

REB Minutes -- July 10, 1962

Present: All but Inez, excused

Agenda: I- Report on some ramifications of African and British trips; II Preliminary Draft of Finance Report; III Old and New business; IV G.M.

Before taking up the first point on the agenda, the Chairman stated that from now on every agenda of the REB is going to be completely different, and not just different in structural changes, but fundamentally different. There is something particular on every agenda, and in this case it is point I which the Chairman will present but after which there will be no discussion this week because it is essentially a preliminary part of the Perspectives discussion, will be actually be given next week, and after that, discussion can take place on both this week and next week's presentations. The second point in the "new" aspect of agendas is that discussion, when it does take place, must be full because there will be no second drafts read, no second reports given. Finally old and new business will combine both what used to be minutes and communications, plus old and new points we must take up.

I- Report on some ramifications of the African and British trips Raya stated that she did not feel the organization, or at least the REB, had a full appreciation of how completely new this trip was from any other ever undertaken. So fluid is the situation in Africa that nobody has it in its pocket yet, neither power bloc, nor even the "independent" bloc. Moreover, the people in Africa, the rank and file Africans who are the ones that really matter, don't care about the big bloc one way or the other, so that a small group which has a total philosophy can exert greater influence than one could theoretically even conceive, and even more, in actual practice. Thus, the Chairman was enabled to go as a reporter, as a Marxist-humanist, as a writer, ~~as a reporter, as a Marxist-humanist, as a writer,~~ all at the same time. Nowhere did she have to tread softly, and everywhere she had the chance to speak with both those in power and those in opposition, gathering material that nobody has been able to get before this.

The biggest negative in the trip was that the danger of Communism is not seen clearly enough. Thus a lot of workers say that they are willing to work for nothing for freedom, and while it is a high principle, the leaders find it all too easy to take advantage of the spirit. One of the most important things, however, is not to lump different situations together; thus, while they may seem to have a similar development in some respects, Ghana and Guinea are quite different. The most important thing of all discovered on the trip was the African's attitude to the party. (Whereas for us the emphasis was on having seen that the society cannot be free unless the individual is free -- the emphasis there, in their freedom struggles, is that the individual cannot possibly be free unless the society is free; that the individual would be nothing without the organization that is fighting for freedom.)

In regard to the British leg of the tour, the most important thing was the new quality in the Scottish group which has decided to establish an office, and gave themselves the deadline of the end of this summer. This development organizationally is connected to the development theoretically in which they now openly call themselves both Marxist-humanists, and as having the state-capitalist position. One other development there may result in our having a report from the Ukraine shortly.

Finally, the Chairman touched upon the new book, noting that the basis and pivot about which it was to revolve -- subjectivity absorbing objectivity -- must at this point be broken into two, before it can be broken down specifically. Thus, as distinct from the individual workers, it is an organization which can both move on the concrete level and make historic parallels. This cannot be developed further here, but is an important aspect of what has been developed as a result of the whole trip.

There were a few questions, but no discussion on the report until next week.

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