

*Harwitz*

TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE:

Attached is a copy of the correspondence between Livio Maitan and Hugo Blanco that Joe referred to in his report to the March 19 meeting of the Political Committee.

This is confidential material for the information of the Political Committee.

Jack Barnes

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November 26, 1969

Dear H.:

We have been informed that your conditions are good and we are very happy about this. Nevertheless, we again repeat that if you consider it really necessary for someone to visit you, a doctor could go from here or France. If you have any other necessities you should write.

What has happened with your book? We have received some pages, which appear correct to us, as I have already written you. We are awaiting further information about this.

We have received some information on the situation in the FIR that has alarmed us a great deal. I am not certain of the nature of the differences, consequently I cannot express an opinion on them. However I am convinced that if unfortunately there should be a split, the consequences would be bad for all.

I urge you to write as soon as possible what your opinion is on this. I also urge you to do everything you can in order to avoid an unfavorable outcome in the conflict now occurring before a debate is held with the participation of the international movement.

As I said on another occasion, I consider that it would be very bad to involve the FIR and you personally in the conflict that took place in Argentina which led to a split last year. Naturally all the Peruvian comrades have the right to an opinion on Argentina and to take a position (including struggling within the International to change the decision of the World Congress). But it would be a very serious error to make the Argentinian problem the axis of the debate in Peru.

As you know, the World Congress decided that El Combatiente continues to be the official section and La Verdad a sympathizing section. The position of the reporter was that the differences were not sufficient to justify a split and the decision taken implies that if a rupture occurred, the majority continues to be the section (naturally, this does not hold when a majority breaks with the general concepts of the International as occurred with the capitulatory tendency of N.M. Perera in the island of Ceylon).

You are in a position to evaluate the situation in your country: I believe that you are able to see better than we that in view of the present weakness of the organization, a split would be fatal. In any case, such an event would be immediately and shamelessly utilized by all the enemies of Trotskyism on an international scale to try to lower the prestige of the International and of its members in Peru, including you personally, Comrade Hugo.

I know very well that you are conscious that the role you have to play is much: greater than the role of a leader of a small organization or of a tendency in that organization. Because of this, I am sure that you will do everything possible to prevent an outcome that would be very prejudicial to Peruvian and international Trotskyism.

A warm handshake,

L.