

New York, N.Y.  
April 19, 1974

TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE LENINIST-TROTSKYIST FACTION

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed are three items:

1. Minutes of the post-congress meeting of the International Executive Committee. The IEC Majority informed us at the last meeting of the United Secretariat that they had forgotten to assign anyone to take minutes of the IEC meeting and therefore had none. We offered to draw up the minutes from our transcript.

2. A letter from Pepe to Ernest correcting some errors in the minutes of the March United Secretariat meeting. Prior to the world congress all United Secretariat minutes were edited and approved by the parity committee in order to assure an accurate record of the decisions. This is no longer the case so comrades can no longer assume the minutes are accurate. We will inform comrades of any errors that occur.

3. A copy of a mailing sent to the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction Coordinators in the SWP concerning publication plans of International Press Correspondence.

Comradely,

Mary-Alice Waters

MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

February 15, 1974

Full members present: Rudi, Walter, Roca, Adair, Petersen, Abel, Crandall, Roman, Fourier, Georges, Aubin, Friedrich, Karl, Mintoff, T.T. Roy, Mikado, Claudio, Fideli, Sakai, Kihaza, Jaber, Key, Martinez, Tuco, Frey, Jensen, Duret, Atwood, Barman, Celso, Galois, Johnson, Pepe, Stateman, Thérèse, Antonio

Alternate members present: Fred, Brewster, Williams, Fireman, Lee See, Carlos, Domingo, Sylvia, Chandra, Edgardo, Ronald, Raoul, Juan

Control Commission members present: Bundy, Eduard, Hoffman, Karl, Tantalus

Chair: Claudio

- Agenda: 1. Election of the United Secretariat
2. Statement on British miners strike
  3. Statement on Chile

1. Election of United Secretariat - Reporter Walter

The incoming United Secretariat will differ from the pre-world congress Secretariat in two respects: 1. tendencies will be formally represented; 2. it must represent a big step in the direction of establishing a resident secretariat.

The IEC majority must have a larger than proportional representation in order to have a working body. The exact number of LTF comrades can be somewhat flexible depending on finances and how many are resident.

Proposed that the United Secretariat be composed of 14 IMT, roughly 5 LTF, and Karl for the Kompass Tendency in the GIM.

Nominations for the IMT: Fourier, Georges, Roman, Domingo, X (to be designated later by Walloon section), Roca, Walter, Claudio, Jones, Ghulam, Duret, Jensen, Rudi, Mintoff

Request by Celso for recess to allow LTF to consider its nominations. Had prepared list of 10 nominations assuming proportional representation. Need caucus to revise list.

2.

Also asks IEC majority to caucus and in light of discussion to reconsider decision not to have proportional representation on United Secretariat.

Recess

Election of United Secretariat continued - Reporter Celso

In view of insistence by IEC majority on residency or ability to meet on call as central consideration in composition of United Secretariat, and not knowing exactly how many places are open to the LTF,

Nominations for the LTF:

if one place: Marcel (resident)

if two more: Martinez and Johnson (can be resident within six weeks)

if two more: Adair and Friedrich (resident in Europe and on call for all meetings)

if two more: Y and Z (like Walloon section, need time to consult and decide exact individuals who will try to be resident)

if three more: Celso, Pepe, Thérèse (not resident)

Request by Walter for recess to allow IMT to consider nominations.

Recess

Motion by Walter: to elect a United Secretariat composed of Fourier, Georges, Roman, Domingo, X, Roca, Walter, Claudio, Jones, Ghulam, Duret, Rudi, Mintoff, Karl, Marcel, Martinez, Johnson, plus two American leaders as observers (not necessarily resident but must be top leaders). To leave places for two additional American leaders as observers, if resident (but must be top leaders). If final two American observers are added,

3.

IMT will add one more member.

For: 25; Against: 16

Control Commission: For: 4; Against; 0

2. Motion by Celso to refer statements on British miners strike and Chile to the United Secretariat.

Carried

Meeting adjourned.



New York  
April 16, 1974

United Secretariat

Dear Comrades,

Several errors crept into the minutes of the last United Secretariat meeting (March 16) which while not of major importance could lead to possible misinterpretations by those who were not present but who receive copies of the minutes.

