

Excerpts from a letter from Olga Domanski to Michael Connolly
written Sept. 30, 1979

It has been an eventful week, I think. The place is so perfect for what R.D. likes that every day has had something new to offer for her "breaks" — a new ^{to see or and think} rock, or a new beach — or a new path to the shore — or a new store to buy fresh white fish — or a place to buy a home baked pie — or whatever. And everywhere the beautiful and exciting Lake waters... There is so much "background" work that goes into every paragraph that finally appears in an article, or a chapter, or a letter that I have been trying quietly to keep a little "log" of what R.D. does (reads or discusses or dictates) each day, to steady later to try to absorb it all. One day she summarized the chapter (10) in Nettie's biography of R.D. — I have no idea how many times she has already summarized that chapter, but something new comes out each time, I know. Another day she summarized the Minutes of the Fifth Congress and parts of LT's History of the R.R. Another day she translated a 2nd speech of R.D. at that Congress. Then she rechecked her summaries and other earlier summaries of different works — and each day has dictated some new pages for the first chapter, or rewritten them — deciding what flows and what has to be left for another chapter or perhaps only a footnote. Throughout this first week Trotsky has been "bugging" her — and on Thursday she decided she would have to dictate some Notes for a possible TW for Dec. issue "on the 100th anniversary." It was ^{over} when she finally got several pages of these "Notes" down, that she returned to Ch. 1 and by mid-afternoon decided she definitely had the form sufficiently that all she needed was one or 2 pages to "sum it up" as a finish — and we went off to walk a short distance of the Bruce Trail which ends (or begins?) here at Tobermory. The next day R.D. began to dictate an actual TW on LT. But there is so much that she wants to

only when she has no choice so to gain concessions or shapes or shapes from
as personal ways of what this first week has been like. See your story - Long, etc.

bring in - and each paragraph or quote she finds tumbles
over all the related thoughts that come pouring out and then
have to be transposed somewhere else so as not to interfere
with the main concept she is trying to present - that the TW
form seemed actually confining. The idea of making it
a PPR instead seemed to free her - both to be able to make
it a more developed Thesis and not to feel restrained
because a "100th anniversary" is not the place or time
for so profound a critique as this will be... a critique of
LT's conciliationism in theory - his own Theory of Rev. Lenin -
which I certainly never understood in the way she is now de-
veloping it. The pages of LT's History of RR and 1905 and his
speech at the 5th Congress and the article Retreat translated from
Neue Zeit in 1910 have never been poured over the way they have
this week, I'm sure. So it will probably be a PPR and we can
then excerpt in Dec. No. 2 and use the PPR in so many ways
organically and in connection with new work that the not-
repeal of book & origin will light up like a neon banner, I think.
And as if all this were not enough for one short week, wait until
you learn all the new things about Lenin that RD has found.
Like his own self-criticism and defense of "What Is To Be Done?"
He says, at some length, in an article written in that famous
year of 1907 (Sept) after the London & Stuttgart Congresses (as a
Preface to a 12 yr collection of his works) exactly what RD
has concluded without knowing that VL actually said so
himself and that early. (In other words, RD concluded that it was
a pamphlet for a proceeding, but not to be raised to the level of
"Program" from his actions later throughout his life - but that is what
he says himself... RD found it in Vol 13 of CW at 2 AM one morning
while looking for something else.) Enough! Please don't jump the
gun by discussing this with the other comrades!!! I know RD
will want all such news reported in a very serious way and