

November 29, 1961

TO THE NEB:

Dear Friends:

Yesterday during the NEB meeting I made a preliminary report on the possibilities of the African trip, which possibilities have become brighter with the promise of \$500 from a friend in New York. If every one who pledged \$100 at the Executive Session will submit their pledge no later than sometime in January we will almost have the minimum of \$1500. The trip will actually cost \$2000, but the \$1500 (if we get it in January) will be sufficient for the passage and to get me started there so that the remaining money needed could be sent in as late as next April.

The political importance rests on this fact, and points to a different direction in working with outside sources. That is to say, we do not want to concentrate on money from these outside sources because the far more important element here is to have the "proper" accreditation. Africa is not Europe, and I cannot go there as I did to Europe. Both because there were groups close to us and because Europe was not to be the basis of any book, it was sufficient to go without any bourgeois invitations, although I did manage to speak at several universities. In the case of Africa, we have the two contradictory aims on the one hand, its pivotal importance to the new book, and on the other hand, its total strangeness at a time when Communism is making inroads there. Where we previously thought that there really should be two of us going so that one could both be my translator, "guide" and colleague, this is impossible because of financial reasons. Therefore, the accreditation is all important.

The NEB has voted to make the search for that the more or less full-time concern of Saul. He and I will meet weekly every Tuesday to plan strategy, letters, and so forth, until we break into that field. We feel certain we will succeed, especially if we are not burdened with the question of money. Off and on we will naturally keep you apprised of developments.

The Weekly Letter of June 3rd, which gave a very abbreviated outline of the new book, should be restudied by the NEB members in the light of the present letter. When I wrote it, I had thought I would do a great deal more in the actual writing of the book than has been possible. While the urgency was taken away when the NEB decided that not this but the Freedom Rider pamphlet would be the central point of the plenum, and the major step forward in our growth, there is no doubt that a great deal more should have been done if -- IF so much of the work organizationally did not fall upon me. The tours for example are extraordinarily successful, but it is impossible to write a book under those conditions. The Weekly Political Letters are of the essence for the organization's growth, but sooner or later -- certainly by next Spring -- the responsibility for them would need to cease resting on my shoulders alone. I don't know how seriously the NEB has considered the question of time for the Chairman. Every time we make a motion to relieve her of one thing, 16 other things develop. Someday I will wish to go into that and also into greater detail on what exactly the Executive Session meant regarding the political maturity of the leadership and the question of the workers as leaders. For the present, I want to state in no uncertain terms that 6 full months sometime before the next year is out will have to be given to the Chairman for the writing of the book, or there will be no book. If we make the next 6 months the period of greater growth for the organization, the problem will "automatically" be solved.

Yours,  
RAYA

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