

Translation-December 13, 1976 letter from Marcelo...1

Dear Mary Alice,

Thanks for your letter and the good news. I have also received a full set--up to November--of the IB, DB.

The news from France is good as well as the news that the Congress will be postponed. I hope there will be time and the chance for an in-depth discussion. On this, I want to report to you that we are ^lplanning to prepare a document with the positions that in general you already are aware of. In any case, before beginning such a job, I would like to know if Comrade Hansen has some plans on this-- something like "Argentina, Bolivia: A Balance Sheet"...but for 1977.

Given what your letter did not say, I ~~deduce~~ deduce that there is nothing new at the U.Sec. on Argentina. However, I think that this is too great an error not to bring certain consequences with it. There is a very fluid situation here. ~~and~~ ^{forces} (the Trotskyists) are totally ~~fragmented~~ ^{fragmented} in face of it ~~with~~ ^{and lack a} political presence. I don't think it is ^s nationalist feeling that ~~leads~~ ^{lead} me to be convinced that the 11th W.C. must discuss and deal with what has happened here and what must be done in the future. The fact that in the latest meetings and documents of the International, as well as on the agenda of the upcoming congress, Argentina does not appear-- nor do the other countries of Latin America-- ^{represents} ~~is~~ not only a failure of historic responsibility by the International in view of the line maintained over the last years. It ^{indicates,} also ~~is~~ above all, a completely incorrect characterization of the political situation of this country and the prospects and possibilities the ideas of the Fourth International have here. I won't go on at length about this. ~~you~~ (you already know that given the pulverization of all shades of Peronism; the enormous weakening of the bureaucracy and the lack

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of mass reformist parties; the ~~disorientation~~ ^{fragmentation} and ~~discreditation~~ ^{loss of prestige} of Maoism, centrism, and guerrillaism; I think that ~~the~~ ^{the} Trotskyists ~~to~~ ^{to} have the concrete possibility before ~~us~~ ^{them} of becoming a mass workers party. All the seriousness of what we are suffering now is no more than the dark side of the formidable possibilities that objectively exist. In summary, I think it is necessary for the World Congress to discuss a balance sheet that goes beyond all tactical considerations and ~~to~~ ^{to} propose the general lines for the coming period in Argentina.

When I say that the Trotskyists here are ~~fragmented~~ ^{fragmented} and lack a political presence, I am not forgetting ~~or~~ ^{or} excluding the PST. Its activity is nonexistent. Or if it exists, it is ~~limited~~ ~~to~~ ~~nothing~~ ~~at~~ ~~all~~ ~~and~~ ~~is~~ ~~nothing~~ ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~a~~ ~~very~~ ~~undeveloped~~ ~~thing~~ ~~that~~ ~~neither~~ ~~the~~ ~~workers~~ ~~nor~~ ~~the~~ ~~other~~ ~~tendencies~~ ~~can~~ ~~see~~. It would be erroneous, or at least premature, to conclude the the PST no longer exists. However, it would be equally erroneous to identify the current PST with the PST of 1973-74. The reports we have add three striking elements to this visible paralysis--an extremely high level of desertion by its members, an opposition current within the ~~party~~ ^{sector of the} ~~party~~ ^(the PST calls the "intellectuals") (we don't know how organized it is or what its political positions are), problems among the members of the ~~leadership~~ ^{top} ~~leadership~~ ~~itself~~, which have led some members--among them, some of the most important ones--to be ~~s~~ ^sanctioned. (For example, G. has been disqualified for five years from exercising any leadership positions. G. is one of the ~~members~~ ^{longtime} members of the PST whom you know.) All this information comes from a comrade who meets with V., with whom--at the same time--we are meeting regularly with the perspective of working together. ~~Be that as it may,~~ ^{Be that as it may,} (keeping in mind that on the one hand we cannot know with certainty what is going on inside the PST while ~~at the same time~~ ^{on the other hand} our situation is far from being very good,

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of living on the Lovely Lower East Side!) But to be serious, it is not a question of my not wanting to do it. Beyond all the problems such a decision would imply, there is one decisive factor--I am deeply convinced of the openings the Argentine workers movement will offer in the short run. It will not be a period of harvest but of sowing. And I feel I am needed here for that task and that is why I am staying. We cannot send other comrades because those who would be able to go must stay here.

I think that during the first four months of the year ~~we will~~

will take place

events ^{er/} that will allow us to make clear decisions.

Tensions

are at the breaking point and they will have to be resolved. If at last the workers movement were to be smashed and if some one of us were to survive, then he or she should go into exile. Not now. Along the same lines, if new prospects open up and we succeed in consolidating a group (inside, outside, at the side of, or against the PST), we will have to send comrades to be educated as cadres and to make use of your rich experience. I hope that, after this period of transition, there will still be some work for us there.

With regard to the translation of books, of course I keep to what we ^{spoke about} (It is not me but another comrade who will translate.) So I hope you are sending me work. By the way, is the translation into Spanish of the pre-congress discussion guaranteed? Perhaps we could begin by doing that. It is only a suggestion. You will figure out what is most appropriate.

Finally, it pleased me very much to learn that there was no opposition to my request despite the character of my letter. As I told you, I am hoping for the chance ^{be part of} to an active, ongoing discussion of the International through this step.

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To accomplish this I am of course willing to travel if it proves ~~xxxx~~ necessary or to collaborate in the way that the LTF leadership feels necessary. Of course, the first thing will be to try to clearly explain our positions, to objectively report the experience undergone here by the International in its different forms, and to draw some conclusions. In addition, despite our limited possibilities, a task we want to accomplish is to make the discussion in the International and the main documents of the faction known.

For now, everything you can do for us, you are already doing. Thanks.

Fourth Internationalist Greetings,
s/Marcelo