

Oct. 26, 1970

14098

Dear Alan:

I have a brainsorm which I hope you will consider a leap into the concrete for the book and therefore will be eager to go along with me by making yourself available for the adventure—and the expenditure.

Originally I was to end Philosophy and Revolution which deals with "Economic Reality and the Dialectics of Liberation" on the African Revolutions. This was 1962-3 when I returned from Africa and there saw the great dialectic of thought as against American theoretic void on "end of ideology." I'm sure I need not elaborate on how matters have changed since then, not only re the state-capitalism world pulling the underdeveloped countries into their clutches, which is what we expected is no surprise, but also—and this is the tragedy—they have very nearly stopped, in thought, to offer a genuinely independent Marxist alternative, instead holding on either to Maoism or other forms of anarchist-totalitarian shortcuts.

The pull on me has been, naturally, the opposite, to bring the transition point—the black dimension at home rather than abroad. Despite all the years I have been in the black movement, in fact and in theory, it is still a fact that the decisive question comes from the black, and not merely from CD and others who have been with us from the start, but the now, and you, for obvious as well as locale reasons where BP are, are new despite all your years in the movement.

Put briefly, I would wish to do with last section of P&R what I did with Automation in M&F—"turn it over" this time to black instead of miners, etc. It could not possibly be done via correspondence. It isn't that type of "unity of opposites"—there never is unity where there is separation, though that be only spatical. A true merging must be done in person so that each phrase and nuance is checked back and forth, etc.etc.

Therefore what I wondered is whether either Christmas or New Year weekends—I prefer the Christmas one—you could come here. You will need to discuss with Olga as I'm leaving, first for St. Louis for "scholar in residence" deal which will finance my 3 ~~xxxx~~ months stay in which I hope to finish work. In a word, I will be incommunicado, Nov. 1-Christmas when I return home to be with John and see some comrades during holiday week. In between I do call Olga and find out what is new, but it is done erratically and as it rhymes with my work, not with hers, or organization even. I pile up work on Olga and the correspondence with you will be included, beginning with your answer to me. Do not answer by mere reaction, however, but by thinking through what it would mean for book, for org., for you individually as well. Hope ~~re~~ you work it all out and then we will really get it done on a new level. In the meantime, reread both Bl/Red Bull., the 1st draft of Part III of book, and a la Proust, but as revolutionary, "re-rememberance of things past" become both the illuminator of present and anticipator of future.

My warmest greetings to William who will understand my back from Chicago days to today's needed American revolution.

Yours,
Bill

How are you finding Bernard and youth? I take for granted that you will sufficiently sober him up as to "street people" (or are they now "people's patrols"?) so that he doesn't think that "Seledad Brothers" is "concretization of philosophy and revolution" but remains the escapism from philosophy and revolution. Angela Davis case does, however, seem it might bring in a new dimension if she doesn't let

herself be handled either by CP or Black Panthers, but uses her own mind to work out a new unity of theory and practice instead of letting it be imposed upon her by elitists of all sorts. Black has an interesting...