

REB MEETING of JUNE 14, 1983

Present: All but Denby, ill; Peter Mallory by special invitation;
Diane (sitter-in) excused, working nights

Agenda: I Draft Perspectives (Raya); II. Discussion of Draft;
III. Assignment and schedule of Reports for Convention;
IV. Tentative Convention Agenda; V. Ongoing Activities;
VI/ G&W.

I. Raya introduced her rough draft of Perspectives by saying that she has had so little time to work them out fully that she had appealed to Eugene, who immediately consented, to help on Part II. He had brought in 3 pages on U.S. imperialism's stranglehold in Central America, on the one hand, and magnificent, continued great revolts against both U.S. imperialism and their own native military puppet regimes. One page on steel had also been written by Peter Mallory for Part I.

The Perspectives had been entitled: The Global Year of the Missile, Capitalist-Imperialist Retrogression on all Fronts from Labor and Black to Women's Liberation, Youth and Education, as well as Do-Nothingness on Outright Famine and Massive Death in Third World, Especially Africa.

It had been sub-divided as follows:

Introduction: The Supreme Artificer, Ronald Reagan, Creates Massive Unemployment, Intellectual Disarray and Total Obfuscation of the Global Death Weapon, the MX Missile.

Part I: The "New Economy," its Imperialist Tentacles Abroad and Racism at Home.

Part II: The Political Crises that Abound that Reagan Keeps Stirring up in Latin America, in the Middle East, and throughout the World, not excluding a Global Confrontation with the Other Pole of Nuclear Might, Russia.

Part III. Marx's Final Writings Let us Hear Marx Thinking.

The Introduction set the context of the whole by showing what an artificer and liar Reagan was in transforming what was supposed to be an economic summit into a military preparation for war: "The rulers in the seven richest, most technologically-advanced countries, meeting in Colonial Williamsburg, manifested their Grand Illusion that there was no need to face the burning question of the day: Can 'the year of the missile', which Reagan had the gall to christen 'the Peace-keeper,' really hide the global, continuing, massive unemployment in each of their countries and absolute poverty in the Third World -- a poverty which is literally as deep as the days of the Great Depression of the 1930s that 'ended' in World War II? The whole world is now faced with massive unrest."

The thesis then developed the true state of the economy -- 32 million unemployed in the industrialized world and absolute poverty and actual starvation and death in the Third World; the imperialist tentacles abroad, especially in Latin America and the Middle East -- specifically engineering a so-called end to Israel's genocidal war in Lebanon, which turns out to be a war of attrition and an interlude to the 5th Arab-Israeli War. But the main stress of Part I was the exact objective situation in the U.S., including such dehumanized expressions of the capitalist ideologues as "the human worker will go the way of the horse." It demonstrates how very far away they are from the unrest in labor, which is directed also against its labor bureaucracy who have become the capitalists' "bodyguards" for forcing down their throats all those unconscionable wage concessions. And even further away from reality is Reagan's disregard of the 30-year struggles against racism, against war, for

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women's liberation, which will not stop, despite his rolling the clock back on all those hard-won gains.

In Part II, the detailing of U.S. imperialism's onslaught in Latin America was a look at both the revolts there and all the support committees here in which N&L Committees are very active.

Finally, and of course most important was Part III -- again not only the listening to Marx thinking, his four New Moments detailed in RLWLKM, but in working it out for our age, specifically paralleling the 30 years of our existence to the movement from practice since the 1950s. This section takes up no less than 10 pages, and since it will soon go to press in toto, we here simply quote the one page which introduces the three pamphlets we are planning -- one on the 1949-50 Miners' General Strike; a new Introduction to a 4th edition of American Civilization on Trial referring to Denby's focus on the new paragraph on Marx and the Black world; and another around Peter's Essay on "1983 Looks at the Last Decade of Marx".

"It is this relationship between the objective situation and the subjective response of revolutionaries which we must measure against Marx's entire life and thought. It demands not only answering what this year or this new book has achieved in relationship to that objective situation, but the testing of ourselves throughout the period of our 30 year existence. It is in that respect that upon the publication of RLWLKM we came up with the 'slogan' -- 'three books, not one'. That is to say, along with M&F and P&R the new book makes a trilogy of revolution which, in each case, related itself to the whole movement from practice to theory that is itself a form of theory.

"It is for this reason that, far from being in the least deterred by the pervasive McCarthyism of the 1950s and the bourgeois ideologues who declared this to be the 'end of ideology,' we launched N&L. Anyone who did not see the period as a new revolutionary beginning, as a movement from practice -- and that included not only bourgeois ideologues but much of the Left -- hardly considered it a propitious period for raising the flag of Marxist-Humanism. Yet the truth is that it was precisely that period which the Prologue to our 25 Year History designates as a new mode of production (Automation); a new mode of cognition (Marx's Humanist Essays being brought onto the historic stage both in East Europe and by the Black Revolution in the U.S.); and new forms of organization (committee-form, deeply rooted in a philosophy of revolution as against 'the party-to-lead')." Part III also takes up the multitude of activities in which we are active with the many forces of revolt -- from the support committees for the Latin American revolutionaries, to the work with the BCM of South Africa, to participation with Women's Liberation activities, anti-war and anti-nuke work, all forms of the Black revolt at home, and rank-and-file workers against the corporations and the labor bureaucracy.

These activities, as well as the three pamphlets, along with continued sales of RLWLKM, are sure to bring much-needed organizational growth -- as is evident this very day when the L.A. local has informed us of their acceptance of a new member who first heard RD on tour at Santa Barbara. It goes without saying that to carry out all these tasks, to publish three pamphlets, to make sure that we can continue the regular publication of N&L, requires a Sustaining Fund to which we will ask all our friends and readers to

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contribute.

(The Thesis concludes: "As the tour has shown, it is the conception of philosophy of revolution in permanence that has attracted wide, new interest in an organization so rooted, whether the group interested was focused around Women's Liberation, or Black, or Youth, or rank and file Labor. It is this philosophy of revolution in permanence that forms the theoretic preparation for revolution, laying the ground for the actual revolution which is germinating."

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