

MINUTES OF REB MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 1985

Agenda: I Carrying Out Plenum Decisions, 1. Bulletins, 2. Trips, 3. New edition of FFSABT; II Ongoing Activities and Correspondence, 1. Correspondence report, 2. Work at UIC, 3. Oct. issue of N&L; III G&W

Raya suggested that Neda write and apologize for the misimpressions given in the introduction to the WL Bulletin, but note that far from it being a case of our fitting her life to our ideas, it comes natural to us to think of the EastEuropean revolts as magnificent events. Raya felt that it could also be taken up in a "Dear Sisters" letter, and then went on to say that if we thought that we would face criticism for RLWLKM, wait until we see what will happen with the book on the "dialectics of the party". I have been thinking that it will have to begin with the Second Int'l, when Engels was alive at the 1891 Congress. When you consider the 1902 debate within the RSDLP, and the split out of that Congress, you see that Lenin didn't stray from Lassalle or Kautsky. The split with the Mensheviks and the debate with RL were on different points-- on whether one has to belong to a local and be disciplined by it. But the main points on the concept of the party weren't in dispute. We have to begin with Engels' concept of the vanguard party, how Marx's closest collaborator understood it. Engels was the one who allowed them to print the Critique of the Gotha Program as "a contribution to the discussion". We have to go back to that, and to what Lenin made of it.