

INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP

british section of the fourth international

NOV 29 1971

182, Pentonville Road, London N.1 Tel. No. 01-278 2616

November 26th, 1971

Dear Comrade Joe:

Many thanks for your letter dated November 23rd. To be quite honest and frank, I never dreamt that the ICP would do us the honour of printing the statement (not very long) issued by the Political Committee of the IMG or The Red Mole's own tribute to Peter. I did think, however, that you might print the complete text of the report contained in This week, since after all it was a well-established liberal bourgeois journal and could be expected to avoid the "ultra-leftism" or other vices of the IMG and its journals. However, even that was censored fairly expertly by Comrade Foley. It is also interesting that Cde Foley in his remarks doesn't state what Peter's position vis-a-vis the FI was. I would like to register the strongest possible protest at the ~~method~~ method in which you covered the murder of one of our comrades.

Also to be honest I didn't think that Cde Van Gelderen's article/~~about the~~^{stood} ~~about the~~^a snowball's chance in hell of appearing in the ICP, because as you yourself write even if it had arrived in time "it would have offered some difficulties from an editorial point of view." Instead you use an account by Cde Gordon, whose political status is not clear to us in any case, who is seriously ill and mentally unstable and who in this case arrived at the meeting half-an-hour before it ~~was finished~~ finished.

The complete and utter contempt which you show for the IMG and any activity associated with it makes us wonder whether it's worth sending in any material to the ICP. We have just appointed Cde Van Gelderen to be the ICP's London correspondent, but it obviously seems a total waste of time. We would, therefore, like you to let us know (a) What Sam Gordon's position is vis-a-vis both the ICP and the SWP. Is he a member of the FI or not? (b) whether you would publish material related to the IMG sent to you directly by the IMG or not.

The reason ~~why~~ I am more indignant than usual is because the ICP is supposed to be the journal of the USFI. This seems to me increasingly a fiction. I intend to raise the matter at the next meeting of the U.S. Either the status of the journal should be re-confirmed or you should state openly that it represent the viewpoint (particularly on matters pertaining to Britain and Ireland) not of the USFI, but of one of its components.

Yours fraternally,

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Tariq

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Peter Graumann

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DEC 1 1971

Nov. 24, 1971

National Executive Committee
 LSA/LSO
 334 Queen Street W,
 Toronto, Ontario
 Canada

Dear Comrades,

I am writing to inform you of what I believe to be a very shocking and serious incident which occurred at the Vancouver branch of the LSA/LSO's public celebration of the October revolution on Nov. 6, 1971. I attended this celebration as a visitor from the U.S. Trotskyist movement, and I brought along several independents who are close to our movement. At the celebration there was publically displayed a poster which showed a cartoon of a bird with the following inscription beneath:

The Red Mole (clipped from the masthead of the paper) is for the birds.

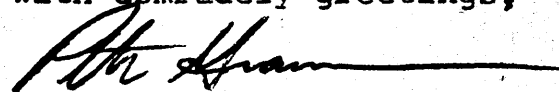
But not for this bird:

As a steady diet it is undigestable!

I was, of course, quite taken aback that this otherwise quite excellent celebration of the October Revolution should be marred by a public attack on another section of the Fourth International! I would consider this kind of attack inappropriate even for an internal function, let alone at a public meeting where contacts are present who are aware that the Red Mole is a publication of a sister organization (the IMG). Such an act, in my opinion, runs directly counter to the building of the world party of revolution and could damage the building of a democratic-centralist international. When I asked the Vancouver branch organizer about the display, no action was taken to remove the poster.

I am writing this letter to you in the hope that by bringing this incident to your attention, further incidents of this character might be prevented. Copies of this letter are being sent to the appropriate bodies in the world movement.

With comradely greetings,



cc: Political Committee, SWP
 Executive Committee, IMG
 United Secretariat of the Fourth International