

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

June 19, 1978

Felipe García Casillas
PRT
Mexico

Dear Felipe,

Since Olga is now our National Field Organizer for the Southwest and is living in Houston, I will answer your letter of April 20 addressed to her.

We are in complete agreement with the proposals you make concerning stepped-up joint activity. In particular, the opportunities are growing for fruitful work in defense of Héctor Marroquín.

We are also in accord with moving rapidly to set up public meetings for PRT spokespersons to speak in the United States (in Los Angeles and as many other places as it can be arranged). Informing people here about the perspectives and activity of the PRT and building support for the PRT's legalization campaign is as you put it, "the central aim of the matter." It would be of great benefit to both the PRT and the SWP. It would be especially useful if we could, as you suggest, have someone from the PRT national leadership speak at one or more of these meetings.

We would like to work out the details on dates and places for these meetings as soon as possible. The most effective meetings could be held in the fall. This would avoid the problems of vacation periods, and give us adequate time to publicize the meetings.

Given the extreme slowness of the mails, perhaps the most effective thing would be to make final arrangements with the leadership comrades who come up to Oberlin in early August. We could work out a tentative schedule by telephone before then, and make the final arrangements at Oberlin. Let us know what you think. How much time could a comrade or comrades spend in the U.S., say, in late September and/or October? Should we do this in only a few cities (Los Angeles and a couple of other Southwestern cities) or should we also include forums in other major cities, like Chicago, Detroit, New York, etc., where there are large Chicano or Latino communities?

In connection with Oberlin, we would like to know if it would be possible for one of the comrades to prepare a class to be given during our educational conference on the political situation in Mexico and the activities of the PRT. Comrades would be especially interested in what's going on in the labor movement, and what the PRT's approach and activities in the unions are. Such a class would be a way to bring SWP members and sympathizers up to date about the PRT and about Mexican politics.

If you can arrange for someone to present such a class, please let us know right away so we can work it into the schedule.

Finally, I would like to try to clear up what seems to be some misunderstanding concerning our attitude toward the Committee for a Revolutionary Socialist Party (CRSP).

Our general attitude toward the CRSP is the same as that expressed in the letter from Claudio for the United Secretariat Bureau, to Myra Tanner Weiss of CRSP: "Your position that the SWP is hopelessly degenerated and your goal of building an organization that seeks to destroy the SWP places you in opposition to the Fourth International..." (I am enclosing a copy of this correspondence, in case you haven't seen it.)

Now this, of course, does not end the matter. Simply because a group is outside of and in opposition to the Fourth International doesn't settle the question at all of what types of united-front campaigns, political discussions, common actions, etc., may be desirable. Your points on the work the PRT has done with groups such as the LOM are exactly in line with our own approach.

As you know, the SWP has aggressively pursued discussions and joint activities with currents outside the Fourth International. Right now we are trying to advance this process with the Socialist Labor Party. Last year, we were able to bring about a fusion with the comrades of the Revolutionary Marxist Committee.

Our political experience with the CRSP has not shown that such activity is possible. As far as American politics is concerned, there is not much we agree on. We have no common areas of political work. For example, they have not expressed interest in the anti-deportation campaign or any other activities in the Chicano movement we have been involved in. They have not even expressed interest in actively joining in defense cases the party has been especially active in, such as the Marroquin campaign, or USIA work. Insofar as we do run into them (such as in the women's movement in the Northwest, where the Freedom Socialist Party, one of the CRSP components, is based) we generally find them among our most vociferous opponents and factional enemies.

That is why we are dubious about the sincerity of the CRSP's proposals for a "joint campaign" between the SWP and the CRSP to support the PRT. It is all to the good, of course, if the CRSP supports the meetings we build for the PRT--whether these are organized by the SWP or under broader sponsorship. But we don't believe there is any political basis to establish a special relationship with the CRSP for such a campaign.

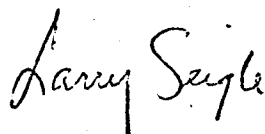
Naturally, we don't rule out the possibility of further evolution in a different direction by the CRSP or some members of it. If that happens, we will respond in the appropriate ways. I would like to emphasize, however, that there is no evidence whatsoever that this is happening.

Furthermore, we would like to make it absolutely clear that the SWP has no objection whatsoever to the PRT accepting help or support from CRSP or anyone else in the U.S. on the basis you spell out in your letter.

I hope this makes our views a little clearer.

Please let us know as soon as you can your reaction to the proposals for public meetings to hear PRT speakers in the fall, and on the educational conference class.

Warmest comradely greetings,



Larry Seigle
for the Secretariat
Socialist Workers Party

enc.

Translation April 20 letter from Mexican PRT to Olga

Received May 25

Mexico, D.F.

April 20, 1978

Dear Comrade Olga:

We have received copies of the correspondence between Bruce Marcus of Los Angeles and the National Office of the SWP regarding the proposal of the Socialist Union and the Committee for a Revolutionary Socialist Party to organize some joint work in support of the PRT. The Secretariat of the Political Bureau discussed the matter and encharged me with letting you know our opinion.

Last December Milt Zaslow was in Mexico City where he established contact with the PRT. At that time he met with a member of the party leadership. During the meeting Zaslow expressed interest in the activities and development of the party and offered to collaborate and support the demands of the PRT. We felt that the proposal to organize a public forum in Los Angeles where the PRT would express its positions would be a step in concretizing that offer of solidarity.

