

January 16, 1973

England

Dear Connie and Allan

Keith and Fay came and went without my having any opportunity at all to have a talk with them. I did not even know they were in Toronto until the New Years eve social. And my dual role--talking to a few old timers and working the bar--took up my time for the evening. I would have very much liked to get a picture of things there--all the more that I hear that you have at last opened up a really effective bookstore. ~~Winnipeg~~ Express my regrets and given them my regards

I was speaking to Lou Donnelly the other day. It seems that we have a rather friendly relationship with a locally prominent lawyer in Orillia. A few weeks ago he told Lou that his nephew was coming back to Orillia from school in Leeds University for a holiday and he thought that Lou might like to meet him as he is a Trotskyist. Well Lou met him and he tells me that he is an excellent type. It appears that he is a member of the IMG and is very sympathetic to your tendency. I would gather that he has drawn these conclusions from reading IMG internal material. Lou gave him Nottingham addresses. But I understand that Sheffield is quite a way north of Nottingham, besides he may not take initiatives. And then too Nottingham may not take the trouble to pass this information on to you.

His name and address is Barry Cohen, 26 Beech Hill Road, Sheffield 10 62915

Perhaps Pathfinder work may take you into the area

Another Canadian--Torontonian--who is in the IMG(Oxford) dropped into the store a month or so ago. He came over with credentials from Tariq, probably to hop up our tendency. I do not know his name as I am trying to keep out of those things these days. He must have got a big laugh from the one meeting of the West Toronto branch he attended. A comrade, a leading activist in NDP work asked me if I would drop down to that branch meeting to hear his report on the recent Ont NDP convention. So I came down just at that moment to the rear so I could hear it inobtrusively. But it appears that another comrade from the branch I am a member had asked formal permission to sit in on the meeting and had been refused. When I came in the chairman who happened to be in our ultra left tendency informed me that as a member of another branch I would have to leave. Rather than cause confusion--all the more that John Steele and several other leading comrades were there and I did not so much as make a murmur although I am chairman of the LSA-LoC--I left. I raised this whole matter with John S and other and I understand the next week they straightened the record. But he must have got a laugh and been the source of another juicy story for the IMG rumour mill.

I had supper with Gus H and Jack E--they tell me that Pathfinder is really moving out in England now and onto the continent.

Hope this note finds you both well. England looks pretty good these days from here

Warmest regards

Ross Dowson

April 17, 1975  
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Paris

Dear comrades Pi-Lan and Shu Tse

I have just received your letter and it is so long since I have had any contact with you that I am instantly replying, despite the increasing pressure of our convention.

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I have gone through your message, polished up a little (but your English is really very good) and turned it over to the convention arrangements committee. The developments with the comrades in Hongkong are truly inspiring. I am so happy for us all, but particularly happy for both of you. I hope that all your lectures are written up so that the comrades in Hongkong can print them and they can find their way into China.

Of course I had heard about this development before your letter. Good news like this travels very quickly. Our Toronto friend Jerry came down to see me a few weeks ago to tell me all about it. I see he is translating *The Third International After Lenin*. He is having a little difficulty with the translation but I told him that I am most anxious to help him in any way at all. I was surprised to hear that it has not been previously translated....and such an important, crucial work--it is an honor to help in anyway so that it will be available to the Chinese revolutionists.

Yes, the latest letter is even worse than the Domingo letter of a few years back. Then too there is Mandel's intervention in the British section. Is that his concept of international leadership? And of course his factional attack on the Canadian section is truly astonishing. It comes at a very bad time for us as we are going into our convention and we are trying to deal with new problems. I am wondering if you are getting our convention bulletins--and if have been able to sort out of that great pile of material --it must be around 50 different bulletins by now--the most important one. I think that Number 45 is quite important.

The postponement of the World Congress is an astonishing turn of events that now permits me to hope that I will be going over to see you not too far from now. I gather that both of you are in tolerable health--that you Pi-Lan have been able to grapple with your bronchial difficulties. Well we are through winter here. Today it is a beautiful day in Toronto --the sun is out and its is very mild.

with the warmest comradely regards

Ross Dawson