For instance, it is stated in the summary of Comrade Walter's report under Point No. 1: "The World Congress documents are ready for publication in the three basic languages..." The fact is that they were not ready for publication at the time. The translations were still under way. The resolution on Argentina, submitted in French by the majority, was not mailed for translation into English until April 6 -- that is, almost three weeks after the United Secretariat meeting -- and was not received until April 11. As of this date, the resolution may still require further editorial changes.

Among the motions at the end of Comrade Walter's report, No. 3 is listed as "To publish the Statutes without the present foreword."

I stated that I wanted to reread the foreword before voicing an opinion or being rushed into making a hasty decision. This view is not indicated in the minutes. In any case the motion is not accurately stated, since the question involved whether to include the foreword in the issues of the magazines carrying the documents of the Tenth World Congress and no ban was placed on publishing the foreword in general.

Motion No. 4 under the same point reads: "To send a circular letter to all sections about their duties concerning the dues to the International." However, Comrade Walter specified all delinquent sections and groups. If a letter on the question in general were to be sent out, no one would object, of course. But the discussion concerned only delinquent sections and groups, although no list was presented.

Under Point No. 8 (miscellaneous) both motions are inaccurate. The first one reads: "That all sections have to consult the United Secretariat before taking any decision on publishing publicly documents from the pre-World Congress debate."

But the motion agreed on at the meeting did not use the phrase "have to consult" but "are urged to consult" or "should consult." The formula "have to consult" would have led to further discussion on the question and possibly a negative vote. No motivation was offered for placing the motion before the United Secretariat and if it had been phrased as it appears in the minutes; that is, as an order, it would certainly have been questioned.

2.

The second motion reads: "That to add a debate on Cuba in addition to the points on which the debate should continue after the World Congress, listed in the ten-point agreement from the United Secretariat meeting of Sept. 1973."

What was agreed to -- and a motion was not necessary on this -- was to ask the Bureau to initiate a study on the situation in Cuba. This might lead to a debate; but not necessarily so. As I understood it, the consensus of the members of the United Secretariat was that this would be the best procedure inasmuch as a well-prepared study might lead to a common agreement as to the nature of the situation in Cuba.

On the other hand, the minutes do not report that it was agreed to include in early issues of the Internal Bulletin some material on Ireland to be submitted by the RMG.

Finally, under "(b)" of Point No. 8, a motion is included that reads, "That the IEC-minority be handed the IEC-majority declaration to the minutes of the World Congress."

I do not recall that such a motion was actually made. It is true that some of the members of the Majority Tendency raised the question whether they were actually required to give the representatives of the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction a copy of the statement they had prepared for addition to the minutes. It is also true that I, among others, protest that this would be a violation of the agreement reached between the two sides at the last meeting of the Parity Committee before it was dissolved. In view of the protests, the comrades of the MT agreed to carry out the agreement, stating that "after all, the statement is not a secret one." That ended the discussion.

I do not know who was responsible for drawing up the minutes and I do not want to put any comrade on the spot for such errors. But I would like this statement to be appended to the next set of minutes. The purpose is to suggest that it might be advisable to seek a form of the minutes that would be less subject to slips of this kind. A possible safeguard on motions, for instance, would be to insist on having them down in writing at the time they are made so that it is not necessary to rely on someone's memory several days or weeks later when the minutes are drawn up.

Comradely,

s/Pepe

New York, N.Y.,  
April 18, 1974

TO LENINIST-TROTSKYIST FACTION COORDINATORS

Dear Comrades,

Attached are copies of two letters:

1) a letter from the Bureau of the United Secretariat to sections and sympathizing organizations of the Fourth International about the publication plans of International Press Correspondence.

2) a letter from the SWP National Office requesting additional information and clarification of several points in the Bureau's letter.

Branches should wait until we receive a reply to these questions before ordering bundles or subscriptions. Any proposals at branch meetings to act on this prior to clarification of these questions should simply be tabled by majority vote pending a communication from the SWP National Office.

Comradely,

Ed Shaw



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Circular letter to all sections and sympathising organisations  
of the Fourth International.

Brussel 12th April, 1974.

Dear Comrades!

