

xs: Joe, Jack, Doug, M-A, Peter B., Gus,
B/c, Dave F., Peter B., Lew

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March 28, 1978

RCL
Jerusalem

Dear Michel,

Thanks for your letter of January 31. I am sorry to be so tardy in replying, but I had to put off much of my correspondence for a few weeks due to the activity around our recent National Committee plenum, and am only now getting through all the accumulated backlog.

By the way, did you see the Militant of March 24, with the explanation of our National Committee decision to try to get most of our membership into basic industry? This will be a big step forward for the SWP. Also in this connection, I hope you have followed the miners' strike. It has been the most significant development in the US in a long time, and will give you an idea of the changes that are occurring in the American class struggle.

The March 24 Militant also contains a brief summary of part of Barry Sheppard's report to the plenum on the situation in the international. Another part of his report was not appropriate for the Militant; this concerns the situation in Colombia. An IIDB will be out soon, containing a lot of documentation of the split that the BT carried out in the Colombian PST, as well as the United Secretariat response.

As to the points you raised in your letter.

First regarding Yossi Ben Akiva. In line with what you wrote, it seems reasonable that he be asked to do some translations or other literary things for IP/Inprecor, in collaboration with the RCL.

Second, concerning the problems that have come up in the fusion process with the PCG. I hope you are correct in your estimate that the SWP could have a beneficial effect in encouraging the PCG to adopt a stance that would promote a fusion. I will write them to ask their view of the situation, and after receiving a reply will be in a better position to say something.

I wrote you in January 31 about the Iranian comrades willingness to help out in producing Arabic-language publications, but have received no reply. Did you get the letter? Another copy is enclosed, in case the earlier one got lost. I hope that you can work this out satisfactorily.

Peter Seidman was in Boston recently and brought back a copy of a publication that Jacob and Lea gave him entitled, "Red Pages," and described on the cover as "a publication of R.C.L. (Matzpen-Marxist)," with your Jerusalem mailbox as the address. Thus it is presented as an English-language publication of yours. Is this actually the case? Although there is no problem with the contents, it does seem a little unusual for the RCL to bring out an English-language publication for distribution in the U.S. So, if it is actually being published under your direction, perhaps you could let us know some of the reasons why you decided to produce it.

In case you have not seen it, I am enclosing a copy of the front page and two of the four articles in "Red Pages," one a November 19, 1977, public statement on Sadat's visit that was signed by the RCL and several other groups, and the other on the Israeli CP and the radical anti-Zionist left. The other two articles are simply reprints of articles by you that appeared in Inprecor on December 8, 1977, and IP/Inprecor on January 23, 1978. By the way, the article on the Israeli CP and the radical anti-Zionist left is unsigned. Is it an official document of the RCL?

Finally, concerning the last point in your January 31 letter-- about the question of an independent Palestinian national movement, not only in Palestine itself, but in the Arab countries where there is a large Palestinian population. Of course we would favor the development of an independent mass organization to fight for national liberation. In fact, so long as the revolutionary Marxists are small, it is almost certain that the radicalization of the Palestinian masses will result in the creation of such organizations, or the transformation of the existing organizations, or rather than initially flowing into the revolutionary Marxist party. And revolutionary Marxists would naturally be interested in participating in such independent mass organizations and striving to lead them. I don't see any contradiction at all on this point. I assume you agree.

Regards,

Gus

encls.