

Paul — sorry for the mix-up on your address — B

10-10-80

Dear comrades,

Line of March would like to advance a proposal to you to hold a series of jointly sponsored, public debates on the nature and direction of the present struggle in Poland to be held in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. in the second half of November.

The anti-revisionist, anti-left opportunist trend was brought into being via drawing a firm line of demarcation with the opportunist line of the Communist Party of China in the course of the Angolan struggle. But since that time, important differences have arisen over key class struggles in the international arena--Kampuchea, Afghanistan, and now Poland--within the trend. These differences reflect different summations of the demarcations with modern revisionism and left opportunism and need to be discussed in depth, as a correct international line is essential to the development of our trend into a genuine communist party that can lead the U.S. working class to power in this country and consistently practice proletarian internationalism. It is our joint responsibility to organize and systematize this important line struggle so that the entire trend and movement can participate.

Debate over the concrete situation in Poland presents an excellent opportunity to deepen this struggle, as well as to clarify a correct proletarian stand on that conflict itself. Other important political and theoretical questions such as the nature of revisionism in power can be taken up in this context. And a jointly sponsored, public forum/debate could ensure a direct clash of views that is often absent when everyone merely resorts to writing articles in their publications. Thus, while such written exchanges are invaluable, a series of debates would be an excellent form to advance the line struggle.

Let me concretize our proposal so that you may interact more fully with it. However, if a jointly sponsored forum is agreed to, we would most likely need to hold a meeting to hammer out the final agreement.

1. Content: Would center on a concrete analysis of the Polish situation. Other political and theoretical questions would be taken up in that context.
2. Participants: Guardian, PWOC, and Line of March. If the Theoretical Review has also developed an analysis of the Polish situation, they would also be invited.
3. Format: One speaker from each group to receive equal time to make a presentation. A jointly agreed upon panel of trend forces to question the speakers.
4. Where: Boston, NY, Philadelphia, Washington D.C.
5. When: Should be soon while the issue is still current: we suggest between Nov.18-Dec.8, as a TR/LOM debate on the USSR and socialist construction is already scheduled for November 21 in Boston. This might save travel expenses for those comrades.
6. Organization: A joint planning committee to centralize political decisions for all four forums. Local trend forces to take responsibility for organizational work. Divide expenses and revenues equally.

We hope the thrust of this proposal meets your approval, as we are certain that such joint forums would contribute greatly to the political clarification of the movement generally, and the trend in particular. We will be in touch with all of you by telephone to discuss this matter further.

Comradely,

*Bob*

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cc: Ron Whitehorn, PWOC; John Trinkl, Guardian; Paul Costello, Theoretical Review.