

TO: P.C.

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COPY

TRANSLATION

Political Bureau of the Ligue
Communiste Révolutionnaire
section of the Fourth International
Montreuil
December 10, 1976

SWP Political Committee

Dear Comrades,

We received the copy you sent us of your most recent correspondence with the OCI, concerning the "Amiens affair."

We are very surprised to see you taking on an intermediary role in this way between the OCI and the LCR and United Secretariat.

We think it would have been better if you had responded to the OCI by letting them know that their letter had apparently been sent to the wrong destination and address, and that it should have gone to the United Secretariat and to the Political Bureau of the LCR (with, of course, a copy to the SWP for your information).

This fact, as well as your recent meeting with the OCI in Paris without our knowledge and in violation of the United Secretariat resolutions (cf. the attached resolution passed by our Central Committee), leads us to ask that you explain your attitude and change your policy in this matter from now on, with regard to both the French section and the leadership of the International.

With communist greetings,
s/ Robs
for the Political Bureau

cc: United Secretariat

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resolution of French C.C. as attachment:

TRANSLATION

Motion of the Central Committee of the LCR, French Section of the Fourth International, Concerning SWP/OCI Contacts.

The CC of the LCR protests the fact that a delegation from the Political Committee of the SWP, passing through Paris, saw fit to go to the headquarters of the OCI and while there to discuss the Amiens affair with leaders of that organization, before meeting with the LCR leadership and without even informing them or asking their opinion on the advisability of such a discussion. All this is contrary to motions adopted by the United Secretariat (see Documentation Internationale No. 8 -- November 1976 the French IIDB). The CC encharges the Political Bureau to request an explanation from the leadership of the SWP for such conduct.

TRANSLATION

Political Bureau of the Ligue Communiste
Révolutionnaire, French section of the
Fourth International
Montreuil, December 10, 1976

United Secretariat

Dear Comrades,

A few days ago we received IIDB Vol 13, No. 5, November 1976.

We are surprised to learn that an article appears as an appendix on p. 22, entitled, "Reply by Matti to the LCR Political Bureau motion of July 23."

This calls for several clarifications:

- 1) This "reply" has never been published by us, neither in mimeographed form nor in an internal bulletin of the French section, nor have we brought it to the attention of any leading body of the International. By what means has it now gotten into this bulletin, which is published with the authority of the United Secretariat? This is the first question to which we would like a clear answer.
- 2) The question of the position taken by the LCR Political Bureau on the SWP convention was taken up at our Central Committee meeting at the end of August, and a written summary of this discussion was published in our internal bulletin (Cahiers d'Etudes et de Recherches socialistes No. 47, pp. 10-11). It was upon the request of Matti himself that his "reply", which we had at first intended to publish in mimeographed form, was not included in the internal bulletin containing the summary of the Central Committee meeting. Its publication in the IIDB, therefore, is all the more regrettable.

By the way, why doesn't the resolution passed by a majority of the Central Committee appear in the appendix?

What criteria were applied in the choice of documents on this question that the United Secretariat was planning to bring to the attention of the entire International? We think it would have been better to consult beforehand with the leadership of the French section, or at least to have informed them within a reasonable amount of time of the decision taken.

3) In view of this, we are asking that the next IIDB include a rectification, as well as the resolution passed last August by a majority of our Central Committee (attached).

We are hoping to receive a speedy reply to this letter.

Fraternal greetings,
s/Robs for the Political Bureau

cc: SWP Political Committee

14 Charles lane
New York, N.Y.
December 17, 1976

Central Committee of the LCR,
French Section of the Fourth International

Dear Comrades,

The Bureau of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International has forwarded to us your motion stating among other things that "a delegation from the Political Committee of the SWP, passing through Paris, saw fit to go to the headquarters of the OCI and while there to discuss the Amiens affair with leaders of that organization, before meeting with the LCR leadership and without even informing them or asking their opinion on the advisability of such a discussion."

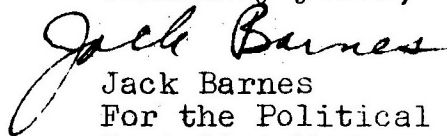
The facts are different. Three members of the Socialist Workers Party visited the OCI headquarters to discuss with Comrade Lambert his speaking at a protest meeting to be held in London over the frame-up campaign being waged by the Healyites against leading Trotskyists, the Socialist Workers Party, and the Fourth International. This was in accordance with the decision made by the Bureau of the United Secretariat to support the protest meeting, and the wish of the leadership of the IMG to know definitely whether Comrade Lambert could be counted on to be one of the speakers.

The speaking engagement was arranged satisfactorily with Comrade Lambert. In the course of the conversation, he gave us a copy of a letter sent to the editor of Rouge concerning the Amiens affair, in which the OCI leadership denied any responsibility for the reported incident.

The three members of the SWP reported all of this at once to a leading member of the LCR in Paris. No norms of democratic centralism or decisions of the United Secretariat were violated.

So far as the Amiens incident was concerned, we urged the LCR to conduct an objective inquiry into the facts, offering our opinion that the LCR should take the initiative in seeking a joint effort with the OCI to ascertain the truth. We also urged the LCR to publish a political response to the letter of the OCI proposing a common slate in the seventh arrondissement of Paris, so as not to leave the initiative on this matter solely in the hands of the OCI.

Comradely yours,



Jack Barnes
For the Political Committee
Socialist Workers Party

cc: United Secretariat

C O P Y

C O P Y

C O P Y

Brussels
November 17, 1976

Political Committee, Socialist Workers Party
New York, N. Y.

Dear Comrades,

Attached please find two motions for your information. The first is a motion adopted by the Central Committee of the Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire, French section of the Fourth International. The second motion was adopted by the United Secretariat of the Fourth International at its November 13-14, 1976, meeting.

Comradely,
s/ Otto, for the Bureau of the United Secretariat

TRANSLATION

Motion of the Central Committee of the LCR, French Section of the Fourth International, Concerning SWP/OCI Contacts.

The CC of the LCR protests the fact that a delegation from the Political Committee of the SWP, passing through Paris, saw fit to go to the headquarters of the OCI and while there to discuss the Amiens affair with leaders of that organization, before meeting with the LCR leadership and without even informing them or asking their opinion on the advisability of such a discussion. All this is contrary to motions adopted by the United Secretariat (see Documentation Internationale No. 6 -- November 1976 the French IIDB). The CC encharges the Political Bureau to request an explanation from the leadership of the SWP for such conduct.

Motion of the United Secretariat

The United Secretariat approves the request made by the French LCR Central Committee and strongly recommends to the SWP Political Committee to reply to the request. The United Secretariat further recommends to the SWP to comply with the recommendations made in the motion "Relations With Trotskyist Organizations or Groups Claiming to Be Trotskyist, which are Outside the Fourth International" adopted at the July 3-4, 1976 meeting of the United Secretariat.