

February 20, 1968

Dear Friends:

As you know from the announcement at last year's Plenum, our East European co-thinker had written what was to have been Chapter I. of the book that was to deal with the economic reality on a world scale. We did not send it around for discussion. ~~It was not~~ I do so now because I do not consider that I will be able to use it as is, both because our styles are quite different and because the economic facts that I will use will be quite subordinate to the philosophic context. Yet it is important to have a discussion of it, as it was written. If by the time you have scheduled such a discussion, within a month or so, I have completed Chapter I., as I see it now, then you can discuss both chapters simultaneously, but there is no need to wait. So far as I know now, there will be very little repetition, perhaps a table or two.

Indeed, I do not believe that either his or my version will constitute Chapter I. The more I work with the thing, the less I can see starting with the present. It is impossible to reverse history or philosophy, even where looking into the past is only for purposes of illuminating the present. In a word, much as we all groaned under the weight of Hegel, this is precisely where we will have to start. The only way we will be able to make the readers realize the present ahead of Part III. will be by extending the Introduction and that I will do. I hope to be able to submit it by March 20th.

I will be in New York from April 4 to the 12th or 13th. If there is any place I can get to from there within a day, then I might make such a trip, but on the whole it is a one-week New York proposition and not a national tour.

Yours,

Raya

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