

Barcelona, Dec. 29, 1936

Austria

Dear Comrades:

Your representative has not arrived in Barcelona, but we are looking forward to her arrival in the next few days. You will understand our interest in discussing many political problems together for the purpose of understanding better, to what degree we shall be able to cooperate.

You will find enclosed, a joint statement signed by the representatives in Barcelona of the Greek, Albanian, USA, and Italian groups. The document speaks for itself, and is not intended for publication until a greater number of organizations sign it, or else until a further, more complete and more adequate document is drawn up with a greater number of signatures. We were inclined to hesitate before issuing even this preliminary statement, but felt that it was best to state tentatively and in broad general terms, those points in which our political opinions coincide. Please circulate this document in your leading committee and let us know your position with regard to it. If you do not feel justified in signing this statement we should be glad to discuss with you whatever points of difference you may have.

Comrade Kurt Lammann, whom you undoubtedly know, at least by reputation, is at present in Barcelona. He enclosed a copy of a document drawn up by him and presented to the foreign representatives (non-douglas bureaus). No one agreed with Lammann's position excepting a few of the Spanish comrades that he has managed to confuse with his willingness to apologize for their shortcomings. While his language is far to the left, Lammann is, on the question of the International, to the right of the London Bureau. Lammann claims that he never heard of your organization and was very much worried about it. He requested us to ask you to get in touch with his Vienna group. We suppose that you must know them already, but in compliance

2) with Lamola's request, transmit their address to you (in a separate letter). You are to write to said address making appointment for some time about one week afterwards.

We find that your suggestion that we send large quantities of Spanish material to you is a small problem. You give us other address and we do not feel warranted in sending a suspiciously large amount of mail to present address. Nor have you assured us that printed matter can be sent as such. So we must either await further information and instruction from you, or else wait for your representative to arrive here. Some of the collection lists will be sent in a few days.

It is very important for the POVM to get in touch with your comrades who are in the Stalinist militias. The C.P. and its Catalan section the PSUC, are preparing direct counterrevolutionary action against the POVM and the anarchists-syndicalists ~~and~~ who both work for the proletarian revolution which the Stalinists are attempting - quite openly - to prevent. You will see therefore the importance of establishing contact with your people in the militias. Send us, if possible the ~~names~~ names of the sixteen comrades, also the name of the column they are enlisted in, or at least the battle front on which they are located. Please do this at once.

As to your comrades who want to come to Spain: a new international column will probably be organized very soon under the command of Comrade Russo of Italian Left Communist League. Negotiations are under way now to secure armaments for this column which will operate in Aragon as a counterbalance

to the Stalinists forces that are already a direct menace⁽³⁾ to the march of the revolution. The Anarchist syndicalists will cooperate in this column, with the POUM, and the independent forces internationally.

You mention in your letter that your organization's activities will revolve for the present period around the support and defense of the Spanish revolution. This being the case, we feel that you should stress especially the negative role of Stalinism here. The statements contained in my article for the "~~Fighting Worker~~" organ of our North American RWL, are not in the least exaggerated, so you can judge for yourselves of the extent of the betrayal. Your own representative will soon, we feel sure, be in a position to verify these statements.

Please add the following addresses to your mailing list for all printed matter:

H. Smervet
Bridgewater Road 17,
Amsterdam, W.
Holland.

This is the address of the RSAP,
which is affiliated to the
Trotskyist center.

G. Harcourt,
26 Rue des Plantes,
Paris XII.

Address of the "Union Communiste",
independent left communist group
to which a few German emigrants also
belong.

Comrade Vitz will leave for Paris within a few days, and can be reached at the address given in a previous letter. It is proposed to edit a joint Bulletin by the groups agreeing with our position as contained in the joint statement. We should also like to have your opinions and suggestions on this matter. Within a short time, we shall write to you again, giving concrete instructions concerning the Bulletin.

from the front. Meanwhile the comrades can prepare for the
fight. Experience will be especially valuable, although other
also can be used to advantage. Comrades Little and
myself wish to call to your attention, that it would be
a very bad policy for you to send leading comrades of
your organization to fight at the front. The leading cadre
must be kept intact to as great an extent as possible.

The POUM and its youth organization committed
the disastrous error of pushing their finest and
best prepared comrades into the front ranks in the
July days. The results for the party have been
catastrophic. Faced with tremendous tasks, the
party has a very weak leadership, and a tremendous
lag. Backward mass. One of the principal
reasons for this consists in the fact that dozens of
the leading cadre died heroically in the first
days of the conflict. We are convinced that you
will agree with our conclusions as to the policy
to be followed in this matter.

Comradely greetings,

Rosario Vigneto,
R. W. L. of USFF.