

June 9, 1971

Dear Joe and Barry;

A short note to record some comments I made to Mary-Alice.

Yes, I am convinced that it is necessary for us to effectively intervene in the coming French cadre school (July 17-23) carrying over to the United Secretariat meeting of July 24-25

I see the minutes of May 22-23 are quite explanatory--in fact ~~in fact~~ from the ~~minutes~~ projections in the minutes even more important than I thought ^{from} the discussion at the meeting itself

It is obvious that it is in many respects, from the European point of view certainly, a dress rehearsal of the coming world congress. All the key cadre of the European sections, and particularly of the Ligue Communiste, those comrades who will set the tone for the discussions in the cells and branches and the special congress the LC is holding for international discussion will be there. We cannot afford not to be there ~~and to have a very small group~~ And presence is of course totally inadequate. We must be there with comrades who can intervene really effectively--who know exactly what is being said--all the nuances and who can intervene effectively. ~~Some of the~~ Language is a key problem. It will not be enough to have one or two comrades who can present an already worked out document in the French language, and who from then on in at best get the main drift. We need comrades who can follow everything that is being said on their own and who can participate not only in the formal sessions in a flexible way but who can establish relations with European comrades who appear to be open to our influence.

From what I know circumstances thrust the Canadian movement into the fore. I do not know how many comrades of a leadership calibre ~~in the movement~~ and who are completely articulate in French that you have there. In my opinion we have four, unfortunately none of them women comrades. We have Dick, John R, Art Y, Allan B--and even possibly Jean H. I do not think Manon is ready for such a challenge yet.

If we agree on the importance of this July week, then we have to start to make preparations right now. I think that I can say right now--although with no authority from the Canadian comrades, that we can finance one comrade and that we are prepared to make another comrade available for this project.

If two Canadian comrades of the required calibre are to go then preparations must be made immediately. It ~~will require~~ may require adjusting the publication schedules of the papers, the holidays etc etc. Political preparations will be necessary. The persons going over should get together with other leading comrades--Peter must be brought into these along with others.

I think that it is necessary for say Joe to write ^{Jean} Pierre as to the publication schedule for the French edition of his contribution. I raised the question with Jean Pierre and Edith and I am afraid they do not anticipate its appearance until August sometime. A letter from Joe stressing the need for it to be out and available at least for the July week--and it should be out and around before that--will be the only way we will get action. If they take the position that it is absolutely impossible to get

it out by then ---well we will have to get to work on the translation in Canada.

So we are already somewhat pressed to make the key decision---our attitude to this week long cadre school and what we are prepared to put into it.

I think an effective intervention on our part can have a big impact. In my opinion Dick F is a really fine polemicist---John R is an excellent and sensitive educator et etc So we are on this occasion in a good position to intervene.

I am sending a copy of this letter to both Montreal and to Toronto. I would take it that you will contact them as soon as possible to give the comrades your general opinion so we can make preliminary preparations.

Tomight I will be phoning Connie. I assume that you have received her letter of the 6th with the good news about Glasgow. This afternoon I will finish reading the new documents she enclosed. I see she wants at least two comrades. to be there for discussions. Off hand I cannot see the need --all the more that with this Glasgow development I would think the majority will be inhibited from taking anyreally drastic actions--probably content itself with censure of Alan. I see the big guns didn't rally for the key London aggregate discussion.

At anyrate I will be there---I am staying over for the June 26-27 meeting and then returning to Canada. I assume one of you will be coming over for the 26-27. Why not have that person land in England on the 17th or 18 My first reaction was that it is just as well that no ~~American~~ U.S. comrade be there to be confronted with stupid statements that it may be thought necessary to answer--however Connie's request looms important in my mind.

So I will mail this tomorrow morning after talking to her Thursday morning prior to Bureau meeting.

So I had a long talk with Connie last night---\$4 worth. She and the tendency are in good spirits. Somewhat tired I gather. She is of the opinion that the IMG leadership will probably not take any actions against the tendency. She thinks that they see the solution to their probel problems in the International. Nonetheless the atmosphere is one of extreme hostility. It appears that Pat J has put out another one of his letters blaming the tendency for the time that it is taking up, the money that is being consumed in materials---and the lack of their political preparations for the congress. From the recent documents they are turning the mad dogs in the ranks on the tendency and creating an atmosphere that anything goes. Possibly they hope that the tendency will bolt---but it wont. Noetheless Connie is anxious to have talks---I gather more after the congress than before. I told her of my proposal above--that I would be there and that possibly one of you for the U.S. and the IMG before. I also told her about the money problem and the importance as I see it of the French cadre school. She wants me to come over the Wednesday before the Congress which I will do.

will write later today or tomorrow after the bureau

fraternally

Ross