

Xs: J, MA, Joe, B-C, Doug, Peter S, Gus, IO

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
January 10, 1978

Jerusalem

Dear Michel,

Thanks for your letter of December 12. We are in a really tight financial situation now, and have had to make a series of cutbacks. So, your proposal for the book publishing project comes at a difficult time. But I have shown your letter to the comrades at Pathfinder and we will wait until you send the details to discuss it fully.

It is good to hear that on the main political questions the prospects for fusion with the PCG look favorable. With good will and some give-and-take on both sides the organizational aspects can hopefully be settled amicably. I agree with you that it is most desirable to settle these kinds of questions before the congress. The worse thing would be to find yourself facing a lot of organizational disputes immediately after a fusion. Even under the best of circumstances it will take some time, after the fusion is officially consummated to establish full collaboration and relative political homogeneity. Anything that hampers this much more important process is certainly to be avoided. I hope very much that we can send someone to your fusion congress, though I cannot give an answer on this yet. But to maximize the chances for us, please let us know as soon as you have a firm date, because it will take us some time to arrange a trip, if a trip is possible.

Now on another matter. We would like to know about your current attitude towards Yossi Ben-Akiva. We received a letter from him and Dan Donath, dated August 25, in which they tell about the internal crisis in the Workers League and in which they explain some of their own political evolution. They indicated at the bottom of their letter that a copy had been sent to the RCL. I assume you received it. Apparently Yossi Ben-Akiva has some relations now with the PCG, but we are not sure if he is a member. In any case, he has sent us some news about the political situation in Israel, and apparently would like to contribute articles or translations that could be published here. What do you think of this?

More generally, what are your relations with him? Do you consider his present status to be a part of the Trotskyist movement? If so, then the possibility of asking him to collaborate in the production of news articles could be very useful. There are two things that could be considered. Rather than encouraging news articles done by him on an individual basis, we could try to work out a process by which he works together with you and the PCG comrades in developing such articles. Another possibility, perhaps even more useful, would be to encourage the translation of articles that appear in the RCL and PCG press, such articles chosen on the recommendation of the RCL and PCG.

and PCG comrades. This would enable us to give a lot more coverage to events there.

But, of course, the above is clearly related to what your present relations with him are. So please let us know.

Regards,

Gus Horowitz