

3817 Graustark
Houston, Tex. 77006
July 10, 1974

Political Committee
Socialist Workers Party
14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Comrades,

Prior to the last World Congress I voted for only one of the resolutions submitted, namely, "The Building of Revolutionary Parties in Capitalist Europe." In my opinion, events in that sector of the world, including Portugal, confirm the basic analysis of this resolution, particularly as it relates to the crisis of capitalism and resurgent class struggle.

After more than 20 years of modest efforts on my part to help build the Trotskyist movement in the U.S., I found myself in disagreement with the leadership of the SWP on a key political question for the first time. This is the reason I did not join the LTF, although I had previously been a member of the LTT on the question of Argentina.

I now consider the decision of the LTF to expel the IT and call for a World Congress to deal with the organizational question a serious mistake in political judgement.

It is quite clear the IT violated the organizational norms of the SWP and the LTF has a strong case for their expulsion. But you have combined the expulsion with a frontal assault on the IMT, which poses the serious threat of a worldwide split.

This course can only appear to serious revolutionaries as an attempt on the part of the LTF to gain by organizational means what it has not been able to gain by political means and that is the majority of the World Movement.

Unfortunately for the LTF this decision occurs at a time of increasing class polarization and actions, coupled with the resurgence of reactionary and fascist movements which are already taking a toll of Trotskyists and other militants around the world. Both the opportunities and the danger to our movement require redoubled efforts to maintain unity.

If you are convinced that it is impossible to do this in the Trotskyist movement as defined by the 10th World Congress, then I can only conclude that the LTF has adopted a split perspective.

I am therefore submitting this statement in opposition to the motions of the Political Committee on both the expulsion of the IT and the immature call for a special World Congress since I consider them a synthesis.

As a former member of some years on the National Committee, during which I developed great respect for many members on that party body, I wish to make the special request that this statement not be confined to the P.C., but be sent to the entire N.C.

Comradely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Leonard".

Tom Leonard