

OFFICIAL CALL FOR CONVENTION

June 1, 1980

To all Local Committees, Members-at-large, and
British Marxist-Humanists

Dear Friends:

The first few months of 1980 have witnessed, at one and the same time, so ominous a drive for war, incorporating both nuclear militarization and draft registration in peace time, and so deep a recession -- one which actually spells out depression for Blacks -- that it becomes imperative for revolutionaries to intervene in the objective situation. In our case, it begins with the need to expand News & Letters to a 12-pager. This need is to expand, to practice, to develop the paper, not only quantitatively but qualitatively, that is to say, to where we have a whole nucleus of revolutionary journalists who are theorists as well as activists.

Because of the terrifying chill of Carter's State of the Union Address, which initiated Cold War II as well as the proposal for draft registration of youth, we "jumped the gun" on ourselves and on Feb. 3 projected the new stage of expansion which is first now coming to fruition in the Call for this year's Convention.

Naturally, the drive for war on the part of the capitalists brings about resistance not only in the youth opposition to the draft but the restlessness on the part of labor concerning unemployment, the Black resistance to resurgent racism. The Black upsurge in Miami, followed by the attempted murder of Vernon Jordan, head of the Urban League, points to the coming of a long, hot summer.

Carter's imperialist intrusion into Iran reveals his brinkmanship in so ominous a manner that even his imperialist allies are backing off from any serious alliance while themselves displaying total disarray, each going off on its own capitalistic nationalist interest, be it on oil, or detente, or vying for leadership of "the West," by no means limited to the "Europeanization of Europe", even as it also embraces Japan. Rather, it extends to the Middle East, to the U.S. hostages in Iran, to Afghanistan and even going so far as to secretly plan, and openly carry out, a meeting between Giscard d'Estaing and Brezhnev.

Unfortunately, at the very moment of Carter's brinkmanship, Iran, too, decided to play the very dangerous game of using the mass and global opposition to Carter's intrusion into Iran in order for Khomeini-Banisadr to launch an attack on the genuine left, by devising an amalgam between the Iranian Left and Carter. As the Political-Philosophic Letter of April 29, "The Carter/Brzezinski-Ordered Imperialist Intrusion into Iran -- and What About Khomeini/Banisadr's 'Holy War' Against the Left?", made clear, we will not permit the grave contradictions in the Iranian revolution, including the retrogression in Iran itself, to stand in the way of the need for solidarity with the Iranian masses against American imperialism. On the contrary, this intensifies the need for revolutionary anti-imperialism and anti-capitalism.

Despite all its contradictions and despite the emergence of an actual counter-revolution right within it, the Iranian revolution remains not only the most important event of 1979-1980, and not only has it not ended, but its ramifications will continue for years to come. This threatens to result in so many shocking reversals in the global alliances of both titanic nuclear powers as well as Western and Eastern alliances and the Third World that even for a generation that has wit-

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nessed the Hitler-Stalin Pact which gave the green light to World War II, all it can conclude is that we are sure to experience still other unforeseen shocks.

Therefore, what is a great deal more crucial than to try to predict them is to so develop Marx's philosophy of revolution -- in both analysis of events as they happen, in the manner of Marx's revolutionary journalism, as well as in the extension and deepening of the theories -- that there will be no separation between theory and practice, philosophy and organization, and activity both spontaneous and organized.

Instead of the relationship of theory to practice being, at best, just a hope, the objective situation this year has shown the correctness of our decision last year that 1980 be "the year of the book." A look at NEWS & LETTERS over the past year reveals how integral to the analysis of current events were the chapters of Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution, be it on the question of the relationship of spontaneity to organization or to the theory of permanent revolution; be it the question of war and militarism sans philosophy in Rosa Luxemburg's time over the "Morocco incident" or presently in Russia's invasion of Afghanistan on the one hand, and the U.S. intrusion into Iran on the other. It becomes necessary to view the book as a totality:

ROSA LUXEMBURG, WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND MARX'S PHILOSOPHY OF REVOLUTION

by Raya Dunayevskaya

Chapter 1 -- Two Turning Points in Luxemburg's Life : Before and After the 1905 Revolution

Appendix: Once Again on the Theory of Permanent Revolution

Chapter 2 -- The Break with Karl Kautsky, 1910-1911: From Mass Strike Theory to Crisis over Morocco

Chapter 3 -- The Inter-regnum of Luxemburg, and An Excursus into Marx's New Continent of Thought

Appendix: Marx's Unknown Ethnological Notebooks vs. Engels' Origin of the Family

Chapter 4 -- Marx's and Luxemburg's Theories of Accumulation of Capital

Chapter 5 -- War and Revolutions, 1914, 1917, 1919: Russian, German, World

Chapter 6 -- Attitudes to Objectivity -- Philosophy, Spontaneity, Organization

Chapter 7 -- Women's Liberation: Continuities and Discontinuities, 19th and 20th Centuries, with Focus on Today

Chapter 8 -- Philosophy of Revolution: The Development of Marx from a Critic of Hegel to the Author of Capital and Theorist of Permanent Revolution

APPENDIX: First English translation of Luxemburg's Speech to the 1907 London RSDRP Congress

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