

Mar. 27, 1971

To the REB and NEB only (to be handed out individually before next REB meeting and discussed there along with report I sent on WC NEB)

Dear Colleagues:

The return to organizational work that was supposed to have been for a single week--New Year's Bl/R conference--has now extended itself to three full months, and while part of it is my own "fault", the REB meetings, the Black pamphlet projection, the special lead on Polish revolt, the WL conference, and WC NEB were called forth not only by objective events but "loopholes" in leadership concepts, which hardly improved with the latest absurdities on seating. Though the latter was, mainly, on part of rank and file, the fact that it could arise at all at this philosophical stage of our development calls for hard, persistent, dialectical practicing of revolutionary philosophy for every single event, no matter how minor it appears to be.

How else are we ever going to reach the stage of total involvement the most unusual plenum ever --and ever not only re N&L's 15 year existence or even state-capitalist tendency's 30 year birth, but historic Great Divides from 1915-24 till today?

The first and foremost need is for our leadership to understand comprehensively what leadership is. Stop either worrying over, or placing the blame upon, whether or not rank and file or outside contacts or "concrete organizational" matters are really bringing about proletarianization or WL new membership or "other" needs, be that N&L or finances or whatever you wish to spell out in order to evade, consciously or unconsciously, what YOU AND YOU ALONE must know re book, must do re internalization and externalization of philosophy, and, therefore, relationship to me, to Philosophy and Revolution.

No one who thinks of this relationship as "ordering about" will ever grasp either philosophy or revolution, unless it be a soured one.

Secondly, do not wait for actual formal announcement by mid-June or so to start "knowing" I am enclosing a brief resume of the "Smaller Logic." Please note it was done 1961. 1961! A whole decade! How much time has been wasted by people asking "why philosophy" instead of what is the contribution already made by Raya and how can we (EACH INDIVIDUAL IN REB--for the time being do not worry about NEB either, just worry about your individual self) internalize and project to others? Be sure that by June this resume is mimeographed in sufficient copies and sent out to locals for their study, or classes, or just laboring by oneself, but definitely laboring.

Thirdly, by next week I will complete rewriting, expanding speech I made at Telos. Since this will actually become part of Ch.3 on Lenin, this must become so central a pre-plenary discussion (post-plenary) that the moment you get it, be sure to announce it to locals in no ordinary terms. Be sure an REB or NEB member volunteers to lead discussion, and have that discussion on level demanded by the book, the organization as historic, not as local or grounded on the lowest level of whoever happened to drop in who is then mistaken by all as the equivalent of the "movement, the practice from below", instead of realizing the TRUTH, THAT THE MOVEMENT FROM BELOW WHICH BEGAN IN 1950's HAS NOW PASSED ITS SECOND DECADE AND CANNOT BECOME A FORCE OR REASON OF REVOLUTION UNLESS IT HAS UNITED WITH PHILOSOPHY MOVING IN SAME DIRECTION, AND THE ONE AND ONLY ONE GIVING ACTION SUCH DIRECTION IS MARXIST-HUMANISM AS DEVELOPED TO THIS HIGH TURNING POINT IN PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION.

You'll be surprised how much quicker the "concrete organizational matters" will likewise get done once you grasp philosophy.

Yours, Raya

14123