

Dec. 12, 1970

Dear Allen:

Olga, I assume, has told you that I thought your acceptance of challenge to collaborate on final chapter of book on "New Passions and New Forces", or the revolutionary black dimension, quite magnificent. Did she also tell you that, in addition to the hard labor of writing and discussion, there will also be a restricted small meeting with other black revolutionaries, not only Denby naturally, and new black youth, I may also have an African present.

It definitely will not be like the Black/ Red Conference where we wanted mostly to hear what others have to say; I'm interested only in Marxist-Humanists for this specific task of projecting Marxist-Humanism outward. Nevertheless, we must know in advance precisely what days you will be here so we can arrange accordingly. I will come home a few days before Christmas.

Now that I have finished the chapter on Mao I will skip to Part III, which, as you know, consists of 3 chapters: 1) Economic Reality as it relates to Africa and back to world market, but with stress always on the human. 2) East Europe, again 1953-1970, but with stress on philosophy and revolution. And 3) "New Passions and New Forces".

Have you reread the whole of Part III, especially Ch. 3, and thought about it? Do you wish to raise certain problems for communication before you come? Above all, are you having discussions with black youth these days and see what it is they are thinking, doing? Are they just on the concrete as if that meant only an Angela Davis case, or do they understand concrete in the Hegelian-Marxian sense of comprehensive? In a word, a philosophy, conscious or not, that includes perspectives and not just the present?

As for the past, I happened to have found one of the very early discussion articles when I used to fight McKinney (Coolidge) who denied the Negro was a National Question or culture or very different labor than white. The date was probably 1943 or thereabouts. It looks quite old, and I want you please to return to me as soon as you have read it. It is not its relevance so much to the present as sort way of becoming instead of acting as if all things are set for all time.

Am looking forward not only to "the labor, patience, seriousness and suffering of the negative" of that New Year's weekend, but also--this, however, I must admit John made me include--since he has never forgotten his Irish "culture" (Bushmill's) a drink to celebrate what will really be a new year for all of us as book nears completion, the French edition now coming off press, British soon to follow, and actual doings in the US which will show that ideas are people having ideas and these people multiply as members! My love to Lillian.

Yours,

14105