

TRANSLATION

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ORGANISATION COMMUNISTE INTERNACIONALISTE

(pour la Reconstruction de la 4 Internationale)

Paris, September 23, 1975

Jack Barnes
National Secretary, SWP

Dear Comrade:

First I should like to thank you for the fraternal reception you accorded to our delegation and for the facilities that you made available to them so that they could inform themselves as completely as possible on all the various activities of the SWP.

Comrade François has reported to us on the SWP convention and our Central Committee has thus been able to study the step forward taken by your party.

The Central Committee of the OCI has assigned me to invite the SWP to send a delegation to the Twentieth Convention of the OCI which will take place in Paris December 26-30, 1975.

As both sides put it at the time of the meeting with a delegation of the United Secretariat on October 15, 1974, the discussion on the problems raised by the Tenth Congress of the United Secretariat -- which, according to the expression used in your declaration of January 2, 1975, on the subject of this meeting, concern "all organizations claiming to be Trotskyist" -- must be followed up in one way or another. But it would be preferable, in the interests of Trotskyism, if this were done in a common, organized framework.

It was from this concern, and the desire to give a certain form to the debate, that the decision to exchange internal documents was arrived at. The decision taken by your leadership to invite the Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International to attend the SWP convention, with the status of observers, fits into this framework.

Likewise, it is from the same approach that our Central Committee has decided to invite the SWP to send a delegation to our convention. Your delegates may, if they wish, have speaking rights in the discussions at our convention.

We will send you shortly the agenda for the convention and, as they appear, the documents submitted for discussion.

Accept, dear comrade, my fraternal Trotskyist salutations.

For the Central Committee of
the OCI

Pierre Lambert

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Paris, September 23, 1975

Jack Barnes
National Secretary, SWP

Dear Comrade:

In a few days we will send you a short reply to the article signed by Mandel, Maitan, and Frank, which appeared in the IP of September 8, 1975.

This reply seems to us all the more necessary because we are directly attacked in this article and in a manner that we consider unfair.

We propose that this reply appear in Intercontinental Press.

But, as you know, Comrade Moreno in passing through Paris had a brief meeting with the members of our Central Committee. He stressed in particular how important the question of the form of the discussion is, at a moment when necessarily this discussion -- and in particular the debate on the problems of the Portuguese revolution -- must become public. Comrade Moreno was conveying here the opinion of the responsible leaders of the international faction with which you are in political solidarity. And by "form" we think that what is involved concerns not only "tone," but also the consideration of the opportune moment to publish this or that document in this or that publication, etc.

Hence, while we think that it would be a positive thing if our answer were to appear in Intercontinental Press, we are prepared to take into account your opinion on this subject and we do not by any means present the question of its possible publication in the columns of Intercontinental Press as an obligation in regard to the "right of reply" but as a proposition which must be considered from the standpoint of the necessities and the depth of the discussion.

The same attitude holds, it goes without saying, for the form of your presence at the convention of the OCI. We are aware of the fact that the relations between the SWP and the OCI take place, for you, in a framework accepted by the United Secretariat. Hence, if you consider it necessary, we have no objection to inviting the US to attend our forthcoming convention.

In any case, in the framework of the preparation of the convention, it is necessary that our members should be informed of the international activities of our Central Committee. To fulfill this obligation we ask from you authorization to publish in an internal bulletin the whole of the correspondence concerning the evolution of our relations since October 1974.

Fraternally,
Pierre Lambert

copy to J. Hansen

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ORGANISATION COMMUNISTE INTERNATIONALISTE
(pour la Reconstruction de la 4 Internationale)

Paris, September the 25th

Dear Comrade,

You will find enclosed a copy of "Informations Ouvrières" No. 718, (p.9), with the first article on the political campaigns presently waged by the SWP. As we had agreed, I mentioned your convention but did not give a report on its conclusions.

If you think this is O.K., we shall shortly publish a second article on your presidential campaign.

You will also find enclosed a copy of "Informations Ouvrières" No. 719 with an editorial stating our position in relation to the formation of the sixth coalition government in Portugal.

Comradely and best wishes to all of you.

s/ François.