

Dear Raya,

1/12/81

JAN 16 1981

Thanks for your letter & card
& for the pamphlet which looks
very interesting. I will pass it around
when I've finished with it. I know
David Widery is interested in the
story of your group & will like
to read it. I chuckled at your
response to Pete Goodwin. I know him
slightly - a very stiff-necked young man
who has always opposed women
liberation. Those people at the centre
of S.W.P. are absolutely opposed to any
criticism. My comments on them were
really quite mild. I did not want to just
use gossip traps against them. However
locally there are still some non-sectarian
people involved. We had a conference
around Beynet the Papants & some
S.W.P. people came. One at least helped
start a local left forum in York.
The conference plan was pretty
chaotic & some feminists & gays were
critical of the planning group. Really
we had seen several potents as
one element along with others. Some
people felt it should be the main
element. Anyway since then there have
been several local meetings and
people seem to want another national
conference. Nearly 2,000 people
came to the conference. We'd estimated
about 1,000 would come. For many
young people it was their first mixed
sex conference! We had a good range
of people, members of trade councils,
C.W.D., ecology groups, shop stewards,

15261

feminists - mainly socialist feminism
 gays, members of 174 SWP, Labour
 Party, liberal Party, Many brands
of anarchism - including the inevitable
 situationists who just up the phony.
 We had around 200 children
 including about 40 under 2's! There
 is a baby boom here.
 I have not written as I've been
 ill with an infection from my ear
 which spread to my tubes. I was in
 bed for ages & had to rest completely.
 Everything got neglected & I'm just catching
 up now. Love Sheila

TO OPEN BUT HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS (PLEASE SHOW YOUR POSTCODE)

S. Rowbotham

Green

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT MAY BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

SECOND FOLD HERE

BY AIR MAIL
 AIR LETTER
 PAR AVION AEROGRAMME



Be properly addressed
 POSTCODE IT

Sheila Rowbotham
 London, E.5.

① Give new address
 ② The letter to M
 will not be sent out
 ③ The next issue
 will be to get ch-
 ④ The next issue

Raya Dinayevskaya
 News & letters
 2832 East Grand Blvd.
 Room 316, Detroit
 Michigan 48211
 U.S.A.

1/12/81

Dear Raya:

Thanks for your letter and card and for the pamphlet which looks very interesting. I will pass it around when I've finished with it. I know David Widgery is interested in the history of your group and will like to read it. I chuckled at your response to Pete Goodwin. I know him slightly -- a very stiff-necked young man who has always opposed women's liberation. Those people at the centre of S.W.P. are absolutely opposed to any criticism. My comments on them were really quite mild. I did not want to just use gossipy things against them. However locally there are still some non-sectarian people involved. We had a conference around Beyond the Fragments and some SWP people came. One at least helped start a local left forum in York. The conference plenary was pretty chaotic and some feminists and gays were critical of the planning group. Really we had seen sexual politics as one element along with others. Some people felt it should be the main element. Anyway since then there have been several local meetings and people seem to want another national conference. Nearly 2000 people came to the conference. We'd estimated about 1000 would come. For many young people it was their first mixed sex conference! We had a good range of people, members of trades councils, CND, ecology groups, shop stewards, feminists -- mainly socialist feminists, gays, members of I.M.G., SWP, Labor Party, Liberal Party. Many brands of anarchists, including the inevitable Situationists who up the plenary. We had around 200 children -- including about 40 under 2's! There is a baby boom here.

I have not written as I've been ill with an infection from my cold which spread to my tubes. I was in bed for ages and had to rest completely. Everything got neglected and I'm just catching up now.

Love,
Sheila

15263