

Narihiko ITO

April 23. 1980

Dear Miss Raya Dunayevskaya,

Thank you for your sending of "News & Letters" which has a chapter from your new book on Rosa Luxemburg. I was interested in your study so much that I have mentioned on it at a moment of my broadcasting on Rosa Luxemburg by Television-programm.

I have been in Germany from April 1979 until March 1980 and published the letters of Rosa Luxemburg to Mathilde Jacob from the Dietz-Verlag in Bonn. Using the honorarium for it I am making a international committee for Rosa Luxemburg-Study. I will send you here my letter for it. The Committee will have a study-meeting in September in Zürich and publish an annual - "Rosa Luxemburg-Studien" from April 1981.

If you were interested for our Committee, please write to me and Theo Pinkus in Zürich who is General Secretary of our Committee.

I will send you by another mail my articles on Rosa Luxemburg which I had written in German. I would be very glad, if you could send me your new book on Rosa Luxemburg. Thank you for it in advance.

With a fraternal greeting

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May 5, 1980

Dear Narihiko Ito:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your Feb. 12 letter to the colleagues from whom you are requesting contributions for your "Rosa Luxemburg-Studien" annual, as well as your own articles on Luxemburg and, of course, your kind letter of April 23 -- with its news that you were so interested in my own study that you mentioned it in your television broadcast.

Most of the material I am studying is in Russian, but I check back to the Gesamtausgabe Werke in German, as well as to her works in Polish. Indeed, I have just asked a friend of mine, David Wolff, who is helping me with the translations from the German, to publish his translation of Luxemburg's "Theory and Practice". That first English translation has just come off the press this month, as you will see from the enclosed description of it. When my own book is published, it will include as an appendix my translation from the Russian of Luxemburg's speech made to the 1907 London Congress of the RSDLP. It is fantastic that it is 1980, and there is still no complete publication of all that Luxemburg wrote in any language -- and that so little of what has been published in German, Russian or Polish has ever been translated into English. I certainly appreciate what you are trying to do with your international committee for the Rosa Luxemburg Study.

I should make clear, however, that my work is not just a question of research, nor is it limited to a study of Luxemburg alone. Rather, it is set in the context of the dialectic and totality of Marx's philosophy of revolution, and is related to Women's Liberation as an idea whose time has come. Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of my work, Philosophy and Revolution, so that you may have an overall view of my own Marxist-Humanist philosophy. The work is now being translated into Japanese, but there have been so many delays in its publication I do not know for sure when it will appear. My earlier work, Marxism and Freedom, was published in Japan in 1964 by Gendai-shishoshiya under the title: Alienation and Revolution. Are you acquainted with that?

My newest work-in-progress, Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and the Philosophy of Revolution, is, of course, not yet completed. I am enclosing, however, the completed first chapter as well as the essay on Marx's Ethnological Notebooks, which will be included in the finished work. I am so anxious to complete the manuscript this year that I do not see how I will be able to make any sort of contribution to the Committee that you and Theo Pinkus have established in Zurich, but I would be most interested in receiving further information from you on the Committee's work. What exactly do you plan for the annual for 1981?

Best wishes on your work.

Yours,

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June 20, 1980

Dear Narihiko ITO:

Your letter of the 6th has today reached me in Canada where I will remain till the end of the month. In her acknowledgement of your request, my secretary, Olga Domanski, was right on both counts, that I cannot come to Zurich Sep. 13th, and that the deadline for any contribution by me to an annual on Rosa Luxemburg would need to be more flexible than that date since both my pressing time-commitments and my concentration on my own work would make it impossible. How about late fall--November?

Are you planning the annual for the month of January when she was murdered, or the year, 1981, the 110th anniversary of her birth? The fact that the concentration is on the relevance of her writings and activities for our day would, of necessity, escape the limitation of deadlines to a single month, no?

Heretofore the writings on Luxemburg have not only been very nearly monopolized by men, but, no matter how scholarly and "sympathetic" to the great revolutionary, have tended to make her contributions to theory as if one must agree with another's theory before that work can be considered an original, serious, theoretical work. Unfortunately, the few women writers on the subjects have helped this misconception by concentrating on Luxemburg as "human being." She was, of course, a multi-dimensional personality, but how can one separate her theory of accumulation, her hearing the cries of the African women in the Kalahari desert trying to escape the murderous fangs of imperialism, and her sudden reference to Penthesilla in her unremitting attack on the German Social Democracy's 1914 betrayal? An annual of varied contributions would certainly help reveal the multidimensionality of the revolutionary, Rosa Luxemburg, but naturally I think a whole book is needed to analyze her many facets, set problematic both in her time and ours.

Which is why I am so determined to try to complete my work, ROSA LUXEMBURG, WOMEN'S LIBERATION, AND MARX'S PHILOSOPHY OF REVOLUTION.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Yours,

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