

June 22, 1955

Dear R. D.

I am still in the middle of moving from New York to Boston - which explains my utter negligence in answering your letters. I still can't do it: I am unpacking 50 cases of books, and my files are hidden somewhere. Let me just tell you that I read your draft re Marxism and State Capitalism and found it most needed and useful. The whole idea is excellent - but my publisher just wouldn't undertake such a project for the time being. Be sure that I keep after him, and that I shall discuss the problems with you as soon as I get around a little better.

Your answer to my brief remarks re Hegel does not satisfy me. Certainly you do not suspect me of ignoring the substantive connection between philosophy and praxis. BUT it is - sit venia verbo - a dialectical connection, not an immediate one. What is the meaning of the explicit or implied "is" in your statements: "the dialectic of the Absolute Idea is the dialectic of the proletariat or whatever it may be? Is this a mere analogy? An equation or identification? You cannot just "apply" Hegel's text to an essentially different sphere without demonstrating why and how...

But this is not supposed to be an argument - just to show you that I am really thinking about these problems. Since you requested return of your draft, I am enclosing it - hoping that at a later time I shall have another opportunity.

With best wishes and greetings,

Yours

*Herbst*

12051