

Jack

March 16, 1976. 442 26 172

Dear comrade Hanson,

We have received your letter of March 7, 1976. It is based upon a misapprehension. There exists no letter of resignation "already drafted" by Livio, Pierre and myself as contributing editors of I.P., nor have we decided to resign. Even less have we any intention of creating legal problems for the SWP by claiming that it is publishing I.P.

What we did try since a long time - and it seems in vain - was to explain to you that you place us in an increasingly intolerable position by accumulating accomplished facts, systematically refusing to consult us on any move which might provoke controversy, acting as if the contributing editors were non-existent and some secret editorial board was operating in their place, and generally tending to transform I.P. into a public faction organ, which is contrary to the purpose for which the magazine was founded, contrary to the rules and traditions of our movement, and contrary to the interests of the F.I. and I.P. itself.

We just remind you (among other items) about the following decisions you never cared to consult us about beforehand, although certainly no "pressure" arising from the weekly publication of I.P. could have prevented such a consultation:

- 1.- The decision to include Spanish language material in I.P. and Spanish language comrades on I.P. staff itself.
- 2.- The decision to invite comrades exclusively selected from the international minority faction of different countries to work temporarily on I.P. staff;
- 3.- The refusal to implement the USEC advise to put comrades sympathetic to the views of the leadership of the F.I. on I.P. staff (we have proposed a concrete candidate at a recent meeting);
- 4.- The decision to publish, during the decisive months of the revolutionary process in Portugal and Angola in 1975, a long series of articles on these countries written on a line contrary to that of the leadership bodies of the F.I., and to present these articles not as minority contributions to an ongoing discussion but as "line" articles, which compelled us to public polemics in order to eliminate the wrong impression created by these publications as to what the line of the F.I. on Portugal and Angola really was;
- 5.- The decision to publish a highly factional article on the split in the Mexican L. S., publication which, in our opinion, does a serious disservice to the F.I. and tends to discredit our movement;
- 6.- The decision to devote large space of I.P. to polemics with sectarian groupings, with a typical internal bulletin contents.

In view of this drift we warned you that, if you would continue to act in such an uncomradely and biased way, we would have no choice but to dissociate ourselves publicly from I.P., because we could not bear the responsibility, which we consider detrimental to the F.I.

Instead of rectifying your factional course, or showing any willingness to return to a more principled way of operating, you now announce in your March 7 letter a new accomplished fact: "to go ahead with a change of leadership", without even suggesting that we could be consulted about the proposed formula, leaving us to learn it when it appears in print in I.P.

We again request you to change this irresponsible course and to return to the normal habit of elementary collective consultation and decision-making between editors of a magazine, before important

moves are made for which no "recourse of time" can justify this systematic refusal of prior consultation.

We have no wish nor intention to provoke a public break with I.P., ^{a publication} which could have been used, and should have been used, as a means to consolidate the unity of the movement, in spite of the existing political differences, and not as a means to provoke additional frictions and divisions. But if your policy of accomplished facts and deliberate provocations is escalated, you will finally bear the responsibility for our escalated reaction, one form of which could be us dissociating ^{ourselves from} a magazine which would no more serve the interests of the F.I.

Fraternally yours,

Pierre Frank, Livio Maitan, Ernest Mandel.

P.F.

L.M.

E.M.