

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

March 29, 1977

No. 6

To the Leninist Trotskyist Faction Coordinators

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed are the following items:

1) A March 28, 1977, letter from Barry Sheppard informing the LTF of the resignation from the LTF of Comrade Roberto and some other comrades of the Liga Comunista of Spain.

2) Declarations of Central Committee members of the Liga Comunista of Spain in response to the political views advanced by Comrade Roberto.

3) A copy of the cover of the Joint Internal Information Bulletin of the ISA/LSO (Canada) and the RMG (Canada), No. 1, March 1977.

Comradely,

Caroline Lund

Caroline Lund *(initials)*

New York
March 28, 1977

Dear Comrades,

The following declarations are by leaders of the Liga Comunista (Communist League), one of the sympathizing organizations of the Fourth International in Spain. They were made at the time of a plenum of the LC Central Committee held in January.

At that time, Comrade Roberto, a member of the International Executive Committee and of the Steering Committee of the LTF, informed the LC leadership that he no longer considered the Soviet Union to be a workers state and that he had other differences with Leninism and Trotskyism. These differences have not been presented in written form by Comrade Roberto, however they were sufficiently clear that he resigned from the LTF. A number of other members of the LC Central Committee also resigned from the LTF, although they did not hold Comrade Roberto's views on the Soviet Union. As of January 16, twenty-eight members of the LC Central Committee are members of the LTF.

The other declarations were signed by Central Committee members in response to Roberto's positions.

The United Secretariat has been informed of the resignations from the LTF of Comrade Roberto and other leading members of the LC.

Comradely,

Barry Sheppard
Barry Sheppard

Statement by Roberto to the Leninist Trotskyist Faction

Because of differences with the program of the Leninist Trotskyist Faction, I am presenting my resignation from the LTF. I will explain the nature of these differences in my next letter.

s/Roberto

Barcelona, January 1, 1977

Declaration 1

Given the report on Comrade Roberto's positions, the undersigned members of the Central Committee consider it necessary to reaffirm the party's programmatic foundations without allowing this to cut into the pending discussion, specifically:

A) The Trotskyist characterization of the USSR, its defense and the program for political revolution against the bureaucracy. "The USSR is a transitional society between capitalism and socialism in which: a) the forces of production are still insufficient to give a socialist character to state property; b) the tendency toward primitive accumulation, born of necessity, makes itself felt through all the pores of the planned economy; c) the norms of distribution, with a bourgeois character, are the basis of the social differentiation; d) economic development, at the same time as it slowly improves the condition of the workers, contributes to the rapid formation of a caste of privileged individuals; e) in order to exploit social antagonisms, the bureaucracy has converted itself into an uncontrolled caste, foreign to socialism; f) the social revolution, betrayed by the ruling party, still survives in the property relations and in the consciousness of the workers; g) the evolution of the accumulated contradictions can lead toward socialism or hurl society backwards toward capitalism; h) the counterrevolution, in marching toward capitalism, will have to break the resistance of the workers; i) the workers, in marching toward socialism, will have to overthrow the bureaucracy. The problem will be definitely resolved by the struggle of living forces on the national and international scale." (L.T. The Revolution Betrayed. [retranslated from the Spanish]).

The significance of this characterization and the position the working class should have are summed up in the following declaration of the May 1940 Extraordinary Conference of our international:

"To be sure, the nationalization of the means of production in one country, and a backward one at that, still does not insure the building of socialism. But it is capable of furthering the primary prerequisite of socialism, namely, the planned development of the productive forces. To turn one's back on the nationalization of the means of production on the ground that in and of itself it does not create the well-being of the masses is tantamount to sentencing a granite foundation to destruction on the ground that it is impossible to live without walls and a roof. The class conscious worker knows that a successful struggle for complete emancipation is unthinkable without the defense of conquests already gained, however modest these may be. All the more obligatory therefore is the defense of so colossal a conquest as planned economy against the restoration of capitalist relations" (Writings of Leon Trotsky 1939-40, p. 199).

Positions developed and amplified by L.T. in The Revolution Betrayed and in In Defense of Marxism.

B) The second postulate of the permanent revolution, in which it is affirmed that only the dictatorship of the proletariat can carry out the tasks of emancipation in the colonial and semicolonial countries.

All of this forms a fundamental part of the construction of the Fourth International in accordance with the conceptions of Lenin and Trotsky.

Karmen, Ignacio, Unai, Simon, Luna, Santiago, Daniel, Raul, Pena, Vicente, Ignacio M., Luis E., Valen, Jordi, Charlie, David, Marcelino, Ricardo, Felipe V., Mirea, Felipe S. Joserra, Irene, Imanol, Victor, Davis, Ramon, Pablo, Eusebio, Manolo, Diego, Gabriel, Carlos J., Maria, Melan, Pepe, Harri, Kino.

Declaration 2

A political crisis has opened in our party. Positions we have defended are being placed in question from various angles. Concretely, we have a declaration of tendency by Isidro and Luis, on the one hand, and by Guillermo, on the other. In this context, the signers of this statement--without prejudicing the debate that is to be conducted, or the forms it will take, or a more detailed study of the respective platforms--affirm the following positions:

We regard a principled defense of the fundamental program of the Fourth International against the positions of Comrade Roberto as a key point, and for us this involves defending the line of the Third Congress as the concrete expression of the Marxist program in the present conjuncture of the class struggle in the Spanish state.

In particular, we reaffirm our support for the positions on the general strike, the fight for a Constituent Assembly, as well as our mass orientation--to which the youth, and concretely the building of the Communist Youth League, are key. We reaffirm our support for the assessment of the majority current in the international, and the method used in the Third Congress for approaching relations with the LCR (the tactic that we have adopted.)

This defense of the Fourth International includes the definition of our positions vis-à-vis those of the OCRFI established in our congresses, as well as recognizing the need for discussions between the Fourth International and its organizations with the OCRFI.

Maria, Diego, Pablo, Manolo, Ramon, Davis, Victor, Irene, Joserra, Felipe S., Mirea, Miguel, Marcelino, Ricardo, David, Charlie, Felipe V., Jordi, Luis E., Valen, Pena, Ignacio M., Vicente, Daniel, Santiago, Luna, Mélan, Carmen, Gabriel.

* * *

Statement by Harry: I am not signing this because it seems to say, or at least it could be so understood, that Roberto's positions can only be fought standing on the Third Congress positions and not standing on others such as the positions of the TI etc., and I do not think this is true. Therefore, it confuses more than it clarifies.

Statement by Imanol: I also defend the resolutions of the Third Congress, but I don't see the need for this statement.

Statement by Eusebio: I am not signing this because I think it is unnecessary. However, I support the line of the Third Congress.

Statement by Pedro M.: I agree with the above but not with the method. I have already voted against these positions. I don't understand this method.

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-presented by Colleen Levis.

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-Statement adopted by RMG plenum, September 1976.

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-Statement adopted by RMG plenum, January 1977.

RESOLUTION ON LSA/LSO-RMG RELATIONS.

-Adopted by the RMG Political Committee, February 1977.

(Note: For copies of this bulletin, write to LSA/LSO, 334 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada)