

Dear Urszula,

10/8/79

Thank you very much for the translation of RL's speech at the 5th Congress. As of now, I intend to reproduce in full only the one she made in full there as a German delegate, and then have excerpts of the other speeches, and in this case I would then check with you that this is not a rough draft of those excerpts I intend to publish. Also, you didn't give me enough of a discussion of the publisher. My Russian edition is published in 1963 in Moscow; there were 3 editions: 1909 was the original in France; in the 1930s, Stalin produced a copy and naturally his own speech, introduction and footnotes; in 1963, while it eliminated Stalin's speech, it was just as Stalinist in its footnotes. Yet Tychka, head of Polish studios in Poland, tried to tell me that the 1963 edition was just about perfect, so I imagine that the Polish edition, whatever the year, copies these footnotes. In any case, there is no hurry but I would have to know by the end of the year, and always I have to know the publisher and the year very precisely.

You're absolutely right. The last few weeks in December would be absolutely the worst possible time to come here. No, it's better to wait for January. I think it could very well be the very week we do have the first public meeting on Rosa, so that you could work those weeks both in the office and in part with me, as well as get a feel for what the youth is doing on the campus. I do not know which week they plan to have the meeting in January, so why not write directly to Jim or Erica?

Urszula dear, please do not refer to RL talking of the proletariat "as an agent of revolution (as in a chemical reaction)" and not as subject". There was no Marxist Humanism in our sense of the word in RL's day and you cannot forget the historic period in which one lives, and surely Rosa never did consider the proletariat as a "chemical reaction" to an objective situation; quite the contrary. She had so much faith in the proletariat's spontaneity that she forgot philosophy and what we would call the responsibility of us as revolutionary philosophers to help give direction to the proletarian action, and instead left it all up to the proletariat to shake up the leadership. In a word, her "fault" is not lack of faith in the proletariat or underestimation of its actions and Reason, but of that whole new continent of thought that Marx represented from which she could not possibly separate philosophy.

On the whole, you're doing very good work in translations, and I will depend upon you more. When you come in January, we'll have a lot more talking to do.

Yours,

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