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bc:Jack B.

June 30, 1971

Dear Livio,

I likewise saw the interview with Hugo Blanco published by Panorama, which you refer to in your letter of June 23. I do not know the circumstances of the interview or whether Hugo Blanco had an opportunity to check the formulations. I have not written to Hugo about the details, nor has he written us.

We had no plans concerning translating and utilizing the interview that appeared in Panarama.

We have, however, scheduled a different interview granted by Hugo Blanco to a Swedish journalist. The journalist appears to have asked both Héctor Béjar and Hugo Blanco a series of identical questions. He recorded their answers and published them as if he were interviewing the two of them. As you will see, Hugo's answers are very good while the answers of Béjar are about what might be expected since his capitulation. I hope that this interview will be reproduced by other publications of our movement.

I am sending Hugo a copy of your letter to the editor of Panorama. You do not mention whether you have already done this.

Fraternally,

Joe

cc:Hugo Blanco
Ernest

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bc:Jack B.

June 30, 1971

Dear Hugo,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to the editor of Panorama written by Comrade Maitan. I do not know whether he has written you directly about this or not. In any case he sent me a copy along with a note stating his objections to the reply you made to the final question of the journalist in the interview:

"El FIR participa en algún movimiento internacional?"

"Estamos en la Cuarta Internacional. Actualmente formamos parte de la fracción minoritaria en las cuestiones referentes a América latina porque el Secretariado Unificado de la IV Internacional apoya las posiciones guerrilleras que nosotros combatimos. Esto, de todos modos, no impide que estemos de acuerdo con las cuestiones centrales de la revolución socialista mundial que defiende la Cuarta Internacional."

[" Does the FIR participate in any international movement?"

["We are in the Fourth International. At present we form part of the minority faction on questions relating to Latin America because the United Secretariat of the Fourth International supports the guerrillera positions that we are fighting. In any case, this does not prevent us from being in agreement of the central questions of the world socialist revolution maintained by the Fourth International."]

What Comrade Maitan objects to most, as he has explained in his note to me, is the public characterization of the majority position as "guerrillera." To make such a characterization in an internal bulletin would be within your rights, he indicates, although he would, of course, disagree with it.

I should add that up to now, we of the SWP have opposed the formation of an international "minority" tendency -- and even more so a faction. Our hope was that this policy would make it easier to hold a free discussion on the points of difference that were voiced at the last world congress and that have become more pronounced since then.

Likewise we have done our best to keep the dispute within the discussion channels provided by the movement. We have not succeeded altogether, as the Healyites managed to get hold of some of the internal documents. They published extracts which were picked up in turn by Pablo. He commented on them in his magazine. I suppose, too, that the dispute within the FIR is a matter of public knowledge.

The fact that news about the differences would become known, especially in the vanguard, was to be expected in my opinion. However, I do not see cause for excitement over it, since all sides are doing their best to keep the discussion on an internal level.

cc:IM
Ernest

With revolutionary greetings,
s/Joe