

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
February 27, 1973

Dick Garza

Dear Dick,

We received today your letter of February 25 addressed to Barry. Unfortunately, Barry as well as Ed is out of town on organizational tours. Lew is also out on tour but is expected back in a day or two and I will be sure he sees your letter.

Comradely,

Rich Feigenberg
SWP National Office

NY

Dick Garza
5 Evans Ave. ESP 27 1973
Freeport, N.Y. 11520
February 25, 1973

Barry Sheppard
Nat'l. Organization Sec'y.
S.W.P.
14 Charles Lane
New York City 10014

Dear Barry,

I talked with Doug J. for just a few minutes on Friday night about the coming U.S. convention of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. I told him I'd write to Ed Shaw about it, but since that time I've learned that Ed is not in town. However, since my object was to bring the PSP convention to the attention of the P.C. I'm directing the letter to you.

The PSP will hold its mass public rally at Manhattan Center, 34th St. and 8th Ave. on April 8 beginning at 12 o'clock midday. The rally will culminate a series of local and regional meetings they have organized to consolidate their first year of work in the U.S. as the PSP.

On February 25 they scheduled the 1st Congreso de Zona. On ~~March 3~~ Saturday March 3 they are holding a discussion on the Present Situation of the Student Movement in the U.S. Registration begins at 2 and the session goes from 3 to 5. Where I don't know. The announcement I saw had no address.

According to my notes from last semester Juan Mari Bras will speak at Queens College on March 20, 1973, Colden Auditorium.

From a cursory reading of their press and from posters and ~~stickers~~ stickers all over Queens College it's obvious that they are throwing everything they have into this effort.

I propose that ~~we~~ we intervene. The problem of course is with what object do we intervene? Only the PC can decide, otherwise we would just sit by and observe and possibly write it up in the Militant. Then the question would be would we just note it down or will we have anything of substance to say about the conference? Only the P.C. can decide.

Our own plenum meets just a few weeks after their mass rally and organizational activities. At the last plenum it was agreed that more attention would be paid to developments within the Puerto Rican movement and that the PC would take it up. From my reading of minutes I can't see that we have taken it up and from my reading of the plenum agenda I don't know if it

will be discussed in the political ~~re~~ report. I think it should be reported on to the Plenum. However, you can't ~~discuss~~ report on what hasn't been discussed, to my knowledge. Perhaps you, or someone else from the PC will tell me what you intend to say to the plenum and suggest what kind of intervention we should undertake at the PSP mass rally, if any.

I had expected that perhaps in view of my earlier communications something would be said or done. In a telephone conversation with Ed he asked me what my schedule was. I told him that although I was working, my schedule was flexible and I was available for a meeting at any time. After that period I would ~~be~~ begin student teaching and meetings would be more difficult. I also indicated that I didn't take his inquiry seriously because letters and phone calls previous to that had seemed to have no effect. Unfortunately my scepticism proved correct.

The PSP has taken some very bad positions in the past period. They have allied with ultr-lefts and sectarians and to my knowledge made no effort to support the mass anti-war demo in D.C. and their coverage of it was lousy, in my opinion. We should discuss these developments. We can't sit back and merely watch how they develop and if they go wrong just wash our hands. They represent a tendency we should want to influence. Some of their militants were formerly in our movement and some have indicated interest in our opinions. We have not, unless I don't know all the facts, responded aggressively and positively. I don't believe this is a problem that can be thrown onto a local leadership. Only the PC can determine a policy that effects us throughout the country and internationally. I suggest the earliest possible organization of a discussion on the PSP, the recent split in the PIP and our general tasks ~~and~~ the developing Puerto Rican radicalization. within

Comradely,

P.S. The 100th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Puerto Rico will be celebrated on March 22 of this year. I propose that we either invite a guest writer, like Manuel Maldonado Denis to write an article on it for the Militant or that we do one ourselves. Again, this can only be determined by our general approach to the PSP. Here the question would be whether we wish to continue silent about their positions or whether we wish to chart a course of more aggressive action. Our rank and file must be educated and again it is up to the PC to take the lead.

cc. Doug J.