

March 2, 1987

Dear Lou:

My voice may not carry as to Ned., so I decided to write to you instead, and give these suggestions. The comrades have to know at once that they are getting two letters of the week-- the regular one from Mike as national co-organizer and the special one, which had its origins all the way back last summer, when we received a letter from the Black Domestic Workers Union in South Africa, asking if we could sponsor one of their organizers for a national tour of the U.S., to present their in-person story to the second America. We took this to the RIB, which immediately responded that we wanted to support such a tour, even though we could not offer any money for it ourselves. We undertook to raise the money through universities and unions to bring him here, not because we thought that he was a N-Hist, or had illusions, but because the principle of international solidarity, or dialogue with those involved in an ongoing revolution, is so important to us. Not only that, but the relationship with our friends in South Africa has put us on the map in Soweto-- and now we have South African revolutionaries who are reading and discussing N-Hist ideas for the first time. Lou, you will write this letter.

Lou will describe all the many organizations that helped raise the money and participated in the tour. Mention to how many meetings we were invited as N-Hists and set up lit tables, spoke our ideas-- to other organizations who appreciated that we brought a non-N-Hist South African revolutionary, who had spent 5 years in Robbens Island, and was organizer of the Domestic workers, and who joined us with others in displaying a banner that said: "We are supporting N&L in Soweto"-- precisely because we had this tour.

It is no accident whatever that this is the period -- the 28th year since 1959, when the famous international conference on Negritude was held in Rome, and from which we quote the famous Fanon speech, critiquing the new Black leadership-- when a new international conference is taking place, and right here in the U.S., in Miami, on this same subject (see NYT, 3/1/87, p.19). It was attended by 500 men and women from who came to hear 60 Black ethnologists, academicians, writers and artists-- including Carlos Moore, a Black Cuban exile who is prof. of anthropology, and a Black woman from Peru. What may seem unrelated is actually part of this great re-awakening of both deep philosophic discussions and actual movements that can be called completely revolutionary, which are happening simultaneously. And we have relations with both arenas. We are accepted precisely because, though we are very openly N-Hists, we do not try to take over other movements, but work with them on specific class and women's and race actions.

Be sure to tell them that you are on your way to Alabama.

Yours,

O, I forgot my favorite-- Wole Soyinka's  
"Death & the King's Horseman" -- and you  
hope N.Y.ers get a chance to see and  
feel.

Raya

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