

YCB Olga please  
Jan. 30, 1967

To the NEB

Dear Colleagues:

I'd like to consult you on a little theoretical problem. After much "Labor, seriousness, patience and suffering of the negative" I have completed the first and most difficult chapter of the entire book, "Hegel's Absolutes As New Beginnings." I need a dialogue with the members on it, and much of it will have to be read to them; no matter how difficult the language there sounds, we must break into the conspiracy of silence against the masses having entry into that "allegated language" that nevertheless has something most vital to say. And I'm sorry to say that by conspiracy of silence I include also Marxists. In any case, it is a must with us, that no problem, and no stage of development is to be kept from the rank and file.

Therefore, we must make sure that some day—not a workday— they have hours for concentration with me, and I would like to propose that in every place I visit this spring, a Sunday, or most of it, is set aside for this. Meanwhile I have asked LA to make themselves responsible for typing a copy for each local. And I would like to ask NY to do the same for Chapter 2, one-third of which is ready now, and if Dick will respond that it's o.k. he or Mike or whoever will type, I'll begin forwarding it to you at once. This is a much easier chapter far, although still on Hegel, it is Marx on Hegel, and I even hope that after this chapter is digested, the friends will finally be able to read Marx himself in those Early Essays which contain the jaw-breaking Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic.

Now this is another problem, if NY types a set of copies of this chapter—and it should all be typed no later than the end of February so that each local can have the whole month of March to study or read or what not, but I think it would be wrong if the local did it as a local without my being present. Therefore the month for study is for each individual to come to the organizer and read it there for himself.

The important point is that, however it is handled before I come, we have a full day conference when I come on just the problem of the book, with say a morning session for Hegel and an afternoon session on Marx. I am anxious for serious discussion, and I do not care whether any outsiders are involved or not. It definitely is not a public meeting, but if friends wish to invite close sympathizers, or if they know philosophers who would be willing to attend, and listen, then I in turn will be most anxious to listen to them as well, provided only it is not an interruption of each paragraph as if we were making debaters' points. The movement of the whole has to be followed, and the reasons for grappling with this must be understood by any invited to participate. The whole of this part is to be called Why Hegel? Why Now? It has three parts:

- 1) Hegel's Absolutes as Beginnings.
- 2) Marx's Transcendence of and Return to Hegel: a) The 1840s: from A Critic of Hegel to Author of The Communist Manifesto.  
b) The 1850s: The "Economist"  
c) The 1860s and 1870s: Capital,  
when the masses are not in motion  
the Paris Commune, and still Hegel

3) Lenin's Ambivalence and Shock of Recognition of Hegel.  
I do not know whether I will be able to get to Chapter 3 because I'm not quite as incommunicado as I would like to be; there is always something on that objective situation, and Mao is so busy creating his own "civil war" that it may make it impossible for me to finish my minimum assignment for these 2 months. But in any case there will be plenty for the friends to study and discuss with me, so let me hear from you, or rather let Olga know, whether you can arrange for one full day theoretical conference when I see you in Spring.

Yours, Raya

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