

3rd April 1964

als  
Dear Ken: Cheers man. I hope you are all keeping fine at SWF and are as enthusiastic as ever. Please convey my warm greetings to all the comrades and our appreciation for the active solidarity which you have shown towards us all along our stay in prison. It's been both rewarding and gratifying to feel behind us your support; it is a positive sign of hope towards an upsurge of that spirit of international solidarity which embodies the I.W.A. and which had, undoubtedly, been going through a crisis in spite of its fundamental importance. Let us hope we can keep it alive with something worthwhile.

I had thought that the french authorities would waste no time in kicking me out of the country and you can imagine my surprise when I saw (that on the contrary they insist on keeping me here. Just as our arrest was leaving out the political aspect which we all know - a judicial wangle, our release has had to be based on more or less the same phoney principles. This is so true that all those released towards the end have come out in better "administrative" conditions than those released in the first batch with a "paper" order of expulsion and assigned residence. Since the "case" is theoretically not finished, I have been assigned with all due conditions and warnings to Paris until the trial takes place. In practice it will probably be a long time before this happens, if ever, and meanwhile here I am. It is somewhat annoying to have to give account of yourself to the police periodically and it would probably be better to have the trial and be done with, but it is not as cumbersome as all that and one manages... It would have been pleasant to be able to visit the old country but the alternative, which is still liable to become effective one of these days for all I know, was expulsion and formal interdiction in the future. This way there are hopes that, may be, I can work it so that, even if I am kicked out, I could return even if only as a visitor. Anyway, take it that you have another host and complice in Paris should you ever be in need. I suppose that Bernardo has told you all this anyway and his old news to you.

In spite of the fact that the damages have been very limited, it's been a bit of a blow to the Youth Movement and has complicated matters even more at a moment when we least needed complications. The obstacles are purely of a routine character but sufficient to hold us up at what we consider is a crucial stage in Spain. On the organisation level it poses the problem of having to cover up as far as possible here in France and the handicap of not being able to carry on our propaganda and funds collecting openly. I imagine that B. has put you a little in the picture and explained some of the difficulties, specially since the attitude of some of our friends is as little encouraging as ever. We have been able, nevertheless, to keep together the whole structure of the movement and are more or less completely consolidated. There's still a certain amount of streamlining to be done on account of our clandestine condition but it's coming on fine. The situation of our comrades inside and their increasing activity is most encouraging and there is really a feeling of having achieved something positive and I really think that we have managed to open a new page in spite of all our errors and inexperience.

One of the projets we have in mind, and possibly B. has already explained the main idea, is to form "Exterior Delegations" of the FIJL in those countries in Europe and the Americas where it is possible. This would be accompanied by a mixed "aid committee" which would also act as a sort of liason group. We feel that this activity, as well as being helpful to us on the propaganda and financial level, could be useful to the groups themselves in giving them another activity and, at the same time, the feeling of a real international projection. I feel that the only problem that this poses is one of information and coordination, but should the project be accepted, I think that we could manage to solve them and we would engage ourselves to see that this is effectively carried out. It

goes without saying that my first thought was for you there in Britain for many reasons that we won't go into. We would be glad to have your opinion on this and whether you find the idea acceptable for the SWF. You can tell us at the same time if we ought to write more directly to the group rather than to you personally. Once the group has decided, you could get together with Bernardo and the others there and work out the details. I think that SIA has been keeping you informed of Abarca's situation in Belgium. There is a letter which he wrote to the minister of Justice which you should have received; just in case I shall send you another one and you might find it worth publishing even if extracts of it. As soon as I am more settled down I shall get some material ready for articles for D.A. I would be glad if you could put me on the mailing list (to the following address: Mlle. Alice Mur, 176 rue de Charenton, Paris, 12) and if you could send me all your other material you bring out. I believe that there is a bulletin "Young Anarchist" which is completely new to me; Bernie will cover up the subs.

Returning to Abarca's case, he is supposed to appear before the Court of Appeal probably next week and the impression is that he will be released. The left-wing socialists appear to have taken up quite a good position and there is quite a lot of pressure bearing on the Government. All the same, one can't trust a socialist government anyway and we are insisting so that the pressure is not dropped. There is a meeting again next week together with a big leafeting protest campaign in Brussels. There is quite an intricate political undercurrent tied up with the common market, the Belgian investments and Fabiola which might weight against him in the end we can't be too optimistic.

How did the Easter CND and C. of 100 campaigns go on? I've been slightly out of touch lately and have not followed it. I read that two members of the C. of 100 had been arrested and charged under the Official Secrets Act; I hope it was'nt any of the lads and that it's not too serious. There is a definite hardening up of the reactionary and authoritarian sectors throughout the world and it becomes obvious that the liberal and democratic fractions are absolutely incapable to stop it. Republicanism and liberalism were once a small guarantee against the sort of abuses, but today they are ineffective and "democracy" is a new cover up for "fascism". It's no surprise that they should collaborate so smoothly.

Anyway Ken, give my best wishes to Maisy and all the lads, and I am hoping to hear from you soon. In the meanwhile, fraternal greetings,

Salvador

P.S. Use the same address as above on answering.

If I can be of any service to you here in Paris, let me know.