off our backs April 1983

## rosa and raya

Dear <u>008</u>:

Dear <u>OOB</u>: I was delighted to see your article on Peru's feminist movement. The 7 or 8 groups who came to hear me speak in Lima on "Getting to Know Rosa Luxemburg" and "Feminism and Revolution," and with whom I dis-cussed their work, are so exciting not only because of their activities with working and poor women, which your author describes, but also their seriousness about feminist theory. I had been invited by ALIMUPER be-cause of their interest in Raya Dun-ayevskaya, the Marxist-Humanist philosopher with whom I am associ-ated. (She is presently on tour in this country.) Having rejected the anti-feminist and vanguardist dis-tortions of Marxism by the Left in their country, the Peruvian feminists were happy to meet <u>Marx's Marxism</u>, a philosophy of revolution emphasiz-ing individual freedom, and Dunayev-skaya's development of it in terms

their country, the Peruvian feminists were happy to meet Marx's Marxism, a philosophy of revolution emphasiz-ing individual freedom, and Dunayev-skaya's development of it in terms of the women's and other mass move-ments of today. We discussed everything from Marx's 1844 and 1881-2 writings on women, to organizational problems such as becoming so emersed in activi-ries (especially in repressive count-ries where arranging an abortion or demonstrating for water and sewer lines can land you in jail) that you become social workers and lose sight of the goal of transforming society totally or, alternatively, separat-ing yourself from the mass movements of women and failing to see that ideas about that new society come from them. The feminists were so interested in both Rosa Luxemburg and Raya Dunayevskaya because both women Marxist theoreticians are "originals" who refused to separate theory from practice in their work and in every aspect of their lives. Vour readers can obtain ALIMUPER spanish pamphlet of essays by Dunayev-skaya and myself (\$1.50) as well as Dunayevskaya's new book, Rosa Luxem-bung, Momen's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution (Humanities Press, \$10.95) and other English pub-lications by writing News & Letters, 2832 East Grand Blvd., Detroit, Mich. 48211.

17102