

July 17, 1959

Dear Maximilien Rubel:

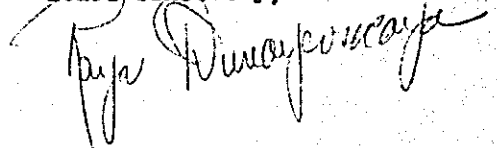
I wondered whether you were aware of the fact that Bertram Wolfe, who was head of the American Voice for some years, and is a sort of "specialist" for the State Department here on "Marxism", has been attempting to use your Essays against me "to prove" Humanism was a stage Marx "passed through." In Problems of Communism (Do you get this official journal of U.S. Information Agency?) he had an underhanded attack on me. (He mentioned only Marcuse's Preface to my work, but in MARXISM AND FREEDOM he was attacking) In contrast to my "making" a Humanist out of Marx, he said Rubel was the more scholarly and detached person who saw Humanism was only a "stage." These people do not even read their sources, ~~but they are~~ Evidently so happy that you had drawn a distinction between dialectics as method and dialectic as ontology and imputed to Lenin too "an error" in this view of Hegel that by now you became his "favorite." Tomorrow he'll throw you out as well when the near-conspiracy of silence around MARXISM AND FREEDOM is broken, not by intellectuals who have found their tongue but by the proletariat in action. In any case, I thought you'd be interested in having this information.

This note is also a way of telling you that I will depart for Italy the first week in September, and remain a few weeks in Milan and environs for lectures around MARXISM & FREEDOM in its Italian edition, which La Nuova Italia will bring out soon. Naturally I will also get to Paris and hope to meet you and others and see for myself what has happened since De Gaulle's victory.

I wondered whether you had noted also that many of the statements of the Hungarian revolutionaries had a Humanist framework. I enclose my article on Afro-Asian revolutions which deals with the Humanism that arose in 1956 in East Europe -- I am convinced in fact that ever since the death of Stalin the revolutionary opposition of both youth and old politicians had taken a Marxist humanist form. You cannot in our age really keep theory and practice divided for any length of time.

Did you or did you not get a chance to review my work for any French periodical? The question was first raised by Malaquais, but then the events moved so far to the right in France, that a foreigner had a hard time to orient oneself. Whether or not such a review was written, you certainly have an opinion of it that I would like to know. May I hope to hear from you before I depart for Europe? Also tell me whether you'd be interested in seeing the special Preface I had written for the Italian edition.

Yours sincerely,



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28.8.17

Tx. VAD. 56-73

Wue

chère camarade,

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Je vous remercie de votre lettre et de votre
article. C'est un immense travail, j'ai
un terrible retard dans mes lectures et
dans mes courants, si bien que je n'ai pas
encore terminé l'article que j'ai commencé
à écrire sur votre livre. En revanche, vos
idées ont fait l'objet d'une discussion dans
mon petit cercle d'amis et je devrais content
de pouvoir m'en entretenir avec vous lors
de votre prochaine passage à Paris. C'est
votre façon de comprendre Léonine et son
rôle dans la révolution de 1917 qui a
provoqué parmi nous la controverse dont
j'espère faire état dans mon article.
J'ai lu, il y a quelques mois, un papier
de R. Wright dans Paléontol. et pense
comme vous qu'il manque de sincérité.
Nous en reparlerons.

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J'ai publié dans la revue "Economie Appliquée" (dir. F. Perron) d'août-septembre 1957 (t. X, nos 2-3) une petite étude sur le titre "La Croissance du Capital en URSS". Vous auriez intérêt à en prendre connaissance, une que cette discussion (sur le titre, en particulier) m'a été fort utile. Malheureusement, je n'en possède plus de tiré à part, mais vos données "Economie Appliquée" (publié par l'Institut de Science Econ. Appliquée) dans une bibliothèque de New York. Avec Maurice, j'ai pu m'entretenir ici pendant les conférences et en privé. Nos divergences sont certaines, mais certaines promesses philosophiques nous sont communes. S'il en est encore temps, vos parents, avant votre départ, faites la connaissance de mes amis Kenler (Willy, économiste spécialiste) qui habite à New York 34, 10 Park Terrace E. Nous appartenons, travaillant, à la même "famille d'esprit". Willy K. a un esprit et un caractère qui me paraissent exceptionnels. Elle part de vie ^{de} financière ce qui ne pourrait appeler une conscience non fétichisée du mouvement ouvrier.

Amicalement
— R. R. R.