

FA, antella 2, 30 (Sam's 24th birthday) 26 September 1972

My dearest Rosa,

I have so much to tell you but I will start slowly.

1. I signed your name to the enclosed letter, hoping, and feeling certain too, that you would approve. It is going to a group of women in Hungary whom Esther met when she went "home" this summer. They will translate it and either circulate it clandestinely or even try to publish it - if the State power there does not get wise that women's liberation is ~~xxx~~ political. I think they will ~~have~~ have to do the former, but they will know best. I hope you approve of the letter, ~~xxx~~ I was so moved at the idea of the book reaching that part of the world, and I hope the letter contains my great feeling, which I'm sure you share.

2. You will get the first copy of the book soon. Suzie is coming to London from Bristol tomorrow night and bringing a copy for you. I think it is going to look splendid. The introduction is - of course - changed, - but this document is finished. The statement of the International Feminist Collective did not go in. It is a shame, but they were really concerned to keep the price down so that it can really circulate in the movement, and this can be printed separately, also advertising the book, saying that this is the first organisational result of the book. If you have any ideas, let me know. But I assure you it will not be a problem to print. That press has impressed me deeply, and you will see that although we do not have the facilities of the ruling class, we are more careful in production than they are. I think - I hope - it has not one typo.

3. There are also some changes in the Milan speech, mainly forced upon me (I know you will not believe this) by Priscilla and Sylvine while checking the French translation. You will see enclosed a list of those changes.

4. Joan Hall got back only a week ago from Italy and has begun the translation of the two documents I brought with me. She says she will do them quickly, and then I will send them to the woman who is going to publish the anthology.

5. About the translation of POWER OF WOMEN, we have decided that Sylvine will do WOMEN AND THE SUBVERSION ~~xxx~~ and A WOMAN'S PLACE into the French and that Brigitte (whom Sylvine said did an excellent translation of WOMEN THE UNIONS AND WORK and the Milan speech) will do the introduction. Then we will exchange - that is, Brigitte will check Sylvine's translation and Sylvine will check Brigitte's. You of course will check all. In that way ~~xxx~~ we will get a good translation, an accurate translation. It is impossible for A WOMAN'S PLACE to be translated out of London, because so ~~xxx~~ much of it is written in American colloquial speech (I noticed some little mistakes in the Italian - it is not an easy thing to translate). If you like, since POWER OF WOMEN is going into a second printing, I can ask Joan Hall to check the Italian translation of A WOMAN'S PLACE, but if that is not convenient, we can leave it as it is. You know that I am not so particular about translations as you are, and I'm sure you understood the essence of what was being said and therefore the reader did too. (What good news that it is going into second printing! My dear, I told you we have written a bestseller.)

6. The conference is postponed - Ferruccio probably told you - until the 4th and 5th of November. The trouble is that it begins on Friday night and I had in mind a public meeting at which you would speak for that Friday night. Tonight is a meeting of my group, which is much reduced in ~~xxx~~ size for many reasons, and we will plan there what will be our policy and our action for the conference. The whole of the left is mobilised against someone called Selma James who wrote a dastardly pamphlet criticising the poor unions. The question is how to utilise the conference for something other than a sterile debate with the left while so many women do still want to know the theoretical arguments. That is, we cannot just opt out of the discussion. But I think the women in my group - who have grown enormously over the summer because they have been involved in the big strike of Night Cleaners - may have some ideas on how to proceed and I will let you know. We must among other things decide how to utilise your presence and the presence of other women from Italy and France. This country is moving so fast that now there are not one but two ears open for the kind of ideas which we represent.

few  
Even the/copies of RADICAL AMERICA are being photostated and studied by all kinds of women.

The biggest loss is Ruth. She drafted before she left a pamphlet on our intervention and defeat at Cheesbrough Ponds that I mentioned, and it is beautiful. I'm waiting for the final draft to print it here for the conference. She and Sam worked like hell during the whole summer with the Night Cleaners, and both ~~grew~~ grew enormously during that time. I so miss them both, As a matter of fact, if Pris were not here to help with the mountain of work that awaited me on my return, I don't know what I would do. I'd probably have taken the plane back to Italy to get away from it all and enticed you and Ferruccio to go back to Stromboli.

