

October 26

Dear Terry,

We were so glad to hear that you are well and that J is growing and prospering. We think of you all the time, our thoughts are with you and we wish you well. Our time together was an important and beautiful experience for each of us - a sharing of life and a learning. We return to it often - your courage and calm over those last few days, and your sisterhood throughout is a real inspiration.

We would like very much to get together but we will not be around this area during the period you mentioned. We will be back around February. Maybe you will be able to let us know if we can meet up then.

We came into the project over the summer with the hope that it would enable us to know each other better and exchange ideas and politics, to build for the future. That certainly happened. We had planned but then didn't get to have a final meeting among us to sum up: how do we evaluate the work together? What are the political differences and the areas of agreement between us?

We learned much from you about revolutionary love, and about fighting racism. We affirmed our common goal of struggling against all odds until revolutionary victory. Also areas of struggle must be defined, where our thinking and practice differs. Our ability to wage political struggle about what is the right road is a critical factor: the forces engaged in the struggle are the ones responsible for hammering out the theory to guide it and waging struggle among and within organizations to find out what is true, what works.

Out of the many walks, dinners, readings, discussions that we had, from rereading your family's statements here are some of the areas for discussion. These all have consequences in practice: why decide whether to do a particular thing at a particular time or not, what kind of organization do we build. Here are some of the ideas which are guiding our work now:

We are at an early stage of the struggle. Because of movements for national liberation, because of the internal contradictions within imperialism, it is in a defensive position. We are watching the bankruptcy of its spokesmen, the crumbling of its economy, its real powerlessness in the face of opposition. But the revolutionary forces in the US are divided, not moving forward fast. It is an early stage in the struggle. The armed struggle is young; there is no party or parties really leading the revolution. The people are not fully politicized. The state is organizing white people behind fascism and the revolutionary potential is not being tapped. In this stage every revolutionary organization must be organizing the people, seeing our actions as leading the people and building the mass struggle. There is a tremendous potential for organizing thru words and action - it is up to us to make it real. We should do public defense work, wage campaigns against the oppression of our communities, even modest ones, intervene in everything. This is not a stage where only military action is possible or desirable. This also means we must be building our own organizations to last for a long long time. Surely longer than five years. We have lasted five years already and it seems like

few months. Remember the early slogans of the Vietnamese we read from Giap? Risks are taken for strategic reasons - the survival of the organizations to build and fight is essential.

There is a slogan from Mao we like to use - "politics in command." Every action must be part of an explicit political strategy, which everyone agrees on and is part of implementing. That means a political education where everyone reads and discusses the same course of study, is essential, that only full political and ideological struggle will keep us together. Agreement with the politics is the basis for joining. Once someone is a member they have full rights and responsibilities ~~xx~~ of membership. Members who do masswork don't have less standing or respect than those doing other work. Military strategy is one part of an overall political strategy. At different times different aspects become the most important. In our time and space this view has led us to reject the foco model. The foco theory centers on a military action group who ~~xx~~ becomes the central force toward the seizure of power. This model has not been successful outside the particular situation of the Cuban revolution, and is not being implemented by other guerrilla forces in the world. Since the military struggle is a weapon of revolution, in many struggles there is a party which emerges as overall leader of all aspects. We don't have that in this country - and the present ones don't fill that role. In its absence we work for high level of political struggle around each project and toward full political struggle with other groups in the movement of which we are each a part.

Organization is critical. Because we are small and the enemy is so sophisticated, how we are organized for maximum effectiveness is a primary political question. We are constantly reorganizing to reflect the change in conditions. People need organization and good leadership. From the history of revolutionary struggle many creative and unique forms of organization have emerged for us to study and choose from and develop our own, suited to our own conditions. Lenin lays out the basic principles of revolutionary organization as collective work and democratic centralism. That means maximizing the democratic participation ~~xx~~ of the membership in formulating the political line, and maximizing the ~~xx~~ discipline to that line once it is arrived at. Democracy and centralism are organically linked to each other, not contradictory. Each depends on the other. Under clandestine conditions, centralism and compartmentalization are stressed.

Marxism-Leninism is a tool for us. This is the science of revolution, really the living art of the great revolutions of the world. Dogmatic and sectarian groups take the life out of it, apply its ideas mechanically, for instance, condemning the prison movement in 1974 because Marx condemned the 'lumpen' in 1850. Our goal is communist revolution. Our job is to apply the methods developed by revolutionaries before us to the concrete conditions we live in, using all of our imaginations and summoning up all of our own experiences and feelings. This is not a job for specialist-thinkers - it is up to those who are making the revolution in practice to interpret it.

Internationalism is a strategic necessity. Everyone someone strikes a blow at US imperialism, it carries out struggle forward. Imperialism is an international system of oppression and only an international struggle will overthrow it. Our work helps other peoples too. The Vietnamese victory shattered the US army and demoralized the warmakers. We support Palestinians, Puerto Ricans, Mozambicans - read their books, learn from their advances. Study the great leaders of Third World revolution in our times. Sometimes our situation seems so unique to us - we have to make the effort to find and teach to our people the common ground with people around the world.

The question of women we talked about alot. A revolutionary organization needs to make a colective comitment to eliminating sexism in the society and to struggling against its manifestations in the working pro cessof themovement, in our culture, our appraoch to fighting, and to building solidarity among sisters.

These are whât we talked about when we were together and since. These discussions build a basis of struggle and knowing who each other is that is necessary for any coordinated work. I hope you still can steal some time and space to go on with your writing - it is beautiful and reaches out to people in a way necessary for people in o r way of life to do.

I hope this reachs you soon -

solidarity and venceremos!

M.