

SEP 2 1976

John Barzman  
949 14th St #C  
S.F. Ca. 90403

August 30, 1976

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed Please find:

1. A letter of clarification addressed to the P.C.
2. A copy of a letter I am sending to supporters of the IMT in the SWP.

Comradely,

John Barzman

*John Barzman*

SEP 2 1976

John Barzman  
500 14th St. S  
Santa Monica, Ca. 90403

August 19, 1976

Political Committee, P.S.

Dear Comrades,

This letter is meant to clarify any possible misunderstanding that could arise from an incorrect reading of my report on the February 1976 meeting of the IEC ( See P.S. IIE No. 6 in 1976). Both Cde Hansen's article in the party's internal bulletin and Cde Barnes' report on relations with the OCHA at the party convention implied that I somehow forgot to observe an alleged "security rule" of the alleged "secret IMF faction". This is a ludicrous charge. Its only apparent purpose is to rekindle the prejudice and suspicion against the views of the IMF which the CP previously had created by misinterpreting the so-called "Barzman letter". However farcical this repetition of the same smear tactics may appear to those who have already seen the original, I feel compelled to offer the following clarifications for the record, lest my silence be interpreted as a confirmation of Cde Hansen's version.

1. The IMF is not a faction, and its discussions are not secret. Its members are not bound by any factional discipline.
2. At the time of the IEC, the IMF had no position on any United Secretariat motions concerning relations with the OCHA. Cde Alan Jones informs me that the IMF still has no position on this question.
3. My report on the IEC included a number of points which were not specifically mentioned in the plenary sessions of the IEC. These points included: reminders of arguments used in earlier phases of the discussion; an updating on the strength and activity of various sections of the P.I.; and other points which were discussed during the five days of the IEC, either at meetings of the United Secretariat, in caucus meetings, or in discussions between individual members of the IEC. Cde Sheppard's report on the IEC similarly took up issues which were not discussed at the plenary sessions of the IEC.
4. The positions which I attributed to the IMF were drawn from the IMF's discussions on its proposals for the next stages of building the Fourth International, and not from discussions on relations with the OCHA. The IMF's views on the building of the P.I. and on international democratic centralism have been stated many times in documents submitted to the P.I. as a whole (see in particular the world political resolution adopted by the Tenth World Congress and the document "In Defense of Leninism, In Defense of the Fourth International"). It was my feeling that the party as a whole would benefit from a recapitulation of these views.
5. No one in the IMF -- nor to my knowledge, in the Fourth International -- holds the position that discussions with groups outside the P.I. should

be conditional on a prior strengthening of the I.L. within the fourth International, or on these groups prior acceptance of the I.L. line.

It is only by using the false word-conversion formula (I.L. = I) which De Hansen himself puts forward that my report can be misconstrued into supplying evidence that the I.L. holds a totally factional position on the building of the I.L. However, even the evidence adduced by this "conversion" method of De Hansen stands in complete contradiction with the long-standing record of the I.L.

Comradely,

John Barzman



John Barzman  
 849 14th St. C  
 Santa Monica, Ca. 90403

August 19, 1976

Dear Comrades,

A number of members of the S-P who support the views of the International Majority Tendency were present at the party convention held a week ago. They were able to hold three caucus meetings.

The first heard reports on the status of various known I.M. supporters around the country. I reported that Cde Sheppard, in the course of a phone conversation in July, had notified me that the party leadership recognized the I.M. supporters in the S-P as a tendency with the right to correspond, caucus, and circulate drafts of documents to be submitted to the party.

Between the first and second caucus meeting, Cde Alan Jones, the representative of the United Secretariat and a member of the I.M. steering Committee, gave an informational report on the internal situation of the P.I. to all supporters of the I.M. who were present at the party convention. These included delegations from the Canadian R.S., Quebec G.H., Mexican LCI, and members of the Swedish S.M. and Swiss L.M.

The second caucus meeting was informed of the nominating commission's intention to offer a position to the I.M. supporters' tendency on the slate of full National Committee members which it would submit for election to the convention delegates. The caucus agreed to accept such a position on the N.C. and nominated Cde Barzman for the position. The convention then elected the slate including the comrade selected by the I.M. supporters' caucus.

A third caucus meeting discussed how best to influence and win over the S-P to the political positions of the I.M. It was resolved that a tendency based on support to the platform of the I.M. in the international discussion would be maintained. This was felt to be particularly important in view of the opening of the pre-Eleventh World Congress discussion.

Cdes Barzman, Laird, and Matson were asked to solicit guidance from the S-P leadership on the norms a tendency was expected to observe. In particular, comrades wished to obtain clarification on any limits on personal correspondence which might exist, and on the procedure, if any, by which a tendency could consider and decide on the extension of its platform. Cde Alan Jones requested to attend such a meeting.

I approached Cde Lew Jones twice and Cde Sheppard once with a request for guidance. Both comrades responded with surprise and implied that everything was already perfectly clear. When pressed, Cde Sheppard finally stated a discussion could be held but that the leadership comrades were too busy at that time. As a result, no such discussion was held at the convention.

In view of this situation, I suggest that any comrades who have questions about their functioning in the tendency should contact either their organizer, the National Committee member present in their area, or the National Office.

I am sending this letter to all comrades who have informed me that they support the views of the I.M. In addition, a copy is being forwarded to the SWP leadership.

Comradely,

John Barzman



To: Greg L., Garth C., Ann Marie C., Debby L., Tom L., Randy P.,  
Lanny L., David R., Jana P., Peter K., Ted S., Cathy H., Judy H.,  
Mark L., Rod S., Adam S., Alan S., Celia S., Bob L., Berta L.,  
John S., V., Jim H., Martha S., Lee H., Gerard S.

Cc: SWP PC

**COPY**

X-R

September 3, 1976  
106 Felch Street  
Ann Arbor, Mi. 48103

To: John Barzman, with copy to  
SWP National Office

Dear John,

We were surprised when we read your letter of August #9, which was sent to twenty-six members of the SWP, and which we received only today. We did not attend the third caucus of IMT supporters at Oberlin which "resolved that a tendency based upon support to the platform of the IMT in the international discussion would be maintained," and, as you know, we would not have voted in favor of such a resolution. Our post-convention position remains the same as it has been ever since we withdrew from the Internationalist Tendency caucus, and as we informed our city-wide organizer during the recent pre-convention discussion; We are individual members of the SWP who ideologically support the International Majority's political positions (with some criticisms, which were put in writing).

Since your letter also seems to be a record of other caucus deliberations, we think it worth mentioning that your statement that "the caucus agreed to accept such a position on the NC" erroneously glosses over the fact that the vote was not unanimous.

Of course, those of us who are individual ideological supporters of the IMT, and those of you who have chosen to maintain a tendency in the international discussion, are likely to have some friendly collaboration in the future under the proper circumstances--especially when voting caucuses are organized around documents in preconvention discussion, and during authorized meetings of IMT supporters at conventions and conferences.

Comradely,

*Al Wald*

Alan Wald, Detroit SW

*Celia Stodola*

Celia Stodola, Detroit SW