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Internationalist Tendency of the YSA  
c/o Cathy Matson  
[address omitted]

December 10, 1974

Young Socialist Alliance-National Executive Committee  
Post Office Box 471-Cooper Station  
New York, New York 10003

Dear Comrades,

I write this letter on behalf of the Internationalist Tendency of the YSA and with the specific consultation and agreement of Comrades Rich Mitten, Mark Lause and John Holton, members of the National Committee of the YSA. I write in my capacity as National Coordinator of the IT-YSA.

Directly following our purge from the YSA last July, we sent you an individually signed appeal for reintegration. This appeal was not only not answered but its receipt was never acknowledged; nor was our request to be allowed to attend the Oberlin Educational Conference, or our most recent letter asking for information concerning attendance at the coming YSA Convention. We are disturbed by the total lack of response on your part to our communications, but trust that this is due to oversight rather than hostility.

The YSA Constitution states that suspensions and expulsions from the YSA can be appealed to the following YSA Convention; in any event, a major action involving the expulsion of a large number of comrades would certainly require confirmation by the convention. This letter is to ask that our appeal be included as a point on the agenda of the convention; that we be allowed ample time to refute the charges made against us; and that the forthcoming document "The Myth of the IT Split" be made available to comrades attending the convention. Only in this manner will the comrades of the YSA have a genuine opportunity to make a fair and impartial decision on this matter, something we trust you desire as much as we do. We ask that you reply at the earliest opportunity.

We state once again our request to be immediately and totally reintegrated back into the YSA. We state as we have in the past our complete willingness to abide by and loyally carry out the decisions of the YSA under the discipline of the YSA. As we are in fraternal solidarity with the Fourth International (an organization that persons and groups in the U.S. are prevented from belonging to because of reactionary laws) we recognize that it would be an impossible contradiction for the YSA to have norms of functioning (i.e. with relationship to democratic centralism which were not in conformity with those of the F.I.) We act in complete consistency in being able to abide with both. You by your act of expelling us in the manner you did broke with the norms of both organizations. This matter will be taken up at the coming meeting of the IEC. We notify you in advance of our complete willingness to follow the directives of that body and to carry out its decisions whatever they may be. Further we do not

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restrict our willingness to abide by the YSA discipline contingent upon the IEC meeting but are willing now as we have always been to abide by it. Thus our reintegration should be implemented immediately.

Comradely  
s/Cathy Matson, for the YSA IT

cc: USFI  
SWP/ & SWP IT  
R. Mitten/J. Holton/M. Lause

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Internationalist Tendency of the Young Socialist Alliance  
Cathy Matson, National Coordinator  
[address omitted]  
July 17, 1974

National Executive Committee  
Young Socialist Alliance  
P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station  
New York, New York 10003

Dear Comrades,

The below listed comrades of the Internationalist Tendency of the Young Socialist Alliance, demand that they be immediately reintegrated into the Young Socialist Alliance. (For reasons that you are familiar with, we do not list a relatively large number of comrades who while they are members of the I.T. and who like all the other members of the I.T. have been defacto expelled, but who fall into a particular category. You likewise did not mention them in your communique of expulsion but informed them orally. Our demand for integration of all I.T. comrades into the YSA of course includes these comrades.)

Our demand for immediate reintegration bases itself on the statement of the Internationalist Tendency Political Committee dated July 5, 1974. This statement is enclosed.

[The list of names is omitted]

Comradely,

s/Cathy Matson, for the Internationalist Tendency of the Young Socialist Alliance

cc: United Secretariat  
IMT  
I.T. membership

Encl.: ITPC Statement 7-5-74

STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONALIST TENDENCY  
OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY AND THE YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE--  
JULY 5, 1974

On July 5, all supporters of the Internationalist Tendency were informed that they had been expelled from the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance for "forming a rival party." There was no opportunity for self-defense, no trial, and no provision for appeal. This action sets into motion a dynamic which concretely poses a split in the Fourth International. The Internationalist Tendency is firmly opposed to such a split in the world Trotskyist movement; to forestall such a split, we propose the following:

- (1) We do not recognize our expulsion from the SWP and YSA--an expulsion which is contrary to the democratic-centralist norms of the Fourth International and the SWP. We appeal to the United Secretariat of the Fourth International to intervene against this expulsion of supporters of the FI from its American co-thinker organization.
- (2) Until a decision by the United Secretariat, the members of the Internationalist Tendency continue to regard themselves as disciplined members of the SWP and YSA. Concretely, this means:
  - (a) We will not publicize the expulsions.
  - (b) We will not discuss internal matters of the SWP and YSA with persons who are outside of the Fourth International.
  - (c) We will not intervene against the SWP or YSA in public forums or meetings.
  - (d) In mass work, we will place ourselves under the discipline of the appropriate SWP or YSA fraction.
- (3) We are preparing statements to the SWP Political Committee and the National Executive Committee of the YSA demanding our reintegration into these organizations along the normal criteria for membership in the Fourth International, the SWP, and the YSA--agreement with the general program of the FI, acceptance of the discipline of the Fourth International and the SWP/YSA, and commitment to work as active militants in these organizations.

We call for the reintegration of all comrades of the Internationalist Tendency who sign these statements. We reject any scheme which would require individual application for "readmission," probationary periods, and selective readmission. All comrades in the Internationalist Tendency were expelled; all must be reintegrated.

- (4) We are preparing a detailed response to the accusation of "an IT split" made in the SWP Internal Document "Materials Relating to the Split of the Internationalist Tendency from the Socialist Workers Party." We reaffirm that tendencies within the SWP and YSA have the right to internal discussion about perspectives, tactics, and platform; we also defend the right of tendencies to

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choose their own leadership bodies, organize conferences, and take votes on their line that will be presented to the party. We absolutely reject the notion that the May IT Conference was a "split convention"; on the contrary, we will show that the decision of the IT was to function as an active tendency within the SWP and YSA and as part of the International Majority Tendency of the FI.

- (5) We call upon all supporters of the Fourth International in the United States outside the SWP and YSA to apply for admission into these organizations along the criteria of their political agreement with the general line of the FI, acceptance of FI and SWP/YSA discipline, and commitment to work as active militants of these organizations.

The Fourth International is threatened by a deep crisis; it can only be resolved through a common effort on both sides to reach a principled agreement. We stress our determination to build a strong and unified Trotskyist movement both in the United States and around the world.

This statement was approved by Comrade C., member of the IMT and of the United Secretariat.

Political Committee  
of the IT

John Barzman  
John Hutton  
Bill Massey  
Gathy Matson  
Pat Quinn

cc: All IT members  
United Secretariat  
SWP PC  
YSA NEC  
IMT