

Jan.22,1981

To WL, N&L (Copy to REB-NEB)

Dear Sisters:

Generally I do not write about an event that hasn't happened but since I must disappear with Olga and begin the editing of the book while what has happened in the WL field does open some possible new avenues never before opened to us, I thought I should let you know about, though we do not know whether it actually can become real. One of these happenings you will be reading about in the current issue of N&L and that is the letter from Tatyana Mamcnva with both her suggestion for an International Feminist Union and her new of Woman in Russia (and I already informed you of it in the letter of the week.)

What suddenly gave it yet a newer approach, at least in my mind, is that I received a friendly letter from Sheila Rowbotham who both talked of the 2,000 who attended her call for a "Beyond Fragments" conference, and the interest that some from British SWP who are friendly to her are showing in our group, based on the letter I sent her regarding all the errors they made in reference to me.

"Therefore" (it is so crucial a category in Hegel that I dare not use it in this context without putting it in quotation marks) I decided that if Sheila would wish to make a meeting for Olga and Tatyana would likewise wish to take advantage of Olga coming to West Europe in summer, and if the French as well as the Russians and who else in Europe or USA answered her appeal for an international, would hold some preliminary int.conf. then ...In any case, I made that suggestion to Sheila and we'll see what results.

At the same time, of course, that I do not really know whether Tatyana holds Marxist views, but that I cannot understand how anyone can possibly read our paper and not know we are Marxist-Humanists, whether part of WL or otherwise. And just, to make sure, on how we relate WL to the revolutionary movement I also enclosed Ch.6 of book, and of course she has already had 3 chapters. Sheila has not committed herself to anything but she does emphasize socialist feminism and did stress that the 2,000 were not all women but "of mixed sex." If anything serious results that, though not Marxist-Humanist--there are some anarchists, I know--is revolutionary socialist and has an international perspective with concern for theory, then that really would open an epoch.

I've begun sending around some of the draft on Part II so that there be no confusion whatever on the fact that, WL or otherwise, any movement that seeks to keep apart from Marx's philosophy of revolution would be retrogression. 1981 simply has to be better on WL!

Yours,



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