As you already know, the United Secretariat decided at its meeting of march 16, 1974 to publish in three language (english, french and spanish) a fortnightly magazine called "International Press Correspondance". These magazines are going to be the organ of the United Secretariat, expressing the views of the international leadership on current events. In this way the United Secretariat will have the possibility to give all sections more analytical appraisals of world events, at the same time as it will constitute an important politically homogenizing force.

The first issue will appear soon- in any case before the end of April. In the first issue you will find the following subjects dealt with:

Portugal:	The beginning of a crise; by Udry
Itali:	The referendum on the divorce and the political crise; by Livio Maitan
Bolivia:	The political crises in Bolivia is heading towards a confrontation
The Goulag Archipeligo:	by Ernest Mandel
Resolution of the Ceylonese section	
The economic and political crises of the Saigonese regime	by Pierre Rousset
The general election in Colombia:	by C. Rodriguez
The spanish CP and the Sovjet Union:	by Piere Frank

After this the next issue will appear in the middle of May, which means that between the first and the second issue their will be a timegap of about one month. The reason for that is that we want to give you enough time to raise a lot of subscriptions and send in the money to the center, before the second issue appears.

After this probing period, the magazine will appear regularly as a fortnightly.

The following is the way we want you to act:

1. Make big efforts in raising a lot of subscriptions. The whole undertaking is dependent on that.
2. We want you to arrange the distribution in the following way:
  - a. The first way is that each branch of your section or sympathising group recieve the magazine directly and distribute it to subscribers inside the branch and to close sympathizer This arrangement is done in order not to delay the arriwal of the magazine to each subscriber, which will be the case if it has first to go through the center of your section.
  - b. The second way of distribution is that we send it directly to the adress of individual subscribers. But in order to lower the costs of distribution we want you to use this way only for people outside the section and in exceptional cases inside the section.

2.

3. Give us immediately indications on how many copies you need and to which addresses you want them. (And in which language)

4. The price of the magazine is the following:

a. subscription on 25 copies.....250 belg. fr.

b. individual sale..... 20 belg. fr./copy

You have your self to work out the comparable sum in your currency.

5. Money for subscriptions has to be paid to the following bank account:

Société Générale de Banque

Agence Dailly 1030 Bruxelles

Gisela Scholtz

Compte Courante No.: 210-0320173-28

OBS: You have to indicate taht the money is for "Inprekorr"

or: If you want to order the magazine by postal order, do it on the following adress:

C.C. P.Nr. 2-61 of Société Générale de Banque

and indicate the following on the special stroke, "Communication", on the postal order:

Société Générale de Banque

Agence Dailly 1030 Bruxelles

Gisela Scholtz

Compte Courante No.: 210-0320173-28

also with indication of "Inprekorr"

Comrades, we hope you will make big efforts in making INPREKORR a success

Comradely greetings

Jens

/for the US-Bureau/



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14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
April 19, 1974

Jens  
Bureau

Dear Comrade Jens:

We received today a letter from you dated April 12.

We will call to the attention of our branches the information about the publication of "International Press Correspondence," but before we do so we need some clarification on the rate structure and circulation procedures.

It has always been the custom in this country for individual comrades to receive subscriptions for all publications at their home addresses, and we think comrades will want to follow this custom in this case, too.

Various branches may want to order a bundle of the publication for sale in their bookstores, but they always decide such questions in the light of local needs and possibilities. Can you give us the rates for bundles by seairmail and airmail, so that we can pass the information on to the branches?

Potential subscribers will want to know what the dollar equivalent is for a subscription, as well as the duration of the subscription. The figures should be calculated for both sea mail and airmail. Also will you have a special rate for a short-term trial subscription?

It is not clear to us how payment for subscriptions should be sent or to whom. It is not possible in this country to send payments directly to a bank account, whether by check or postal order. It is possible to wire or mail a draft payable in francs when you have the name and address of the individual or publication, but this is very complicated, and not many comrades are familiar with the procedure. Comrades can send their payments via personal check or international money order. To whom should these be made payable? To what address should they be sent? Can the payments be made in U.S. dollars?

We would appreciate your clarification on these questions.

Fraternally,

s/Bev Scott  
SWP National Office