With regard to this offer and the possibility of a financial campaign to raise money for the PRT, we always are oriented according to a criterion set down in our statutes, which state in Article 11:

"The PRT willingly accepts the fact that many people sympathize with its ideas, collaborate in one or another way in building the party, or in carrying out its program...the organization welcomes financial contributions but makes no commitments of any kind corresponding to them."

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We agree with you that the process of building a party cannot be based on its being financed by external ~~XXXXXX~~ sources, especially sources outside the country. An indication of the degree of the party's organization and penetration of the mass movement is its ability to obtain its own sources of funding. Nonetheless, it is obvious that in the case of the CRSP (or in the case of aid from the SWP) we have never thought of regular financial help. It would be ridiculous to think of the PRT meeting its financial needs through the SWP and even more so through the CRSP.

Clearly the SRSP proposal must be understood as a conjunctural financial campaign with a concrete goal related to a concrete campaign of the PRT. That type of campaign clearly is not new to our movement. If we had a different idea, we could not discuss it with the CRSP.

It is true that the campaign we are now carrying out for the legal registration of the PRT is demanding increasingly more economic resources, which we cannot always meet through our normal income. We are making supplementary efforts to deal with such problems. However, we do not feel that at this time it is necessary to make an international appeal for a campaign to support us. We can still deal with it ourselves. However, we do not reject incidental financial contributions --like the one offered by the CRSP-- although obviously we accept it without making any political commitment in return. We also understand the legal limitations the SWP would face if it gave financial aid.

Moreover, we regret the fact that the SWP leadership rejects carrying out a joint action with the CRSP in support of the PRT ~~is~~ because it considers that the CRSP's declared support to the

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Fourth International is nothing more than a "mascarade" ~~designed~~ designed to create confusion about its "real character". Obviously we respect the opinion of the SWP leadership regarding any other organization in the United States.

To be frank, however, such an attitude toward the CRSF seems strange to us. Accepting that part of the idea of proletarian internationalism implies sharing with the rest of the world movement our own experiences and the lessons we draw from them, our opinion is that it is ~~not~~ possible to join together for concrete objectives with any current that says it is part of the workers movement. That has been our experience, for example, with groups in Mexico like the Liga Obrera Marxista (member of the ~~CCRFI~~ ^{CCRFI}), which ~~despite~~ ^{despite} its sectarian attitude toward the PRT and its constant attacks in ~~the~~ ^{its} press against our work-- has been forced to carry out joint actions with us. And we cite the example of the LOM--which calls itself Trotskyist like the CRSF-- not to mention the joint experiences with the Mexican CP or with the Lombardistas. In the case of the CRSP, without making any political concessions to its absurd characterizations of the SWP, we have carried out joint actions between the PRT, SWP, and CRSP as in the demonstration against deportations held in Tijuana last December. In 1975 also in response to the police assault on one of our headquarters in Mexico City, that group sent us a sum of money as a show of support.

Finally, with regard to the central aim of the ~~proposal~~ ^{matter}, we consider the most important thing to be able to speak in the United States and express our points of view on the political reform of the López Portillo regime and seek support for our demand for legal registration. More than any question of a finan-

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cial order, we are interested in political solidarity.

We would be very happy to be able to participate in a public forum in Los Angeles or any other ~~nearby~~ city near the border to explain the current campaign of the PRT to win legal registration. To be able to carry out such a rally would be of great use to the PRT whether it was built only by the SWP or by a broader grouping of forces, as you suggest in your letter. Insofar as we ~~are~~ ^{were} able, we would even try to have some member of our national leadership participate in such a rally. We are sure that, as you state in your letter, a rally of that sort would benefit both the PRT and the SWP.

The Héctor Marroquín campaign and the visit of Sra. Piedra have made ~~it~~ evident the repercussions such a campaign can have in Mexico. We are sure that if the voice of the PRT could be heard in the United States, especially in those Chicano communities where the SWP has people, where we could denounce the character of the political reform, the austerity plan Yankee imperialism has forced on Mexico, the handing over of the national resources--like oil, gas, and uranium--which López Fortillo is doing to that same imperialist power, or the political repression that prevails throughout the country, we are sure that all that would have favorable repercussions for the mass movement in Mexico and would strengthen the SWP and PRT.

Finally, we feel that this ~~is~~ would only be one more sign of the close and growing collaboration between the SWP and the PRT. The political situation in ~~both~~ both countries tends to increase the collaboration between our parties. Especially following our collaboration at the Chicano-Latino Conference in San Antonio, our Political Bureau expressed its pride at the growing possibilities to display in practice the superiority of

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proletarian internationalism.

To the long list of joint actions between the SWP and the PRT you mention in your letter must be added now the latest developments related to the ^{asylum} Campaign for Hector and against the political repression in Mexico. Barry's presence here during the national day for amnesty and the current tour of Sra. Piedra with Hector are very advantageous. I take the opportunity to reiterate what we told Barry to the effect that we would make the greatest effort to send a comrade who witnessed the 68 or 71 repression to give testimony during Hector's hearing.

Fraternally,

s/Felipe Garcia Casillas

for the Secretariat of the Political Bureau

P.S. We are not sending a copy of this letter to the GRSP. However, we think it will be necessary to notify them in some way of our opinions in view of the fact that they initially made the proposal for the joint campaign. We would like to hear from you your opinion on the manner of communicating to them our decisions.

cc. PRT regional bodies in the northwest; United Secretariat.