

Budapest, 1970, 23, December

Dear Comrade Aptheker,

I have given your letter thoroughgoing consideration and also discussed it with certain leading comrades here in Budapest. The latter circumstance is the reason of the delay. We have mutually decided against the open letter addressed to Nixon, for various reasons. First of all: there is now, after the scandal in connection with the Manson-trial a very easy evasion for Nixon: he can and most certainly will claim that in matters of this type he is legally not competent. Second: what kind of attitude shall I adopt towards such a personality? I can only confront him with my marxist conviction and values and that would be utterly ridiculous. Certainly, nobody wants to bring a Thomas Mann, a Romain Rolland to common denominator with reactionary dictators of the 20-es or 30-es, still in an abstract sense, they were on a common - bourgeois - ground with certain statesmen when protesting against atrocities. That is why I have appealed once in the 20-es to Th.Mann to send a telegram to Horthy for the life of a Hungarian revolutionary and it proved to be effective. Last but not least: I say without any trace of false modesty that I am not in the position of a Thomas Mann or a Romain Rolland, or at least not acknowledged as such by thousands of European intellectuals, let alone the United States where my works are fairly unknown.

This does not mean at all that I remain passive. Though I am a very old man /to be 86 years old is quite an obstacle in organization work/, I did and going to do my utmost to help to save the life and freedom of Angela Davis. In a week or so you will receive from me the list of those prominent intellectuals who joined my protest action; you will find among them names of world fame. The documents of protest will be sent both to the world press and to Ronald Reagan, who, as the governor of California, is, indeed, a legal person in this case. Further: understanding the essence of your request concerning the delegations in Western-Europe, I have written letters to comrades Berlinguer and Duclos informing them about the requirements of the present situation. I am sure that they will do everything /and in an effective way/ to help. And all this is regarded by me only as initial steps. If need be, we shall organize a co-ordination committee in Europe for the escalation of pressure during the trial. As concerning your suggestion to send international delegations to California for the time of trial, I think, your idea is sound but the realization would raise a lot of /personal, political, etc/ problems which I have to study more detailed before suggesting anything to the authorities concerned. Be assured, dear comrade Aptheker, that I shall do everything that I can within my sphere of possibility and I shall spare no efforts to free Angela Davis, to whom I send my warmest communist greetings,

Fraternally yours:

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukács Arch.

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