

Bruxelles
March 11, 1971

Phillipines

Dear Comrades John and Eddie;

I received your letter without date, sent to Toronto over here in Bruxelles where I will be for several months, just a couple of days ago. I was all the more happy to receive it and the information that it contains as I was on the verge of taking the initiative to write you

A short while back we received a whole batch of material that you had sent over. In thinking over how we should handle this material I had concluded that we should ~~writax~~ put it aside temporarily and write you. For a while I was thinking that maybe we should cull out the material from the two or three dailies you sent on the campus struggle and present the bare facts in a short article for Intercontinental ---but then a couple of nights ago I finally got around to reading the Febraury 15th issue and I see that it just what they did ~~on~~ a short article on the back of the front cover.

Now that I am in receipt of your letter I am very glad that we did not take it upon ourselves to write anything ---all the more that it is now oobvious that an evaluation of recent developments has considerable to do with the developments in SKS

I see from your letter that you John are preparing to write a personal letter to all the SKSers with regards to their decision on National Democracy. An excellent idea. If you have already done this we would very much like a copy of it. I am hoping that it is written in such a way that it is not ~~too~~ so specifically addressed to SKSers that it is almost unintelligible to others. At anyrate it might be good to ad some paranthetical material so that ~~it~~ the political issues at dispute and your viewpoint is lucidly clear to anyone.

What we need now it seems to me is some very clearly written material that defines our viewpoint on the braod lines of the struggle in the Phillipines and defines our tendency, the Fourth International tendency and its relationship to all other tendencies on the left. The SKS experience can be put to good use by us in thinking out this whole matter. You need such material right now in order to try to influence the SKSers and you need it in general in order to work effectively in the mass movement, to explain to the more class conscious elements what we are trying to do in the mass movement so that we can go about the process of ~~xxxxxxxx~~ pulling together some cadre

At this stage this need not be a long or involved, heavily documented closely reasoned statement. It should be clear, basic and simple. You should work it out together in closest collaboration. As we go along we can lay the basis for refining it, correcting it, amplifying it.

Then I think that you should set yourselves to work on writing up material on a regualr basis on key questions of the struggle there. They could be typed on stencil and mimeographed in a modest number of copies-- just sufficient in number that you can use, pass on among better elements that you come across. These of course would be immediately valuable to help us gather cadre, but they would also be valuable as part of a proces

towards developing a rounded Trotskyist program for the Philippine revolution. Some of this material could well be published in Untercontinentel Press. And it would be very helpful towards permitting the international leadership participate in the process of working out the Philippine program.

What it seems to me we are moving towards is the publication of a press of sorts. This is the first task of all revolutionists. For a period you can satisfy yourself with circulating the Militant and books and pamphlets dealing with the broad problems of the world struggle--but sooner or later all revolutionists have to get down to the task of putting out a press of their own which applies and at the same fructifies the world program. It seems obvious that at this stage we are in no position to publish a paper even on an irregular basis but we should start to move in this direction by working out and putting down some of our thoughts for circulation amongst promising elements.

I must apologize John for not having yet found time to take up the lengthy documents that you forwarded to me when I was last over here in Europe. When I returned I was extremely busy up until I left again. I have written John Steele asking him to send it over to me here so that I can read it over and open up a discussion on it with you.

Since your letter first went to Canada I take it for granted that John S read it and noted that this fellow Ramirez will be coming around to see him. I will remind him in a note shortly

I will write you again shortly.

fraternally

Ross D