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July 5, 1981

Prof. Lawrence S. Stepelevich, Editor
The Owl of Minerva

Dear Dr. Stepelevich,

Humanities Press has called to offer me a contract for my latest work, Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation, and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution. They are thinking also of republishing my two other main works, Marxism and Freedom and Philosophy and Revolution: From Hegel to Sartre, and from Marx to Mao. All this flurry must, in part, be due to the fact that by 1983, the jubilee year of Marx's death, I, as an American Hegelian Marxist, will have chalked up a quarter century of writings on the dialectics of revolution. In any case, the publisher's call helped to remind me that I seemed to have disappeared from the Hegel Society of America since the 1974 Conference when I read my paper, "Hegel's Absolute Idea as New Beginning." Serious studies have a way of eating up seven years in a single gulp. I should be reappearing soon. In the meantime, I thought you might like to see at least the contents page (enclosed) of my latest work, especially Part Three, "Karl Marx--From a Critic of Hegel to Author of Capital and Theorist of Permanent Revolution."

You'll note that Part Three starts with Marx in 1841, when he was still a young Hegelian, working on his doctoral thesis, "The Difference Between the Democritean and Epicurean Philosophy of Nature." Did you happen to read it when, in 1975, the first English translation of Marx's Collected Works, Vol. 1, in finally publishing his doctoral thesis, also published the massive Notebooks for it? They clearly show not just Marx's erudition but his preoccupation with Prussian censorship, so that his concept of freedom of thought foreshadowed his becoming a "Marxist."

Recently, Philosophy and Revolution appeared in Germany, under the title Algebra der Revolution. Unless the reader happens to know that Herzen defined Hegelian dialectics as the "algebra of revolution," I have no idea what the Algebra der Revolution is. Would The Owl of Minerva be interested in getting a copy of the German edition? Please let me know and I'll be glad to send you a copy.

Sincerely, yours,

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