

Xs: PC

DEC 9 1978

Dec. 3, 1978

Larry Seigel
Political Bureau

Dear Larry,

I will not be able to attend the NC on Monday or Teusday. My foot injury has kept me out of work for two full weeks and has limited my ability to perform my job this last week. It is simply not possible to take an additional day off in such short a period of time.

I would be more than happy to participate in a discussion of Cuba any time during the weekend. I believe, and I am sure all the New York comrade also agree, that the best way to organize a discussion of serious political differences for the coming convention is by having a discussion first in the National Committee. I will be willing to do anything possible to facilitate this. Coming Monday or Tuesday is not possible.

Enclosed is a statement which I wish to be distributed to the NC so the comrades will be aware of how I would vote if I were able to be present.

Comradely,
Tim Wohlforth

(over)

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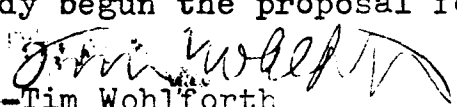
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GH

Dec. 3, 1978

Statement to the National Committee:

1. I wish to be recorded as voting opposed to the motion passed by the Political Committee on Cuba in September. I hold that Cuba is a deformed workers state dominated by a bureaucratic caste which can only be removed by political revolution. Our strategy must be to construct a section of the Fourth International in Cuba dedicated to that task. At the same time we continue to defend Cuba, as we do all workers states, against imperialism.
2. I feel it is the responsibility of the National Committee to instruct the Political Committee with the task of writing a resolution on the present nature of Cuba. No one can claim Cuba today is exactly like it was in 1961 when the last party resolution was written on the question or even 1963 when the last international resolution was written on the question. The Political Committee motion only declares what Cuba isn't. The Political Committee must now make clear what it is and document this opinion with facts.
3. I wish to be recorded as opposed to the "tilt" in party line on Ethiopia. This "tilt" places our party in a position of actual opposition to the right of self determination of the Somali peoples of the Ogaden. In addition our party is presently covering up for the traitorous role of both Cuba and the Soviet Union in giving Ethiopia military support while it carries on a reactionary war of genocide against the Eritrean peoples. For instance the Militant was silent when Castro traveled to Ethiopia and there declared his support for the territorial integrity of the Ethiopian capitalist state. Castro then hurried home to welcome the president of fascist Spain.
4. I am convinced that the line on Ethiopia was changed in order to create "evidence" to support the preconceived notion that Cuba was not yet a deformed workers state. Thus the discussion of the present nature of Cuba has a certain immediacy.
5. I propose that the question be opened up in the party for literary discussion immediately following the plenum. The discussion can begin with the publication of the presentations and summaries given at the Oberlin expanded PC meeting, my almost two year old statement on Cuba, this statement, the PC motion on Cuba, and any material coming out of this plenum. The oral discussion can thus be prepared a bit in writing prior to opening as part of the pre-convention discussion this Spring.
6. I wish to make clear my opposition to the decision of the national center to hold classes on Cuba which present only the position of the PC majority. These classes are now being held throughout the party prior to even an NC discussion. The question is not the right constitutional of the national office to hold such classes, but rather politically what is the best way to proceed in ensure the proper atmosphere for a fair and objective and unprejudiced internal party discussion. However since such classes have already begun the proposal for a literary discussion takes on more urgency.


--Tim Wohlforth

Full Member National Committee

Xs: PC

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
December 10, 1978

Tim Wohlforth
San Francisco

Dear Tim,

This is to confirm Jack's phone conversation with you yesterday afternoon.

We have double-checked with Joel and Doug and they confirmed that many of the NCers who are in industry cannot be sure of being able to stay past Sunday night. So we can't responsibly postpone to Monday the discussion on the world political situation, the political report, and the organization of the turn. Thus there is no way we can have the entire Cuba point on Saturday or Sunday. However, we've reorganized the entire schedule so that we get the majority and minority reports on Cuba finished early enough Sunday evening so that you can make the last flight out with no problem, which is at 10:00 p.m. (AA95). If things go according to schedule, you can make the 9:30 p.m. flight (UA21). We have reservations for you on both.

To make this possible, the New York local comrades will make up a couple of one-hour lunches for us. I'm sure the comrades would prefer to hear the majority and minority reports on Cuba to the more lengthy meal breaks.

Bruce proposes that you take all of the 1 1/4 hours equal time, if you want it, and that he not give a minority report. He doesn't think the Cuba discussion at this plenum should focus on state capitalism. He thinks the expanded PC meeting at Oberlin thoroughly aired the state capitalist point of view. Whatever new things the comrades who hold the state capitalist point of view have to say they will contribute to the literary discussion. He proposes that the comrades who hold the state capitalist position take the floor in the discussion with the regular time limit.

Of course, what would be best by far, if things work out, would be for you to get Monday off or even get the green light to go in Monday evening. We can finish the entire discussion on Cuba and your and my summaries on Monday in time for you to catch TWA flight 753 (nonstop) that gets you to San Francisco at 7:05 p.m. We've got reservations for you on this just in case things work out on Monday.

Comradely,


Larry