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Department of Political Studies

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11. 10. 91.

Dear Sadie,

So, survived my first week and enjoyed it. Gave 11 lectures in all which was a bit daunting but they turned out fine. Hard to say what I feel about it all yet. I'm very beautiful and the people are terrific. I'm just a bit quiet after our English lives. The Pinnochs are wonderful. Have had two meals with them and I am sure we will be good friends. Den is on sabbatical again and finally writing up his Ruth First material. Has done two chapters and he aims to complete by next April.

Have talked with Andre on the phone. He hasn't had time to write up his comments and I have told him work is proceeding on the dishes. I will be in Cape Town on October 21 and he hopes to have his comments ready by then. We will then go through them and pass them to you. One thing he mentioned is that he doesn't like our ending with Kathrada's quote. Feels it's too heroic and individualistic. A 'over the top' to suggest one person can change history. Feels his ending - which he conceded was not great - at least rooted himself within his role as a loyal communist which he feels is the appropriate context. He has a point but I'm not sure I agree. So we will have to see what he comes up with in writing but in the meantime the work should proceed.

He liked the cover and I have sent him a copy of the table of contents. I said you had sent him the new intros to each part. Did you remember to do so?

Am enclosing details of an interesting new fellowship which Rhodes has just advertised. It's not strictly a post-doc as MRS can apply. Can you make sure our people know about it. Have sent copies to Zet and Mathe Dseho and (pro

asked latter to advertise in the newsletter. Can you put
it too. 96 a good opening for a returnee and 'a
foot in the door' which could lead to jobs.

Miss you, Sadie. 96 was a great month working
with you and I feel good about what we achieved.
Thanks so much for the little and for being so
good to Cathy & Lesley. You were a great part of
our lives in England and I love you dearly.
See you at the launch!

Love,

John

P.S. greetings to Costa & Karen. So sorry we had to
miss the party.

To ask John:-

010 ~~027~~ 2721 (?)

- ① Audre's Lasc No. 1959-2973
- ② Arrange to send Lasc to Audre of extra pages. (Acknowledgment etc.)
- ③ (ie. meeting w Zed ~~Robert?~~ Ralph Smith)
- ④ Take money on Thursday (for Paul?)
- ⑤ Can I ring Audre from Zed?
- ⑥ Robert says: I still up. for Zed.

Wednesday 18th Sept '91

Dear John,

Yesterday I rang Amy and she had the names all ready.

If you have the picture - these are

The names: L to R ~~1947~~

Standing: Basil Tuffe Ronnie Myra Eldie(?) Lionel
(Chair) Zorgus Baskin Ross

Sitting Ben Bransky Freda Jacky Schadrin
(Treasurer) Myers (Secretary)

Ross is Eileen Ross's brother (she married a composer)
Basil thought it was the YCL but it couldn't have
been because L. didn't belong to the YCL in
C.T. It must have been the Stud Soc. Soc.

Myra is still away, when she gets home Amy
will see her.

Let me know when I should come
and do the intros to the parts.
I'll write them out & send them to
you this week together with the acknowls
& dedication. But we have to get

Andres as well, to put them
together. Rubine is sending \$2500
today so should have it
by Friday. (The people she asked
all said who's ever heard of paying
the publisher so she had to explain,
but as he says that's one of the
365 ways of saying No.) Anyway
I said not to ask anymore - I
don't want that kind of thing to get
about too much. But she did offer
as he pointed out.

Hope your crowns are better.
Just think of how valuable you
are now.

Love,
S.

2 Shelley Road,
Ringmer, E. Sussex
BN8 5QR

23rd October '91

Dear John,

Your letter arrived this morning. Isn't that a record - a near miracle for me to reply so fast. And of course it was lovely to read - thanks for the kind words. I sure miss you.

What did I tell you? Those words of Andres are a straight up-and-down replica of what the Buntings said to me (particularly Sonia) when I asked them to publish an article in the AC on L's birthday, or 19 October: "We can't single out one person when so many have died" In any case his is a misreading of what Kathy says. Nowhere does he suggest that one person (i.e. L) could change anything. He says 'if there were more people in the socialist movement like L then things might have been different. All of which is absolutely so. And I would object very very strongly to taking that quotation away from the ending. It is not over the top, it reflects exactly what L's position was, and he was not just another communist in his time - he was a communist with a different voice and what Andre is saying is that BB or his wife have given him another perspective. I am enclosing a copy of the letter I'm writing to Andre which will not be a lot different from what I've written to you. I really am extremely fed up with Andre's volte-face on his position and attitude to Lionel and his work. It feels almost as if he is sorry that he did so much towards this book. It also seems to me that he will try to change the tenor of the introduction in his changes, that where we have highlighted Lionel's own position he will try to drown it in the so-called 'collective'. If you can speak to Ray ~~and~~ she will tell you why it was that nothing of his work ever appeared in the AC, particularly that issue that came out in the same October that Lionel died. Ask her - and Andre should ask her, if he wants to know the real meaning of that 'collective'. Please stand by the Kathrada quote. Andre may try and get rid of it out of the book altogether. Anyway, that stuff he wanted to end with was so wimpish it just can't stand up. There's no point in writing a book that illustrates a certain heroic nature if all you want to do now is rub it out and sayno, he wasn't really heroic in anyway, just another ordinary person. That is very definitely BB talking. What is also bullshit is the talk of individualism. All along the way S.A. Commies extolled individuals; what he is in fact mouthing now is that certain individuals should not be singled out - like the Simons e.g. or others they don't like to listen to, anyone who has not followed the line. It's almost as if the tumbledown in the S.U. and Eastern Europe has not happened in their minds. Too horrible to contemplate. That quote of Kathy's must stand.

