

Dear Raya,

1/12/81

JAN 16 1981

Thanks for your letter & card  
& for the pamphlet which looks  
very interesting. I will pass it around  
when I've finished with it. I know  
David Widery is interested in the  
story of your group & will like  
to read it. I chuckled at your  
response to Pete Goodwin. I know him  
slightly - a very stiff-necked young man  
who has always opposed women  
liberation. Those people at the centre  
of S.W.P. are absolutely opposed to any  
criticism - My comments on them were  
really quite mild. I did not want to just  
use gossip traps against them. However  
locally there are still some non-sectarian  
people involved. We had a conference  
around against the Parsons & some  
S.W.P. people came. One at least helped  
start a local left forum in York.  
The conference plan was pretty  
chaotic & some feminists & gays were  
critical of the planning group. Really  
we had seen several political as  
one element along with others. Some  
people felt it should be the main  
element. Anyway since then there have  
been several local meetings and  
people seem to want another national  
conference. Nearly 2,000 people  
came to the conference. We'd estimated  
about 1,000 would come. For many  
young people it was their first mixed  
sex conference! We had a good range  
of people, members of trade unions,  
C.W.D., ecology groups, shop stewards,

15261

feminists - mainly socialist feminists  
 gays, members of 174 Swp. Labor  
 Party, liberal Party, Many brands  
 of anarchists - including the invariable  
 situationist who just up the phony.  
 We had around 200 children  
 including about 40 under 2's! There  
 is a baby boom here.  
 I haven't written as I've been  
 ill with an infection from my ear  
 which spread to my tubes. I was in  
 bed for ages & had to rest completely.  
 Everything got neglected & I'm just catching  
 up now. Love Sheila

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS (PLEASE SHOW YOUR POSTCODE)

S. Rowbotham

Brixton

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT MAY BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

SECOND FOLD HERE

BY AIR MAIL  
 AIR LETTER  
 PAR AVION AEROGRAMME



Be properly addressed  
 POSTCODE IT

Sheila Rowbotham  
 London, E.5.

*Copy note new address  
 of the letter to M  
 will not be sent out for  
 Mrs - Press  
 The next time  
 I'll also keep - as I  
 will be to get ch-  
 d. U.S.A.*

Raya Dinayevskaya  
 News & letters  
 2832 East Grand Blvd.  
 Room 316, Detroit  
 Michigan 48211  
 U.S.A.

15262

11/12/81

Dear Raya:

Thanks for your letter and card and for the pamphlet which looks very interesting. I will pass it around when I've finished with it. I know David Widgery is interested in the history of your group and will like to read it. I chuckled at your response to Pete Goodwin. I know him slightly -- a very stiff-necked young man who has always opposed women's liberation. Those people at the centre of S.W.P. are absolutely opposed to any criticism. My comments on them were really quite mild. I did not want to just use gossipy things against them. However locally there are still some non-sectarian people involved. We had a conference around Beyond the Fragments and some SWP people came. One at least helped start a local left forum in York. The conference plenary was pretty chaotic and some feminists and gays were critical of the planning group. Really we had seen sexual politics as one element along with others. Some people felt it should be the main element. Anyway since then there have been several local meetings and people seem to want another national conference. Nearly 2000 people came to the conference. We'd estimated about 1000 would come. For many young people it was their first mixed sex conference! We had a good range of people, members of trades councils, CND, ecology groups, shop stewards, feminists -- mainly socialist feminists, gays, members of I.M.G., SWP, Labor Party, Liberal Party. Many brands of anarchists, including the inevitable Situationists who up the plenary. We had around 200 children -- including about 40 under 2's! There is a baby boom here.

I have not written as I've been ill with an infection from my coil which spread to my tubes. I was in bed for ages and had to rest completely. Everything got neglected and I'm just catching up now.

Love,  
Sheila

15263