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December 10, 1959

Dear Comrades Chaulieu and Vega:

No doubt you have by now had the report from Comrade Damen, both about the theoretical points of departure for the establishment for a Center of International Correspondence and about the quarterly journal it hopes to issue beginning in March. However, since I had promised you a report I am writing this one, especially since there will be no possibility of the full international report that I gave to our plenum being printed for a little while. The reason is due to the fact that the plenum was scheduled very few days after my return, and I had no chance to write it out. Because we follow the procedure of taping on a recorder our National Editorial Board meetings which allows all the comrades throughout the country to hear them in full, we are generally a little slow in printing it. This particular period is an especially busy one for us because, among the achievements of the tour was the creation of a British Labor Page for NEWS AND LETTERS, which is to begin in January and for which a great deal of preparation needs to be done. Finally, the plenum was an especially successful one because every Basic industry -- coal, steel, auto -- was represented and all of our comrades are involved in the present class struggles around Taft-Hartley, with the possibility of new, great strikes breaking out in January.

At Milan it was unanimously decided that the concentration be on the minimal points that would unite revolutionary Marxists who not only have broken from the Communists, but had no organizational connections with the Trotskyists, and who would oppose both poles of world capital -- American and Russian. -- There is no doubt that differing interpretations would be given by the participants to some of the points agreed upon. For example, to state as the points of orientation do, that our theoretical ground is the same as made the Russian Revolution successful, as witnessed in such works as Lenin's State and Revolution, means automatically that some of those who would adhere to the program would lay the stress on the participation "to a man" of the workers in production and in the state, while others would lay the stress on the revolutionary breakup of the state machinery. Nevertheless, the NEWS AND LETTERS Committee feel that a solid foundation has been laid and that the most important thing right now to do is to communicate each other's theoretical and practical activities through a quarterly journal. Incidentally, since it was felt that there would be insufficient money to print this in three languages the language decided upon was French.

I hope that Socialisme ou Barbarie will adhere and support it and many others who were not present, for we had decided to circulate the minimal points to Marxist groups that were not represented. This conference was a beginning, not an end, for international relations.

Under separate cover I have sent you a dozen copies of the pamphlet on the Afro-Asian Revolutions, and one copy of NEWS & LETTERS has gone on to you first class mail as it will from now on. I trust you will reciprocate with Socialisme ou Barbarie, as well as Workers' Tribune.

Antonio Gramsci