

To members of the P.C.

The attached letter is from a PST comrade in Portugal to a Canadian comrade who visited Portugal last fall.

Mary-Alice

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Lisbon, December 4, 1975

Dear John,

Although much later than I expected, I am finally getting around to writing you a few lines. A few days ago, I sent you the latest papers and just a few leaflets by airmail.

I think that the material sent will give you a rather accurate idea of the development of the situation and our response to it. Particularly important, it seems to me is the "Balance duma semana trágica" [published in Combate Socialista at the end of November]. Although this was written in the heat of events themselves, it has been confirmed in a spectacular way by the events in subsequent days. The issue of the paper that will come out tomorrow goes into some detail on the new features (that is, those that have arisen since November 25). However, the fundamental features of the stage remain, including the deepgoing instability of the government and its inability to impose a hardline to restore the equilibrium of the system.

In any case, it seems to me that rather than go into explanations now, it is better to wait until you get the papers and write me. I await your opinions with interest.

To pass over to another question, you will remember that shortly before you left we were translating the LTF document on Portugal. In the plenum of cell leaderships where we discussed this, as well as the "tesis," Ed and Gerry were present. The comrades were unanimous in their contributions in pointing out the great weaknesses and gaps in the LTF document. The general opinion was that the document reproduced the weaknesses of the original, and that the discussion in Oberlin in essence was not reflected. When Armando gave the report on this point, he noted that the Oberlin discussion had been of inestimable help to the PRT but despite this the document that emerged from this meeting did not help in any way to arm the activists politically. Some time later we received the letter from the PST leadership to the LTF noting their disagreement with the final editing of the document, disagreement that largely coincided with what Paulo pointed out.

With this letter I am sending you an amendment to the Thesis that was also discussed and approved in this meeting.

The PRT is doing quite well. We have over 200 members now and, as you probably noticed, they have started putting out the paper weekly, and I think, improved it at the same time.

The LCI's commitment to the FUR and the provocative policy that the FUR followed in the service of Stalinism, a policy that culminated in the November 25 provocation, resulted in the LCI being essentially dragged into the provocation. Of course, it followed this course in a centrist way but nonetheless placed itself in the camp of the putschists. After this, the possibilities even for a discussion between the two Trotskyist organizations are much more dubious, because the PRT cannot fail to differentiate itself sharply and without the slightest room for doubt from this orientation. Still less can it fail to draw the political lessons from the short but destructive and confusionist trajectory of the FUR. It was born to provide cover for the Fifth Government, it died with the crushing of the last provocation by those "nostalgic" for Vasco.

For the moment, nothing more. I await your reply. Trotskyist greetings. Correspondence for me should be sent to Divul.