

TO THE NEW NEB (To be read to all locals): July 14, 1984

Dear Colleagues:

The fact that the most momentous world events are occurring just when we are so busy with such an ordinary

task as moving that it requires skipping an issue of the paper makes me regret the fact that at the very, very brief 1st meeting of the newly elected NEB I made the announcement, as against what I have generally done to address a special letter to them; it will be impossible for me to do so this year. There are other pressures at the center-in-transit. We couldn't have even promised such a quick move if it weren't for the selfless Detroit local and those from other locals who stayed to help us pack. And I have staring me in the face impossible deadlines, like nothing short of an Introduction (which is actual both a summation over the expanse of 30 years as well as its relationship to the major objective events of yesterday and today, all the while Humanities Press is demanding "proof" --retyping of all the writings in some new form--before they sign that contract they promised) if it were not for Olga who began assembling them and Michelle who at once took the first batch so she can type them the minute she lands home, that too couldn't even be made as a promise, much less practicing it. At the same time I recalled that I promised Prof. Dupre I'd review his work on MARX'S SOCIAL CRITIQUE OF CULTURE. Considering that he was president of the HSA and made it possible for me to address them in the 1970s, I can hardly refuse --and the deadline our FTC tells me is AUGUST 16th.

Nevertheless I cannot see how I can skip this Letter and think also of the Letter of the Week as integral to it. After all, the 1984-5 Perspectives and the magnificent convention to which it was central focused on there being no divide between the immediate and the Universal when one, like Marxist Humanist, is articulating Marx's Marxism because EACH MOVES and that dialectic flows from ABSOLUTE METHOD. And by immediate here I do not mean the present world event that certainly will have a global impact on revolutionaries--today is the time that begins the trial of the great Polish revolutionary, Adam Michnik and the KOR colleagues like Jacek Kuron (See the NYT article by Michael Kaufmann in the 7/12/issue, which I feel sure Kevin and Mary will include in their "Our Life & Times" column).

No, I'm referring to the ORGANIZATIONAL immediately--the 1st post-convention local meetings. The 1984-5 Perspectives did end with Organizational Tasks and it was preceded by the philosophic highpoint: ABSOLUTE METHOD. The whole question of Abstract/Concrete flows from Absolute Method, the unchained dialectic. At the convention I focused on this as the creativity which, at one and the same time, works out a correct Notion (Concept) from the very start and thus it is that within the conceptual fabric, whether that be on the immediate or the so-called ultimate, the single dialectic for

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both objective and subjective releases EACH as it ~~MEETS~~
and recognizes its creativity.

Now then are immediate concrete which concerns us
as we look at it both within the conceptual framework and the
immediate context are those local meetings: Outside of the
Bay Area that is at once confronted with their organizer is
moving (On the way to N.Y. SHE HAS VOLUNTEERED TO COME TO CHICAGO
TO WORK WITH ME ON THAT INTRODUCTION EVEN WHILE CASES ARE BEING
UNCRATED). there is no reason that I can see why locals need
to discuss local reorganizations flowing from New Perspectives/
I doubt, for example, that Chicago would be rushing before
ever the center gets there to have new elections for local.
Nor is it only a question of attitude to center's new home.
Locally, it is a fact that no move was ever undertaken in
all 30 years of existence that was in any way separate
from, at one and the same time, Individual and Universal.
Let me begin when we were still only "On the Threshold" and
when none yet saw it what it has always been to "1917", the
expression, "Have Thumb Will Travel." The point was there
was always a philosophic ground of "revolution in permanence",
thought often unconscious, which meant that ~~spontaneous~~ a spon-
taneous movement had arisen, there it was that revolutionaries
were "off to," so that those who were anticipating it wanted
to explain their own indigenoussness there.

once. In the case of the state-capitalist tendency, it
broke/and for all with Trotskyism, the imperative was to leave
NY & its elitism and go to industrial center and the masses in
motion: But don't think that that abandonment of NY for Det.
was to wait for another 30 years before our present move to
Chicago, though the center was set. Here is philosophical-
theoretical ground for the various moves:

1) The PM had no sooner
ended than we began looking at the Bay Area as a most important
"sub-center": It materialized with Eugene and Deb moving to SF.

2) Though we most
passionately left NY from '53 on, never regretting the move,
PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION was no sooner completed that we con-
sidered it of the essence, to recreate a "cultural sub-center"
that was different than any other by being rooted in the
proletariat as well. Having a foot into academia, which we
certainly continue to this day, meant both sending former
NYers--John, Inez, Anne, Ray and disbanding Conn for NY--Kevin
to be grounded in NY.

3) The first tending
base at Chicago came before deciding upon it as center--it
came with both Black Dimension and American Labor (First Gen.
Strike) and the culture it was and we had sought there, which
didn't keep us from that important theoretical-practical decision
for which Ron and Terry volunteered.

4) The present move
of center is different, of course, but not separate. Indeed,

it involved the whole organization:

1st was to make sure Detroit does not feel only as "local" and not only because it remains international home of the Marxist-Humanist Archives, but because of what it will develop into; thus all our activities, from classes to the fact that Louhad been brought to Detroit Center as Black dimension, and, again, it was not only national but local as we made sure that the comrades who remained or newly came like *Layla* as much as Tommie as well as Steve and Susie, et could have ground for all 4 forces of revolution--WL as well as Labor, Black (Tommie) as well as from the 1950 (Andy); in a word, totality.

2nd though we were taking Kev from NY to center, we made sure that the one chosen via course she volunteered 1st) Mary had both NY roots and truly world experience with "Have Thumb, Will Travel".

I wish to end with that which the whole convention recognized as its task and that PROJECTION, PROJECTION, PROJECTION. Just as projection of Marxist-Humanism cannot be achieved without an organizational conclusion, so the philosophic ground has to be seen in historic periods. Take the French edition of CAPITAL and one of my preoccupations at this convention -- the ~~fact~~ that without the theory of state-capitalism we could not have achieved its culmination in Marxist-Humanism. I stressed that it isn't true that we didn't know and practice the new in the 1875 Fr.ed. of CAPITAL. The whole theory of s-c was centered on the concentration and centralization of capital in the hands of a single capitalist that still wouldn't save capitalism; and the whole question of the Fetishism of Commodities. What was new however in that same French edition is the new moments of Marx as it concerns both Acc. of Cap. and relationship of West to East. With RL WL KM we have worked out the whole question of "Marx, not Marx and Engels", but even that was touched way back in 1951, and we needed the release from those who didn't see the new on American soil, 1950, and the American revolution-to-be.

Yours,

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