

January 4, 1983

Dear Friends:

1983, as the Marx centenary, marks a most unique Happy New Year which, now that we do have in hand a "Trilogy of Revolution" was greeted this January 1 at the expanded REB Meeting by a review of Marxist-Humanism in this light as ground for all our activities. The National Chairwoman's Report, MARKIST-HUMANISM, 1983: THE SUMMATION THAT IS A NEW BEGINNING, SUBJECTIVELY AND OBJECTIVELY, (the contents page of which is enclosed) will be stencilled and sent to all within a couple of weeks. Also heard was a sub-report by Eugene, , Ramifications of the Month of November at the Center, as well as the discussion which lasted over 3½ hours. It will be briefly summarized by Olga and sent out next. Once you get all these reports you can vote on what preoccupied us all: the proposal that we transform the coming Labor Day Plenum into a special Constitutional Convention.

That the publication of Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution is by no means just a book, the third in the series of Marxist-Humanist studies over a period of 30 years when a new movement from practice that was itself a form of theory, but a challenge to post-Marx Marxism to measure up to Marx's Marxism, is recognized by us all and was manifest in the successful way we have proceeded with "Have Thumb, Will Travel" in working out the Spring lecture tour on those works for the National Chairwoman. What was new at the expanded REB was the decision not to have to wait for 2 years over the technicality that the next national gathering be a plenum and another year's wait is needed for a convention before we could add that fact of the new work as a summation of all three works into the Constitution. As a matter of fact, to anticipate how that affects the "Who We Are, What We Stand For" a new paragraph will be added and will appear in the January issue.

This is not the only important feature of the January issue of NEWS & LETTERS going to press. It will carry a heretofore unknown (untranslated) writing on what we call the Third World by Rosa Luxemburg. (This first-ever translation in English was done by Dave Wolff.) January, 1919 (in the days when people remembered, that is to say, adhered to revolutions, as practice as well as theory), used to be known as the "Three L's", i.e., it was the month when Luxemburg and Liebknecht were murdered in the counter-revolutionary way of beheading the 1919 German Revolution, and the month (1924) when Lenin died. By publishing the piece by Luxemburg and by the topic of the piece being so relevant to our age and all this occurring in the Marx centenary and our "Trilogy of Revolution" we truly show that we have caught the historic link of continuity with Marx's Marxism and its recreation for our age. It is also what motivates us now to have the Editorial (by Mike) be on South Africa. Thus both the historic and the new, the revolutionary anti-militarism by that new generation of revolutionaries that emerged in the 1960s and now come to "full fruition" -- that is to say,

*For all those tired of the hieroglyphic "3 books, not one", Peter Mallory has come up with the eloquent phrase of describing MARKISM and FREEDOM, PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION and ROSA LUXEMBURG, WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND MARX'S PHILOSOPHY OF REVOLUTION. The expanded REB at once accepted that "replacement" for the hieroglyphic. It fits well more than the Jan. issue of NEWS & LETTERS, as became clear when I attempted, in the summation of discussion, to see whether it is indeed not reflective of all three books as well as many pamphlets.

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bent on so theoretically preparing oneself for revolution as to be witness to its actuality.

Furthermore, NEWS & LETTERS this issue will also show the strengthened proletarian nature with Felix M. as guest columnist for CD's Workers Journal. Felix will remain here for the rest of January and that, in the new role, of full NEB member. The vote of the NEB was unanimous for coopting Felix to full membership. Please congratulate also R who has likewise been unanimously coopted as alternate member to the NEB.

The cooptation of one full and one alternate member was felt a necessary step not alone because they belong NEB, but also because of the anticipation of transforming plenum into Constitutional Convention. It happened only one time--and that too was due to the fact that the publication that year, PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION, was so delayed by bourgeois publisher that we could not note it when we did have a convention. The point is that, both objectively and subjectively, an extra session (generally the election session) is needed for Convention discussion and vote. Furthermore, the election of the NEB is for two years and we certainly do not mean to violate that constitutional principle. This means that if we do vote for the change of plenum to convention, we will not have any NEB elections. That is the only technical difference between the usual convention and any special convention. The principle, however, is adhered to, that fundamental additions and decisions can only be achieved when the whole organization is in session and the vote is en masse, our highest body.

