  
LIRQI

COPY

December 20, 1975

Lutte Ouvriere  
[address in original]

Dear Comrades,

We received your letter of November 17, 1975, concerning the organization of a commission of inquiry to look into the accusations made by the leadership of the OCI against Michel Varga and the counteraccusation made by the LIRQI against the leadership of the OCI.

Without going into the history of the attempts to organize such a commission, we would like to inform you that the SWP is ready to take part in any legitimate commission established for this purpose.

It goes without saying that neither the accused nor the accusers can participate in this commission in the capacity of judging the facts presented, but we hope that both the OCI and LIRQI leaderships will cooperate in the fullest to provide the commission with all relevant documentation and information.

In our opinion this is the only responsible way to deal with the question and eliminate the potentially serious consequences stemming from it.

Please keep us informed about steps taken to set up the commission.

Comradely,

/s/

Barry Sheppard  
For the SWP Political  
Committee

cc: USFI  
LCR  
WSL  
OCI  
LIRQI

TRANSLATION

TRANSLATION

Paris, November 17, 1975

Dear comrades,

After a year of joint meetings about the advisability of complying with LIRQI's request to create a commission of inquiry into the accusations made against its leaders by the OCI, we believe that in view of the impasse the discussions have reached it is advisable to jointly work out some proposals that are on the one hand final, and on the other hand clear and plain.

We therefore state our position:

1. Lutte Ouvrière is ready to participate in such a commission.
2. Lutte Ouvrière will not sign the statement proposed by LIRQI, attached to the present letter, which includes approval of LIRQI's proposal before the commission even meets, thus making it pointless to constitute such a commission.

We do not particularly limit ourselves to the statement we proposed in order to facilitate the discussion, and we are prepared to sign a statement that may not embody such positions.

Enclosed for your information is the statement we suggested.

3. In our opinion, LIRQI cannot be both judge and party to the dispute at the same time, and it would be better that its representatives not be members of the commission.

In the worst case, if no points of agreement can be reached for a common statement, in our opinion each organization could announce the terms it thinks would be best for forming the commission

If the LCR believes that LIRQI's presence would not be detrimental, we will accept the constitution of such a commission without going back on our own position.

Having said this, to make our position clear, we believe that the discussions among our various groups are now pointless and we await written proposals whether they be from LIRQI or from another of the groups involved.

Our own proposal is that, given the present state of the matter, the LCR, the Spartacist League, the Workers Socialist League and Lutte Ouvrière constitute this commission immediately and invite LIRQI and the OCI to present evidence to them.

Fraternally,  
Lutte Ouvrière

sent to LIRQI  
LCR  
Spartacist League  
WSL

STATEMENT PROPOSED BY LIRQI

The undersigned organizations, militants and individuals of the French and international workers and democratic movement met October 30, 1975, in response to an appeal from the Ligue Internationale de Reconstruction de la IVeme Internationale (International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International) and from Comrade Balazs Nagy, also known as Michel Varga, a member of the International League.

They have decided to form a Workers Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of taking a position on

a. the campaign of unproved accusations launched by the leadership of the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste, according to which Comrade Balazs Nagy, a former leader of the Hungarian revolution of 1956 and the former secretary of the Petöfi Club, is an agent provocateur of the CIA and of the KGB.

b. the extension of these accusations to the International League as such, going so far as repeated physical attacks against militants of the OCI-International League Faction, especially at the time of the united demonstrations against Franco and of the diffusion before the meeting for the freedom of Soviet mathematician Leonid Plyushch, and to make its conclusions public in order to put a stop to methods contrary to workers democracy.

The basis for constituting the Commission of Inquiry is that there should be no question in the workers democratic movement of hurling accusations of such a grave nature against a revolutionary militant or an organization without proof. The Commission of Inquiry is being set up because the OCI, contrary to its claims, in the various articles and brochures published under its leadership up until now, has not only provided no proof, but even worse it has launched a campaign of physical assaults. Because these accusations and attacks are carried out without proof, assuming that it is up to the accuser to furnish proof, they constitute slanders and provocations.

That is the point of departure for the work of this Commission of Inquiry. Its first action will be to summon the OCI leadership, which claims to have proof, to appear before the Commission to restore Balazs Nagy's archives and to bring forward all the documents in their possession.

Since the Commission of Inquiry is a united organ struggling for respect for workers democracy, and not a political bloc, it is open to all organizations and militants of the international workers movement, including of course militants of the OCI, and all democratic individuals on the basis it was established for. We call on them to take active part in its work which, along with its results, will be made public before the workers movement.

TRANSLATION

STATEMENT PROPOSED BY LUTTE OUVRIERE

For some time, the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste has put forward a number of accusations, asserting that Balasz Nagy, also known as Michel Varga, is an agent provocateur of the CIA and the KGB, and extending these accusations to the organization Michel Varga belongs to, the Ligue Internationale de Reconstruction de la Quatrieme Internationale.

We consider such an accusation against a militant or an organization to be sufficiently grave to require the entire revolutionary movement to determine whether it is justified or not. For that reason we have decided to form a Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of inviting the OCI leadership to present us with all the proofs they claim to possess, and of asking that all those who may be able to provide evidence for a decision in this matter come and testify.

By means of a scrupulous verification of facts and documents, a verification it will make public, the Commission undertakes to prevent the establishment of a climate of accusations and mutual suspicions foreign to the revolutionary movement. In order for this verification to be accomplished with the greatest possible authority, the Commission invites all organizations claiming adherence to the revolutionary workers movement to take active part in its work.