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Jan. 22, 1986

To All Organizers: (To be read to all locals)

Dear Colleagues:

Of the new that has come to my attention, the most exciting is Criticas de Economica Politica, issue #26 (Mexico City), on "Revolutionary Theory and Action". What is important about this is that I "head" it, i.e. I happen to be the first listed, and the others are my opponents-- Leon Trotsky, Oskar Negt, Ernest Mandel. Put differently, these are the very ones who have deliberately kept me out of any journal or publisher. And by sheer accident, Oskar Negt's essay, an endless one, is on Engels' theory of revolution.

The editor of this journal, Alejandro Galvez, however, has achieved something exceptional by what he includes of my Afterword to Ch. 11 of RLWLKM on Leon Trotsky. The chapter as he publishes it, is not entitled "Leon Trotsky, a critique", and for a moment I thought he was taking liberties, as his title read "Rosa Luxemburg and the Theory of Permanent Revolution of Marx". But the truth is that those first four pages are from Sec. 2 of the main body of Ch. 11. The first sentence of that section (p. 158) begins, "Luxemburg's internationalism was second to none...", preceded by the quotation from James Connolly. That creativity on the part of the editor manages to give the flavor of the whole book to the chapter, since it talks both about Rosa Luxemburg and the objective situation, and it includes my footnote against Draper's book, Karl Marx's Theory of Revolution. This issue of Criticas should be in the hands of both [] and [] going to Mexico and [] and [] going to Spain.

The other important new this week is the type of letters I had been receiving from unlikely sources in praise of WLDR. Because one relates to the workshops/classes, I will talk about that one here. The commentator is a serious scholar who specializes in the Middle East and is presently working on a study of Syria. He wrote that WLDR has been a help to him. Since I have not a single word on Syria in it, I began digging into my memory bank in order to remember both what I may have written in the past and what I said to him when I met him. I then remembered that when the end of WW II was followed by no revolution comparable to the revolution of 1917, I began looking at new national revolutions from the Middle East to South Africa. The most important to me at that moment (1947) was the Camerouns, and the conclusion I drew was that not only was it a wholly new type of national revolution, but it actually posed the very question that it is our task as Marxist revolutionaries to answer: spontaneity vs. "the party". (No wonder I fell in love with the Camerounian.)

As the PLO became "the recognized leader", "the single voice of the Palestinians", the kingdoms and emirates very nearly embalmed Arafat with their money, and I turned away from that avenue. The great Iranian Revolution of 1979 not only made me return to a Middle East preoccupation, (because of the connection with 1905), but also to see the birth of a new generation of revolutionaries, as well as the fact that WL has become a movement. These naturally opened the door to a totally new world aspect of the Middle East. (I definitely think that I should have included in the syllabus for the workshops/classes the PPL

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I wrote at the beginning of the Iraq-Iran War, "What is Philosophy? What is Revolution?". Do add it to your syllabus.) Perhaps, depending on what is current in the week before our workshops/classes start, I will include the subject of the Middle East in my opening session Feb. 16.

Finally, you know that the new edition of Frantz Fanon... has gone to the printers. The fact that it is now near book length is by no means just a question of the number of pages. Quite the contrary. It is a question of structure WHEN we use that word in speaking of something as great as the structure of Capital which manifests the Absolute Method, not only as framework, or base, but as context and as road to the revolutionary conclusion. That is to say, the new edition of FESABT new projects M-Hism, not as an affinity where the concentration is on how others see us, but as M-Hism as it emerges out of M-Hism.

In the PPL on Grenada these subtitles were added: "Theory and Action"; Responsibility of Revolutionary Marxists"; "Conflicting Tendencies in the Caribbean Left". Whereas I do not have subtitles for the new Introduction/Overview, it too is divided into four sections. I) covers the undeclared civil war in South Africa and international solidarity, as it has developed 1978-86. Part II covers the return to the 1969 Black/Red Conference and the Perspectives that year on the "Needed American Revolution. They focus both on the contrast to and likeness with the latest events in South Africa, from COSATU to a new view of Winnie Mandela, where she was in solitary confinement. That contrasts a revolutionary Women's Liberationist with the UN conference in Nairobi, Kenya. Part III begins with: "What is crystal clear in the high intensity of the Black Dimension struggle, whether we are talking of Labor, Women, or Youth, is that the post-World War II world manifests the presence of an unquenchable thirst for freedom."

As we return to Denby and his articulation of the new paragraph on the Black Dimension I added after publication of RLW/LKM, there are new quotations from Fanon both against the single party and the new African leaders and the "native intellectual (who) has thrown himself greedily upon Western culture... Rabelais, Shakespeare and Edgar Allen Poe..." These quotations sound as if he had just written them against CLRJ, and they lead the reader to see the relationship between what Fanon says on Africa and what I say in the PPL on Grenada.

The Introduction/Overview ends with Part IV, on the one hand, the Marx Centenary Tour and again on the other with the affinity of Biko and Fanon and with our own view of Marx's Marxism as a totality, and M-Hism's concept of new human relations "not stopping the revolution with the overthrow of the old society and thus aborting what Marx called 'the revolution in permanence', is what it is necessary to spell out anew for our age."

Have a good time as you prepare to finally have the near-book in hand/^{and} get others to help us pay the printing bill. I'm "disappearing" for a week or so with Eugene in the hope that I will finally finish the Retrospective/Perspective on the 1980s and perhaps to truly begin on the Dialectic of the Party.

Yours,

Raya

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