

COPY

April 23, 1952

Dear Olga (for REB-NEB)

Briefly and to the point. The Africa trip, while exciting and new and filled with points for us, has only convinced me the more that there is no substitute for Marxist Humanism; and, as an organized expression, it exists only in the U.S. Therefore, while Africa will certainly be in the book, it will not be the book. No doubt part of the reason is that subjectivity, in the sense of absorbed objectivity, can only be heard when one speaks the same language and in the continent where oppression has always worn a white face it is quite impossible to have a common language between white and black. But that is only part of the reason. The other, the greater part, is that it has been an against movement, not a for -- and by the time it got to be a "for" something, it had already been in power. However, the best, for example, in Nigeria, which I described in my report, the youth and worker-unionists now in opposition to the new, it still describes 1956 as the year of Suez and not the year of the Hungarian Revolution.

I am only two weeks here but I am convinced that when I have witnessed so-called center (Nigeria) and "left" (Ghana) and still colonial Gambia, I will have seen the three sides of the spectrum that will enable me to come to some conclusions without needing to spend as much of the organization's money to stay here the entire 2 months. I will therefore cut off a minimum of a week from the time of scheduled return and will therefore be back the last of June rather than July 5th. And I may cut off more than that from the African trip. It all depends when I get to Gambia, but as I view things now, I would rather spend an extra week with Harry McShane and some days in London and see whether we can nail down any publisher. For the one thing, I assure you, that is needed most of all, in Europe and in Africa, and for that matter USA is M&F.

To me the center of the September convention will have to revolve in the most comprehensive, serious, full-bodied, thoroughly thought-out and discussed, and not just "agreed to" but acted upon organizational development. I simply will not move away from that topic, no matter whether I'm giving Africa and the world report, or Saul is giving Literature report or John finances, and no one, absolutely no one, can talk of theory, unless theory is to mean organization. I ask all of you to think day and night to act day and night, to prepare day and night, to have results to discuss for those 3 days,

Yours,

Rae

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