Yours,
Raya

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Editor's Note: With the publication of the Marxist-Humanist work Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution, we are expanding our "Who We Are and What We Stand For" statement to more fully present our revolutionary philosophic heritage as reflected in all three major works by Raya Dunayevskaya as well as in the archives of Marxist-Humanism over a 30 year period.

Who We Are and What We Stand For

News and Letters Committees, an organization of Marxist-Humanists, stand for the abolition of capitalism, whether in its private property form as in the U.S., or its state property form as in Russia or China. We stand for the development of a new human society based on the principles of Marx's Humanism as recreated for our day.

News & Letters was created so that the voices of revolt from below could be heard not separated from the articulation of a philosophy of liberation. A Black production worker, Charles Denby, author of *Indignant Heart: A Black Worker's Journal*, is the editor of the paper. Raya Dunayevskaya, the Chairwoman of the National Editorial Board and National Chairwoman of the Committees, is the author of *Marxism and Freedom, Philosophy and Revolution* and *Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution*, which spell out the philosophic ground of Marx's Humanism internationally as *American Civilization on Trial* concretizes it on the American scene and shows the two-way road between the U.S. and Africa.

Where Marxism and Freedom, whose structure was grounded in the movement from practice throughout the 200 years from 1776 to Today discloses Marx's "new Humanism," both internationally and in its American roots, *Philosophy and Revolution*, in recreating Marx's philosophic roots both in the Hegelian dialectic and in the actual revolutionary movements of his day, articulated these forces of revolution as Reason — Labor, Black, Youth, Women — of our day. By tracing and paralleling this age's 30-year movement from practice to theory with our own theoretical development for the same three decades, Marxist-Humanism in the U.S. has met the challenge of the "new moments" in the last decade of Marx's life by disclosing in them a trail to the 1980s. It is this trail, these paths of revolution — be it in the birth of a whole new generation of revolutionaries, including the transformation of Women's Liberation as an idea whose time has come into a Movement or the emergence of a whole new Third World — that form the content

of *Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution*. This work challenges post-Marx Marxists to return to Marx's Marxism. At a time when the nuclear world is threatened with the extinction of civilization itself it becomes imperative not only to reject what is, but to reveal the revolutionary Humanist future inherent in the present.

News & Letters was founded in 1955, the year of the Detroit wildcats against Automation and the Montgomery Bus Boycott against segregation — activities which signalled a new movement from practice which was itself a form of theory. Vol. 1, No. 1, came off the press on the second anniversary of the June 17, 1953 East German revolt against Russian state-capitalism masquerading as Communism, in order to express our solidarity with freedom fighters abroad as well as at home. Because 1953 was also the year when we worked out the revolutionary dialectics of Marxism in its original form of "a new Humanism," as well as individuality "purified of all that interferes with its universalism, i.e., with freedom itself," we organized ourselves in Committees rather than any elitist party "to lead". The development of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S., 1941 to Today is recorded in the documents and on microfilm available to all under title the *Raya Dunayevskaya Collection* on deposit at the Labor History Archives of Wayne State University.

In opposing the capitalistic, racist, sexist, exploitative society, we participate in all class and freedom struggles, nationally and internationally. As our Constitution states: "It is our aim . . . to promote the firmest unity among workers, Blacks and other minorities, women, youth and those intellectuals who have broken with the ruling bureaucracy of both capital and labor." We do not separate the mass activities from the activity of thinking. Anyone who is a participant in these freedom struggles for totally new relations and a fundamentally new way of life, and who believes in these principles, is invited to join us. Send for a copy of the Constitution of News and Letters Committees.

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