

Stockholm, may 10, 1978

From: Editorial staff of "Combate"
To: United Secretariat and all Sections of the FI

MAY 20 1978

Comrades;

By the present date you will already have received the letter of the 14 april 1978 from the Political Bureau of KAF (Swedish section) in which is given a report of "Combate".

The editorial staff of "Combate" wishes to make the following considerations known to you on this problem.

Since february of 1974 KAF has developed a work amongst the latin-american refugees in Sweden. At that time "Combate" was first published, as an instrument for that medium. This work has experienced a considerable exit and development in Sweden, as well as in other countries, in Europe, Canada and elsewhere. The meeting of the "Coordinadora europea del trabajo latinoamericano" (European Coordination of latinamerican work) was an attempt to coordinate this work internationally.

Since may of 1977 there has been an internal struggle in KAF concerning this work, part of which has been made public through an open debate in the pages of "Combate".

The great majority of the former Latinamerican Fraction of KAF, including all those responsible for the publication of "Combate", have raised a proposal of new organisational forms for the latin-american work among the refugees in exile.

We consider this work to be confined to a very specific area, with special problems which the national Sections have large difficulties to decide on. Furthermore it is a circumstantial and transitory work, just in the same way as the exile itself, dependent on the possibilities of return to the latinamerican continent for thousands of militants. Bolivia is a recent example of this.

We have proposed to the swedish section that we organize ourselves as sympathisers on the local level for all tasks such as propaganda, selling of the swedish journal, mobilisation to local activities in which the refugees can participate and contribute to the central activities of the section. The proposal includes also a special form of organisation for the specific work among the refugees and the medium of exile, in the different "national" organisations and in the solidarity, adopting the form of an association of latinamerican trotskyists in temporary exile in Sweden, who wish to participate in a work of agitation and debate among the exiles.

For several reasons we have been impeded the possibility to realize an agreement of this character with the swedish section, but the discussions continue until, finally, KAF takes a decision on the latinamerican work in june.

In the meantime we are developing the work according to the above. Concretely, this means that we have not broken politically with the swedish section nor with the Fourth International; we defend its programme, principles, political line, etc, we spread and support its ideas and public press, and we help the section in the local level with mobilisations, at its meetings and with combined practical tasks, etc. Concerning "Combate" specifically, we have raised the proposal that, taking in account the special character it has acquired, its role and significance for the International, it is very difficult for a national section to direct the work of "Combate". Therefore we have raised the proposal to the comrades of the Political Bureau of KAF in a recent meeting with them that a delegation be sent to the Political Bureau of the United Secretariat for a special discussion concerning the possibilities of the United Secretariat to intervene in the supervision, responsibility, or other similar solution, of "Combate", in order to guarantee the continuity of "Combate", that it may continue filling its present role without intervention by the tendential or factional disputes of purely local character and confused origins and

political foundation.

The same editorial staff and responsible for "Combate" that it has had during the four years it has existed, remain today at their post and in the front of publication. We consider that this is a minimum guarantee for its continuation, which can be easily verified by the recent number 32 of "Combate", of the month of april. Even though we are convinced of the necessity of analysing more advanced proposals, such as those we have made as to an International Editorial Council, the discussion with the Political Bureau of the United Secretariat and so forth, in the meantime there is the political guarantee of the editorial staff itself which for years have been responsible for the development and publication of "Combate".

We do not deny that the situation may seem confused and hard to grasp for many comrades, but we consider the present state as more than transitory the solution of which we are dedicating all our efforts. Therefore it would be highly lamentable if, for the reason of confusion about the present situation, administrative measures be taken in order to stop the selling or distribution of "Combate". This would most of all affect the readers of "Combate", which have followed the periodical closely for several years. "Combate" has been used and can still be used as an informative and partially agitating organ for our ideas and the building up of the Fourth International in Latin America, and for thousands of preoccupied militants presently spread in the exile in five continents.

How to integrate exiled latinamerican comrades who sympathise with the Fourth International and who contact the national sections of the different countries, is a matter which for the moment, naturally, has to be resolved by the respective national sections themselves, according to their special requirements and priorities, and political definitions of the general situation in their country and of the work itself.

However, this is a matter well separated from the distribution of "Combate". Therefore we ask you to contact us by written in order to receive further information or explanations, before you undertake any kind of administrative measure concerning "Combate".

We are sure that it would not be the want of the direction of KAF to stop the distribution of "Combate". In Sweden it is still sold in the bookstores and distributed by KAF to all the local groups where there are latinamericans. "Combate" is also produced in the premises of KAF and with KAF's equipment, in the same way as during the past four years.

We hope that we have cleared the situation somewhat; we will be more than glad to be of help to you and to give you all kind of information you may deem necessary.

Internationalist greetings, for the editorial staff of "Combate" :



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