(Before I forget, I wrote F yesterday and forgot to mention that when he has time I would be glad to have the notes we made on his article. I'm keeping BBC work down and will really make an effort to start the book, at least to get my outline for the chapter done. But those notes will bring back the freshness of mind which can only come from a Stromboli summer, a Stromboli life.)

7. I have gone through a whole pile of literature in the house and have chosen out some fine articles from the US and even one from the German SDS women to make a collection for your next number of Feminist Notebook or whatever is its name. Ian is photostating it/for me, and within the week you will have it. It is the kind of stuff that has been neglected by the movement, and that women who write books like We Spit on Hegel will not find important. Peggy Morton's article is among them. I'm also looking for an article on Jewish women which I had specially reserved for you ~~but~~ but forgot to bring with me to Italy when I came. This work of reading represents many, many hours and you can never say that I am forgetting my group in Padova.

8. The question of French publication: There is a group of women of whom Brigitte is one who are starting a publishing firm. Two of those women came to London for a day. One of ~~the~~ them is Antoinette, and Miss Antoinette is full of shit. She is the psycho-analyst-type lady, and has not, as Brigitte said, broken from ~~psyche~~ the old psycho-analytic crap. She said women are "paralysed", otherwise they would be "with us". You know how happy that made me! Anyway, if they are serious about publication, we could give the book to them. What will ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ be a factor in our decision is what else they publish. They asked about Juliet Mitchell's book, and I am writing to Brigitte saying that it is an anti-woman, anti-Black, anti-working class book. If they publish this, then I don't think we can consider them any better than any other bourgeois publisher, and see no need to struggle for them to establish a network, since they also will eventually wind up perhaps not publishing what we write. This latter is not necessarily true, though, and that is the one advantage of a women's publishing group, even one which publishes ~~bullshit~~ bullshit: they are more likely not to refuse to publish what ~~xxxxxx~~ Marxist Feminist women write. I don't know. I must see further. In any case Manuel returns today and we will discuss with him what other French possibilities there are. Also Brigitte will have to say what she thinks, and I understand that the two French women went back and reported that the translation into the English was poor and <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ discussion went badly. What they really mean is that we understood them, and they had hoped we would not.

I think this covers all the points that are of immediate concern. Now I go to the part of your letter about personal plans and the fate of the Padova group. As you say, Franca's leaving is a "fact" for Padova, a big fact. I am sure that it will be the right thing for you to do to follow your own instinct about whether to go to the States or not. I feel I understand your need to get away, and I feel also that until you do get away, you will not be able to function as you really can function. It is too bad that it did not work out with Oreste, but I am beginning to believe that until you go away and come back, nothing in Italy will turn out right for you. The women in Padova will eventually have to learn anyway to function without you and Franca and Paa (whom I suspect will go where Franca goes). The Busatta sisters and others now must become something other than what the men have made them. But my dear, you must remember that the US is no joke. Anyway I think you know that. Tell me in more detail what are the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

possible arrangements you can make with the university. That is, originally you were thinking of going for the whole year. Could you leave at any time, or at particular times, or what? I have not heard from Silvia and have not written her. If there is any news about invitations let me know. For if you can go for the conference, it would be very easy to stay on for a while, and if we went together - my god, it blows my mind.

So, my dear, I leave it there. I have no facilities to call any more, but as soon as I do some typing and am sure the money will come in, I will call anyway. And also I will write after the Wednesday meeting, if there is anything definite that you in Italy should prepare for the conference. ~~But~~ Before I speak I'd like to hear what other women have to say. They know the situation better than I. Give my love to all my sisters - you will forgive me the use of that word, but I am quite attached to it and it has great meaning for me, especially since I have so few I can call ~~compagne~~ compagni, and in English there is no compagne. See after yourself. Eat right. None of this snack on the run. I am sorry I am not there to make a little melenzana, but ....

Much love and, yes, much Stromboli.

S.

P.S. Judy (Jan's wife) had another boy. Tell Ferruccio to hide his other lamp.

Also - my special love to my brother - Beppe.

P.P.S. I enclose also an article from a long time ago which now I think may be useful. Read it + see.