

April 10, 1974

TO MEMBERS OF THE P.C.

Dear Comrades,

Attached is a report from John B. on the convention of the German section.

Comradely,

Mary-Alice

A 1 0 4

April 4, 1974

Dear Mary Alice,

Just a short note on the conclusion of the German conference. The voting took place shortly after I talked to you. The final result was 141 for the IMT, 136 for Kompass and 25 for the LTT. This is the number of members ~~not~~ not delegates. It does not include candidates, that is anyone who joined after October 1. There are about 75 candidates. Also ~~some~~ about 10 or 15 did not vote.

Herwart had indicated that he thought Kompass would agree to form the majority of the leadership if the difference were only 2 or 3. When the results of the vote were announced, Herwart immediately made a proposal that the largest minority form the leadership. This appeared to be a proposal from the Kompass leadership. His proposal ~~was~~ for the Central Committee was 16 IMT, 12 Kompass and 2 LTT. He also proposed that since all documents were defeated there was no way to distinguish between the documents. Therefore the main document of each tendency should be published at the same time with an introduction written jointly by the three tendencies. Also a convention should be held in November and the discussion bulletin remain open. This eventually passed with amendments that the convention be no later than January and the bulletin be limited to 50 pages a month.

However, there was first a discussion that tended to harden the factional lines. Herwart apparently had not consulted on his proposal in advance. After a recess for a caucus, Mintoff opposed three points. 1. There had to be some way of making the ~~IMT~~ IMT document more important for example publishing it first. 2. the convention could not be held that quickly and the new leadership should decide when to hold it. 3. The discussion should be closed now ~~and~~ and the new leadership should decide when to open it.

Herwart and Dieter opposed this along the lines that all documents were defeated. We must <sup>have</sup> a clear leadership which will test its line, but you cannot imply that the convention approved one line over any other. Also since the convention had ~~not~~ rejected all lines the discussion had to continue and we needed a relatively quick convention. This convention had to decide these questions. What was clear was that no one trusted the IMT to make an objective decision.

Pierre then spoke. He said that he had refrained from the discussion till now on the political debate, but the role of the international leadership was to help sections solve organizational problems like this. He pointed to the successful intervention in Britain. The majority of his contribution was his "personal opinion" that he saw no need for a lot of continued discussion. He tended to favor all of Mintoff's proposals. His contribution was not well received by the majority of people there.

The LTT members think that ~~if~~ Herwart's insistence on the 2 to 3 difference before he would accept the leadership indicates that he really did not want the leadership. They also think it is possible that Kompass did not have enough

people who would move to Frankfurt to provide a day to day leadership. The 3 or 4 central Kompass leaders declined to serve on the Political Bureau at the Central Committee meeting following the convention. Here Pierre attacked them for having a similar policy as the LTF toward the US and the bureau. I decided not to talk to Herwart the next day because I felt it just might look like we were putting too much pressure on him.

*No one has seen Herwart since the conf. I talked to Dieter last night. He has disappeared.*

I think the LTF did well. Some of their contributions were a little abstract, but the tone and the thrust were good. What they attempted to do was put forward a positive approach for activity for the section. They concentrated on youth work, women's liberation and a balance sheet of Vietnam work for a guide to anti-imperialist work. There has not been enough experience in these to concretize it enough. Seven different people made contributions, most of them for the first time. They had planned and organized their contributions and collaborated in their preparation. This is really their first experience with a convention because in reality there was no pre world Congress convention.

*We cannot tell yet  
if that is opportunity*

They were pleased with the results and feel they have further opportunities to win support. My impression is that the Kompass supporters are very open to our ideas and the results of this conference will increase their openness. Most of them remain quite eager to talk to North Americans and Argentines.

Also Krasno was there. He said that the Central Committee had dissolved Centre le Courant. The reason was that they were a national tendency on international issues. The international discussion is closed now there now and the national discussion has not opened. Therefore there is no basis for their existence. This of course does not apply to the majority or the LTF because they are international tendencies. I am going to try to get down to see people there before the US.

Comradely,

*John*  
John

p.s The Chile Committees decided not to participate in the Frankfurt meetings. It is not clear if Lotta Continua will continue with it next.