

DECEMBER 1977

DEAR COMRADE T.,

THIS LETTER IS LONG OVERDUE. SINCE I AND OUR ORGANIZATION BETRAYED YOU AND THE BLACK LIBERATION STRUGGLE, I OWE AN HONEST EXPLANATION AND SELF-CRITICISM TO YOU AND YOUR COMRADES IN GENERAL, AND TO YOU IN PARTICULAR.

IN THE TIME WE WERE TOGETHER, WE ACTED ON ALL THE WHITE SUPREMACY, MALE SUPREMACY, SELF-IMPORTANCE AND HYPOCRITICAL POLITICS WHICH CHARACTERIZED OUR ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES. YOU PUT YOURSELF IN OUR HANDS FOR AN AMAZING MOMENT -- WILLING TO STRUGGLE WITH US AND TELL US ABOUT YOUR STRUGGLE, WIN US TO YOUR REVOLUTIONARY NEEDS. MY RACISM WAS TOTAL -- I ARGUED AT THE END OF OUR TIME TOGETHER THAT WE HAD MAJOR DIFFERENCES AROUND MARXISM-LENINISM AND ORGANIZATION. ACTUALLY WE HAD DIFFERENCES AROUND BLACK LIBERATION WHICH I REFUSED TO SUPPORT. WE REJECTED YOUR AND OTHERS PROPOSALS FOR CONCRETE PROJECTS AND ESCALATED OUR ATTACKS ON ALL THOSE CARRYING OUT ARMED STRUGGLE. I WAS A MAJOR FORCE IN ALL THIS --

I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE VERY TERMS WE SET FOR OUR TIME TOGETHER WERE RACIST, CHAUVINIST AND ARROGANT. WE OPPOSED YOUR STRUGGLE TO BE IN POLITICAL TOUCH WITH YOUR COMRADES -- AS IF YOUR ORGANIZATION JEOPARDIZED OUR SECURITY, RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND. I HAD THIS ATTITUDE OVER THE YEARS -- USING SECURITY AS AN EXCUSE FOR AVOIDING THE RISKS OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE AND BLACK LIBERATION IN PARTICULAR.

ALSO, LOOKING BACK ON THAT TIME, I THINK THAT WE WERE THOROUGHLY DISHONEST ABOUT THE STRUGGLE AGAINST MALE SUPREMACY IN OUR ORGANIZATION. ACTUALLY, WE SQUASHED ALL IMPORTANT ATTEMPTS BY WOMEN TO STRUGGLE AGAINST SEXISM. AND THE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ALWAYS ALLIED WITH MALE SUPREMACY IN PRACTICE, WHILE PROVIDING AN IMAGE THAT OUR ORGANIZATION BELIEVED IN WOMEN'S LIBERATION. I WAS A CLASSIC TOKEN WOMAN. AND OUR HISTORY IS INTERESTING BECAUSE IN MOST CASES, MALE SUPREMACY WORKED TO STRENGTHEN RACISM AND WHITE SUPREMACY IN THE STRUGGLES INSIDE THE ORGANIZATION.

AS YOU KNOW FROM THAT TIME, WE HAD ACCESS TO MANY RESOURCES. WE USED THEM TO FURTHER SELL-OUT POLITICS, TO TURN AGAINST BLACK LIBERATION AND ARMED STRUGGLE. WE DEVELOPED A SCHOOL FOR CADRE, A MAGAZINE, NATIONAL CONFERENCE, A FILM ETC. AND WE LIVED WELL OURSELVES, IN A CORRUPT WAY. THIS IN THE FACE OF TURNING DOWN REQUESTS FOR AID FROM REVOLUTIONARY PRISON COMRADES AND THOSE FIGHTING FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION. I KNOW THAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN

MURDERED AND REMAIN IN JAIL BECAUSE OF MY (AND OUR) REFUSAL TO PROVIDE MODEST AID. THESE ARE CRIMES AGAINST THE REVOLUTION FOR WHICH I AM RESPONSIBLE.

YOU ARE A WARM AND REVOLUTIONARY SISTER WHO LOOKED AT US CLOSELY AND STRUGGLED AGAINST THIS DIRECTION.

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD ALL OF THIS FOR SOME TIME. IN OUR TIME TOGETHER YOU FOUND MANY WAYS TO TELL US ABOUT LESSONS YOU HAD LEARNED -- ABOUT ORGANIZATIONS GOING BAD, AND THE HAVOC CAUSED BY OPPORTUNIST AND AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS. I REJECTED THIS STRUGGLE FROM YOU, AND IN REJECTING THE LEADING ROLE OF BLACK LIBERATION AND THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, I TURNED AGAINST REVOLUTION. I OFFERED MYSELF AND US AS ~~W~~ WHITE ALTERNATIVE. HORRIBLE.

LASTLY, I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT IN THE MIDST OF TRYING TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH THIS HISTORY OF COUNTER-REVOLUTION, I BECAME PREGNANT AND HAD A FINE BABE. I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU A GREAT DEAL WHILE I WAS PREGNANT, AND WAS AGAIN REVOLTED BY MY FAILURE TO SEE YOU AS THE FIGHTING WOMAN YOU ARE, AND TO HAVE SOME UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR STRUGGLE TO RECONCILE CHILDREN AND REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE. NOW, I WONDER EVEN MORE HOW YOU DO IT, AND HOW YOU AND THE CHILDREN ARE. I HOPE STRONG AND GROWING.

I DON'T KNOW IF THERE WILL BE CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE I WILL HAVE OVERTURNED THIS HISTORY AND WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT IT AND THE FUTURE STRUGGLE. I WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME THAT. HERE IS SOME LOVE, AND HOPE FOR A COMING YEAR OF GREAT STRUGGLE.

A LUTA CONTINUA.

J.