

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
January 14, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed are three pieces of literature distributed at the panel on defense work for the ex-Communist League at the recent YSA convention. The fact sheet has been brought up to date. The petition has dropped the demand for freedom for Pierre Rousset since he was released.

We want to continue our efforts to collect signatures on this petition, not only by prominent individuals, but by students, trade unionists, and others we meet in the course of our work.

The Committee for Defense of the Rights of the Communist League in France does not have the resources to produce large numbers of printed petitions, so the petition and fact sheet should be reproduced in local areas. We should circulate the petition at our forums and have it available at campus meetings and on literature tables.

Signed petitions should be sent to the committee's secretary-treasurer, Francoise Collet, 2310 Creston Ave. #6A, New York, New York 10468.

Comradely,

Caroline Lund

Caroline Lund

French Government Outlaws Political Organization

On June 28, 1973, the French Council of Ministers voted to outlaw the Ligue Communiste (Communist League), a political organization that was founded in 1969. The pretext for the ban was a June 21 demonstration organized by the League and eight other groups against a fascist meeting in Paris.

Several days later Alain Krivine, a member of the political bureau of the Communist League, was arrested. Krivine was the League's candidate for president of France in the 1969 elections. He was charged under the notorious "anti-wrecker law" (loi anti-casseurs), according to which the leader of an organization can be held responsible for any illegal acts committed by anybody in the course of a demonstration called by that organization.

Krivine was out of town on the night of the June 21 demonstration and did not even take part in it. Another leader of the League, Michel Recanati, was arrested in September, also under the "anti-wrecker law."

Also imprisoned was Pierre Rousset, another leader of the League, who happened to be in the League's headquarters on June 22, when police ransacked the offices and claimed to have found some illegal weapons there. Rousset was charged with possession of weapons.

While Rousset was convicted and then released after serving his two-month sentence, Krivine and Recanti are simply out on bail and still have the charges pending against them.

Immediately after the ban against the Ligue Communiste, the organization appealed the dissolution to the Council of State. Before the Council of State can rule, however, the minister of the interior Raymond Marcellin must submit to the council documentation supporting the ban. The government has not yet submitted this brief, and there is no deadline for its submission.

Protests throughout France and worldwide

The French government's ban on the League and persecution of its leaders met with an immediate outcry of protest. The two largest French trade unions, together with the Communist Party and Socialist Party and League for the Rights of Man sponsored a protest rally of some 10,000 people on July 4 in Paris.

Thousands of French people have signed a petition demanding the lifting of the ban on the League and dropping of charges against its leaders. Signers of the petition in France include such prominent individuals as writer Simone de Beauvoir, film director Constantine Costa-Gavras, writer Marguerite Duras, journalist Michelle Ray, actress Jean Seberg, philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, and actor Yves Montand.

In Britain, five members of parliament, including Michael Foot who is a member of the Labour Party "shadow cabinet," sent a protest letter to French President Pompidou.

In Germany there were protest meetings of 2,000 in Frankfurt, and 5,000 at the Free University of West Berlin. In Australia, Pompidou's action has been protested by such figures as Dr. Jim Cairns, Minister for Overseas Trade and Secondary Industry, and Bob Hawke, federal president of the Labor Party and president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

Contributions are badly needed to carry out a campaign in defense of the Communist League's right to exist. Donations can be sent to the defense committee in this country or in France. In this country contributions should be sent to the committee's secretary-treasurer, Francoise Collet at 2310 Creston Ave. Apt 6A, New York, New York 10468, with checks made out to her. Donations can also be sent to the National Committee for the Abrogation of the Decree of Dissolution of the Ligue Communiste, c/o Michel Foucault, C.C.P., Paris 20-15, France.

December 1973

Committee for Defense of the Rights of the Communist League
in France

Petition for the Rights of the Communist League in France

Petitions to the Pompidou regime based on the two demands included below are being circulated internationally as well as throughout France. The French National Committee Against the Dissolution of the Communist League hopes to receive tens or even hundreds of thousands of signatures to these petitions, which will be publicly presented to the Pompidou government.

TO: President Georges Pompidou of the Republic of France

Mr. President:

We the undersigned view with alarm the action of your government in banning the Communist League. The right to form political organizations is one of the most basic of democratic freedoms. While not necessarily agreeing with the views or actions of the Communist League, we believe it must have the right to exist if democratic norms are to be observed in France.

Therefore we join with the many French political figures, trade unionists, artists, academicians, and others who are demanding:

- 1) Lift the ban on the Communist League
- 2) Drop all charges against leaders or members of the League.

Name	Address
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Committee for Defense of the Rights of the Communist League in France

Send this petition to: Françoise Collet
2310 Creston Ave. #6A
New York, N.Y. 10468

Financial contributions are also needed.

The following are the names of some of the prominent persons in the United States who have supported the petition calling for an end to the ban on the French Ligue Communiste and dropping of charges brought against members of the Ligue under the undemocratic "anti-wrecker law." (Organizations listed for identification purposes only.)

Michael Harrington, Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee
Gertrude Barnstone, former member of Houston school board
Professor Samuel Bowles, Harvard University
Greg Cain, member executive board Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, Local 59
Helen Cassidy, former chairwoman Texas Women's Political Caucus
Bert Corona, director CASA Hermandad in Los Angeles
Harvey Cox, writer and theologian, Harvard University
Professor Jack Dodson, University of Houston
Mike Eakin, editor, Daily Texan, University of Texas newspaper
Donald Freed, author and playwright
Professor Frank Furstenberg, University of Pennsylvania
Ruth Gage-Colby, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Dr. Eileen Gersh, University of Pennsylvania
Professor Linda Gordon, University of Massachusetts
Ilona Hancock, Berkeley city councilwoman
Maria Jimenez, University of Houston MAYO (Mexican-American Youth Organization)
Dorothy Healy, KPFK radio commentator, Los Angeles
David Kairys, attorney for Camden 28
Art Kunkin, editor Los Angeles Weekly News
William Kunstler, attorney
Len Lear, writer for Philadelphia Tribune
Ben Levy, civil liberties attorney, Houston
Lee Lockwood, writer, photographer
Ray Londo, vice-president Local 107 Postal Workers Union, Houston
April Maynard, co-president Associated Students, University of California
Paul Mazursky, writer, director, actor
Jack McKinney, columnist Philadelphia Daily News
Dave McReynolds, War Resisters League
Truman Nelson, author
Professor Gerald Prince, University of Pennsylvania
David Rudovsky, Philadelphia Emergency Civil Liberties Committee
Professor Mulford Q. Sibley, University of Minnesota
Allan Spear, Minnesota state legislator
Michael Wells, editor of SCRIBE underground newspaper, Portland
Wally Priestly, Oregon State representative
Dr. Barbara Roberts
Dalton Trumbo, novelist
Bernard Wolfe, novelist
Daniel Berrigan
Abe Bloom, National Peace Action Coalition
Professor Noam Chomsky, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Eqbal Ahmad, Institute of Policy Studies
Sylvia Kushner, Chicago Peace Council
Martin Sostre, political prisoner
San Quentin Six
Irwin Silber, executive editor The Guardian
Gloria Steinem, Ms. magazine
Paul Sweezy, Monthly Review Press editor
Jose Iglesias, author