

off our backs
April 1983

rosa and raya

Dear OOB:

I was delighted to see your article on Peru's feminist movement. The 7 or 8 groups who came to hear me speak in Lima on "Getting to Know Rosa Luxemburg" and "Feminism and Revolution," and with whom I discussed their work, are so exciting not only because of their activities with working and poor women, which your author describes, but also their seriousness about feminist theory.

I had been invited by ALIMUPER because of their interest in Raya Dunayevskaya, the Marxist-Humanist philosopher with whom I am associated. (She is presently on tour in this country.) Having rejected the anti-feminist and vanguardist distortions of Marxism by the Left in their country, the Peruvian feminists were happy to meet Marx's Marxism, a philosophy of revolution emphasizing individual freedom, and Dunayevskaya's development of it in terms of the women's and other mass movements of today.

We discussed everything from Marx's 1844 and 1881-2 writings on women, to organizational problems such as becoming so emersed in activities (especially in repressive countries where arranging an abortion or demonstrating for water and sewer lines can land you in jail) that you become social workers and lose sight of the goal of transforming society totally or, alternatively, separating yourself from the mass movements of women and failing to see that ideas about that new society come from them. The feminists were so interested in both Rosa Luxemburg and Raya Dunayevskaya because both women Marxist theoreticians are "originals" who refused to separate theory from practice in their work and in every aspect of their lives.

Your readers can obtain ALIMUPER and Flora Tristan's publications by writing them at Apartado Postal 2211, Lima 100, Peru, or can get ALIMUPER's Spanish pamphlet of essays by Dunayevskaya and myself (\$1.50) as well as Dunayevskaya's new book, Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution (Humanities Press, \$10.95) and other English publications by writing News & Letters, 2832 East Grand Blvd., Detroit, Mich. 48211.

AMJ

17102