

January 25, 1983

Dear Friends:

Because the last REB meeting was the last one Felix Martin attended, it was important to focus on the March centenary issue of N&L. Just as the advertisement for that issue in the Jan/Feb issue clearly shows that it is not only newspaper but books, and not only daily activity but national and international tours, it is clear that all of this is really ground for the trilogy of revolution, not just as sales but as theoretic preparation for revolution.

One of the most exciting things about this year's national tour is the fact that Black Studies have invited me to speak on Marx and the Black dimension, and this is true on such widely varied campuses as Urbana, Ann Arbor, Los Angeles, Berkeley, and now it appears that it will also include Northwestern. By no accident whatever, it is Women's Liberationists, Black and white, who are becoming a centerpoint on the tour. And it is also through a Black professor that I was informed there are no less than 80 International Conferences on the Centenary being held. Unfortunately, (and that certainly is no surprise, to us) most of them are so Stalinist that the so-called independents ^{in ~~the~~ ~~area~~} continue calling Marx and Engels as one. It is for this reason that I am happy to report that one Hegelian professor told another that Raya's last book was "all against Engels." It becomes all the more important to see that every single one of us who can attend these conferences, and even if they cannot take the floor, finds some way to point out that RLWLKM challenges all post-Marx Marxists from Engels up to today.

It is of the essence that we think of the Black dimension not only because it means so much to us but because others recognize that pivotal point in all of our writings. Thus, Kevin has just reported that his request to Africa Today to publish his review brought a response that Raya "is an old friend of Africa Today" and that they would be delighted to have Kevin's review of all three books. This relationship seems pervasive enough that one Black intellectual, in talking to Lou Turner, expressed surprise that I was not "Third World."

All the correspondence in the office seems most upbeat both in relationship to local activities and in regard to the Lecture tour. From England we have also heard about the activities of the British Marxist-Humanists, and we expect that the correspondence will become ever more concrete as Anne's projected trip in April comes ever closer.

Please note in the REB minutes the title I have proposed for the New York local meeting during my tour:

On the Marx Centenary

FACING THE CHALLENGE TO ALL POST-MARX MARXISTS:

- * On Women's Liberation
- * On the Third World
- * On Marx's Concept of "Revolution in Permanence"

Marx's concept of "the energizing principle" as a way both for activity and elicitation of the purpose of masses in motion has led me to consider how important it is to present "the future in the present", not as prophecy, but as that energizing principle.

Yours, RAYA

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