Okay, that's enough for now. Over here. Well, Ralph just isn't the same as you dear boy. He sat on the ms for almost 3 weeks because Selina was busy and he couldn't think of anyone else and didn't ring me. He was going to wait until something turned up Micawber style. So when I said Nancy White he said that's a good idea and tho' she is v.v. busy she will fit it in. He's converting the discs to her Mac. Ooh, I forgot to check that he has made copies. Will do that tomorrow. And he is also posting copies of the new intros and sending them to A. Have also arranged with Paul that when the time comes I'll go in and sit down with Helen or Margaret and send off leaflets all around the place to prospective buyers. I was thoroughly shocked at the price. Thought that £9.95 was bad enough but £12.95. Oi vay. So Paul said I could sell 'em for 10 if I can get customers. Also will get Raefy to hog it around IDS. I'll also give Raefy a copy of the Rhodeso Fellowship for his S.A. students as well as to the ANC - is that O.K.?

P.S. on A. Ask him to send the acknowledgments so I can put 'em together and send him copy. (Please don't let him get away with murder when you go over the 'changes')

Cathy and Lesley were hardly here when they left. But it was good to have that last contact. By now they will have been there for at least a fortnight. Let me know how Lesley and Cathy settle in. Lesley started to miss her friends when she was here - so she better find some chommies pretty quick.

A little bit of local chat: The Lords have approved a measure to make rape in marriage illegal, and of course that is largely the work of my pals Selma and Wilmette & co. who run Women against rape, and today Claire Glassman

Dear John,

File 3
Book

2 Shelley Rd
Ringmer, E. Sussex
BN8 5QR
Monday 28th October 1991

Your letter arrived last week on 23rd and I sat down to write to you immediately but didn't finish thank goodness, because that letter is now torn up. Your letter was real nice. I miss you too.

What did I tell you? Those influences around A. Firstly I insist that the intro finishes with Kathy's quote. Just read the passage again. Nowhere does he say that one person (i.e. LF) can change history. Look at his exact words 'If there were more people in the movement like Forman then things would have been different: 'Had leftist intellectuals world-wide produced more people of Lionel's calibre history might well have taken a different course.' Does that say Lionel could change history? No, John, don't let him get away with that. In any case I object absolutely. And to replace that important statement, which exactly reflects the view of a large number of Lionel's comrades with that wishywash stuff just isn't on. As regards the point about 'individualism' a small investigation will show that the CP is littered with the boasting of 'individuals' who really had very little positive to contribute. And as for 'rooting Lionel within his role as a loyal communist which he feels is the appropriate context' the book does that adequately, and as for the quote being 'too heroic and individualistic and over the top' that feels like the words of the Buntlings who once told me when I asked them to publish something in the AC marking Lionel's contribution, that there were too many people who had died and it was not good to single him out. As for the 'collective' nature of the Party, speak to Ray and ask her who the 'collective' was. The grand total of two and sometimes three decision makers. Also if Andre now feels that L was not heroic in any way and not independent in his thinking why on earth was he so excited at the idea of doing the collection? It's almost like a volte-face and makes one wonder who's been telling him what to think. It's almost as if the tumbledown in the S. and Eastern Europe is being ignored by SA Comms.

Well, Ralph just isn't the same, dear boy. He sat on the ms for a few weeks because Selma was too busy and he couldn't think of anyone else, intending to wait, Micaëla style. So when I said Nancy White, he said that's a good idea. She's really busy but will do it as soon as the discs are converted to her Mac (over 700 k per disc). I sure hope he's made copies - forgot to check. He has posted copies of the intros (the 4 pages) to Andre. And please asks Andre to send his acknowledgements. So I can put them together and post them on to him.

Got a real shock when I saw the price. I thought it was going to be £9.95, not £12.95. So rang Paul and he says I can sell as many as I want at £10. And when it gets nearer the time I'll go in and sit down with Helen or Margaret and send off leaflets all around the place to prospective buyers. Will also give leaflets to all related orgs. to put in their mailing. And perhaps rarely will do an IDS number. And please send any ideas you may have for selling. Perhaps we should do a launch here as well, ask all friends to bring 10 friends, like a chain letter!

It was good to have that last contact with Cathy and Lesley, who I hope have settled in as smoothly as you have. They were hardly here those last few days, up-and-down to Hastings and parties. Lesley was beginning to miss her friends when she was here - so she better find some chomies quick. Please give tyne Plincks my best, and wish Don the best with his Ruth book.

A little bit of local chat: the Lords have approved a message to make rape in marriage illegal, and of course that is in large measure the work of my pals Selma and Wilmette & co. and last week one of their number, Clare Glassman was first to be interviewed and then the whole King's Cross bunch appeared on telly every news broadcast, radio and telly. On 24th Oct. they had a great party in the House of Commons for wages for housework - and today Major is talking about having more women ministers, so I hope that the ANC will actually begin to realise that they can't repeat what happened at Conference and begin to recognise women and the League. (Fat chance).

Have sent a copy of your Fellowship offers to the office, the RPC, and trust they will include it in the next newsletter - if there is one. No money in the office eve for postage. And now they have taken to opening all our mail so that they can collar any cheques that come for the W.L. No one's got any money here and all orgs. are crying 'we'll have to shut up shop'. Still have to write to Andre and will enclose copy, so till next time. Loads of love and to Cathy and Lesley. Horrid that your not here, and just when I finally knew your phone no. by heart.