

June 27, 1972
Toronto

To the United Secretariat of the FI

Dear comrades;

We have recently received a carbon copy of a letter from our Halifax comrade Will O. enclosing a carbon copy of an appeal to the United Secretariat signed by 3 Halifax members of the Unified Tendency of the Canadian section and 7 Y.S. tendency supporters.

The appeal asks that you establish a commission to "immediately investigate the internal democratic life of the section" and that you "prepare a report for the upcoming congress of the section". They further ask that you "examine the politics of the section as well as the democracy of its internal life," and they make this request as they say "fully cognizant of the fact that the commission may draw conclusions which we will not fully agree with".

Despite the expressed hope of those making the appeal, the political committee of the Canadian section in no way supports this appeal.

Without getting into the many points they raise, in order to assure you that everything is being handled within all the norms and democratic traditions of the Canadian section and the FI we would comment of a few.

Quite the contrary to point 2 all the documents but one of 6 received from the tendency have been published. This one document from comrade Bourhis is in the process of being translated into English. The other five are contained in Bulletin No 3 which you have received a copy of. As you will note from the cover it was delayed a few days from the June 1st formal opening of the discussion pending receipt of the June 12 letter from a comrade who is acting as their corresponding secretary. Since the five statements were circulated several months ago to all CC members Frederickton supporter Terry H-S withdrew from the tendency and we sought clarification on this and other matters in a letter to them dated June 6.

As you will note from our Political Committee minutes of June 7 which comrade Bourhis of the tendency received a copy of, contrary to point 5 a tour to permit the tendency to address all branches and locals is being arranged. A circular went out on June 26 to all branches and locals asking them for information so that the schedule of such a tour could be worked out that would be suitable to the tendency.

With regards to points 3 and 4, we do not understand how those making the appeal have concluded that "no time has been set aside at conventions for the discussion of appeals", as there has not yet been even a discussion on the agenda. Of course ample time will be allocated to this--we are confident that the convention will see to that. With regards to the appeal materials of the Halifax comrades against their suspensions which you will

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recall were lifted last fall---in a letter addressed to them on June 20 we pointed out to them that the material they asked be published was of a truly massive scale, including among other items almost the entire transcript of the hearings which were hours long and much of which in our opinion are not too relevant to the appeal. We suggested that they make a selection from the 35 items or write up something of a specific appeal character--or do both. We are waiting to hear from them.

We are fully cognizant of the fact that because of the limited support that the tendency has been revealed to have in the section so far, and the widely dispersed character of this support, if the formal rules of representation were applied it would get little voice at the convention.

You will recall that at our last congress we took special measures to assure that the Montreal tendency of that time got a good hearing. You can be sure that we will make sure that similar arrangements will be made for this convention. Nothing will stand in the way of a full political discussion and resolution of the differences that exist in the Canadian section.

with revolutionary greetings

Hoss Dowson
executive secretary of the
LSA/LSO

July 3, 1972

New Zealand

Dear Keith;

It was good to get your note, to have been reading over the past short period of your excellent and very bold campaign -Socialists for Labor, and to hear of Russell's return. Glad to see that he is shaking things up--but in an organized way.. It is always good to hear from New Zealand which the fates seems to be casting in an increasingly ~~xxx~~ important role in the world movement.

Yes, it is unbelievable that the majority leadership is staking its reputation on the ERP as it did on Bolivia--all the more unbelievable in the light of the Bolivian debacle. And now too it has the IMG. I can hardly wait to read what Mandel will ~~xxxxx~~ say about the political resolution and what they call its main line. Pat Jordan has put them on the spot. Perhaps you know that he stepped down from secretary and any other similar post. The sharpest operator in the IMG leadership, John Ross, characterized the debate at their recent congress as "redefining the terms," breaking with the past, '---well Pat is about the last link with what ~~xxxx~~ the IMG has with past English Trotskyism. In a speech he referred to the tendency of the document to break with the methodology of the FT--on some questions already apparent--on the formulations on the transitional program. He said that he considers the theoretical errors of the main line of the document to be so dangerous that I would oppose them even if I were a minority of one. He said that he was convinced that he was wrong in not resigning when the NC passed the document and in not writing a counter document. In answering a challenge that he should have set up a tendency he said---"They argue that we dont have a position--we do. We ~~xxx~~ have the first three congresses of the IIIrd International and those of the IV. We have the transitional program. Where do they stand on these documents. They're breaking from these documents."

The congress showed what a mulligan stew the IMG is. It would appear that the NC is split on Ireland. At anyrate --imagin--the congress had no document on Ireland for discussion or vote. On Women's Liberation--the majority position which included maintaining Socialist Women Groups carried --59 for, 22 against, 47 abstaining. Their industrial work has been a fiasco. At the last congress this was the big turn that Pennington-Ross projected. This spring ~~xxxxx~~ the comrade allocated to head up this work submitted a report to their NC--- Thier leaflet for the miners was so out of it--he reported that he almost got beat up by the miners at Nottinham. It appears that he had never had any previous experience in this area and got no help whatsoever from the leadership in this work. Last but not least to all effects and purposes the leadership suppressed the United Secretariat's fact finding report.

The tendency's documents are very good and I gather that they all conducted themselves well--Connie has been doing a remarkable job. I havent written them yet as I only recently received the documents to scan over. Both John and Naomi attended. Pat mentioned, Pat Jordan--that one or two leading members of the Fourth International had some similar criticisms of the NC perspectives document. Of course we cannot anticipate much from Ernest--after all he has been a big promoter of this IMG gang--and the worst tendencies are going to be reinforced with the recruitment of Blackburn and the New Left Review operation. As for the Ligue Communiste, while they have less of a vested interest they dont from what I know so far appear to be learning much from all this.