

FA, Costella 3, 30

26 March 73

My dear Rosa,

Enclosed is a new translation, accurate I think to the last detail, of the Maternity and Abortion document. Beppe and I worked for about three hours Saturday night, and then this morning I went over it and typed it up. I think it is more than adequate. It is quite a literal translation, and I only changed a phrase if the literal translation would not convey the meaning in Italian.

I think on the whole it is very good and useful. I think much better of it than I did before I could read Italian and see the inanity of the translations at certain points. But I think it has some ~~mistakes~~ things that should be corrected or footnotes added, ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~

- ① There is an implication that a woman is labour power only when she does waged work.
- 2. I don't know why you took out the paragraph which ~~speaks~~ labels (children as illegitimate when the power of the man's pay packet is removed. I think it was a mistake.
- ③ Please check on p. 7 where I have the question mark ~~is~~ if this is what you meant.
- 4. Also the question of "maternity leave" vs. "absent because of illness" was not clear to ~~xxx~~ us. It probably refers to a situation which should be footnoted because it is specific.
- 5. When referring to power of Women you should mention the price in the US: \$1, and also the address of Falling Wall press.

ok

Second point: French ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ publication:

1. A woman who was in Paris with the other English women and who is Swiss and a friend of Marie-Louise has suggested a publisher in Geneva. A group of intellectuals who do beautiful printing work - I've seen it. A kind of Falling Wall. They have no political affiliations, though they have published PD stuff among others. I am calling them tonight, and if we are able to make arrangements about price, etc., which ~~is~~ are suitable, I think we should go ahead there. They obviously have outlets for circulation in France. We will see what they offer, but this may be the chance to get us out of the French mess and quickly.

Def. & letters outside for Office.

2. Sylvine tells me that Brigitte has retyped the translation and took out the subheads because the Italian edition did not have them. If you want to publish without the subheads, that is up to you. As you know, I leave these matters to you. But if you ~~xxxxx~~ want to publish with the subheads, then you will have to tell Brigitte. I think it is worth also checking the translation of Women and Subversion. I went through all the points with Brigitte as you wanted them when I was in Italy, but I am not these days certain of what Brigitte will decide, and I understand that ~~x~~ Laura Bettini has translated the Maternity and Abortion document, and that may also be worthwhile checking through.

Third point: about the journalist from Il Giorno.

I agree with you that it was a good idea for that article to appear, but it was an awful mess, and she could have got me into real trouble. What saved me was that she was inaccurate. She had no business saying how I was going to plead in court, and this in itself has some danger for me. She understands very little politically, has a reactionary view about the working class, and is in almost every respect a typical professional woman - though I must say the Italian version is a little more sophisticated than the ~~AM~~ Anglo-Saxon.

?

Please be more careful about who you are sending; she is not a comrade.

I will be sending to you a television man who wants to do some films about Italy. He will be in Italy after the 8th of April. His name is Michael - I can't remember the last name - and his wife, who is in the movement, is Ros (not Del Mar). They live in Bristol and he is a typical TV man, probably, not in any sense a comrade, so you treat him with care, and be sure to get mosey. He will be making a series on Italy, and Ros, his wife, is pressing for one of the series to be about women.

Fourth point: the IFC Statement.

I am hesitant to put Brigitte's name, but I am convinced it would be a ~~mistake~~ mistake for me to take responsibility for leaving it off: I have no "organisation". Either Lotta Femminista has to do that or the Collective - Silvia, you, me. My instinct is that Lotta Femminista should say that as part of the collective, and others can agree. I think Brigitte feels much more grounded in the ~~Italian~~ Italian movement than in the British, and will take much less personally and much more seriously what it says.

201/10/1970

I really look forward to your draft on autonomy, because here the question of class and caste meets head-on in a most practical way, and it is about time we dealt with it. (Even in the Pompeii article it is not well dealt with, and the point of view is somewhat petty bourgeois. An autonomous women's movement is dangerous, and here the parallel between the Black movement and the women's movement I think ends. The Black movement cannot be dangerous to the class - though, and this is another point, it can be bloody dangerous to Black women.) I'm not suggesting that the document on autonomy deal thoroughly with everything. But it must indicate positions not in relation to the left but in relation to the class. I see that the document you prepared for Paris deals with the position of the rank and file male member of the left and how he also is in a degraded position. I was very glad to see that. It must always be seen ~~as~~ ^{the} attitude to the class, when applied to women, is writ large.

Everyone here is tired from this bloody Family Allowance campaign. Tomorrow is a national day of action, and we are hoping that groups all over the country will be ~~active~~ in petitioning. There are other actions informally planned for tomorrow and for other days, and this issue is clearly the one on which the movement is finally cutting its political teeth. The left is in a frenzy, because they know Family Allowance and wages for housework are the same thing, but cannot side with the government. Their opposition takes the form of saying, the money is for the children not for the woman! To which we reply, but that is institutionalising housework!

Our first informal meeting on Power of Women takes place here on Sunday and it should in the long run result in an organised network, but with the tradition of vanguard party/ libertarianism here, the word organisation in Britain is to say the least evocative.

! ***

Please tell the sisters of LF for me that it is a shame that they missed the opportunity to publicise their organisation to an audience of 5,000 women in Trafalgar Square. For this is what sending the cable would have meant. Instead the messages came from the trade unions.

I sent you Suzie's speech, and if you have contacts in the US who will publish Maternity and Abortion, I think it would be ~~good~~ to send that speech also. You can tell them what is an undoubted fact, that the campaign to keep and extend Family Allowance in Britain is the biggest campaign since suffrage. It would also be a good way of linking the tendency in the women's movement in Italy and Britain.

* * * * *

Now about more personal matters. It doesn't surprise me that you felt the reaction you did some weeks ago and then were cold to that man. It is often like that. People often have the power to hurt when they do not have the power to evoke love or desire.

I'm a funny person and begin on so many premises that are different from yours. You know that I believe that man has done more harm to you than you are aware of. When I left Nello, I spent literally years questioning every one of my assumptions to find out if they were the result of my relationship with him or they were what I wanted to assume or what came from my own interpretation of my own experience. Strange that even today after all these years I still hear myself saying things which I no longer believe.

That deep cynicism that we spoke of - I'm sure he confirmed that in you where he did not cause it. And a quality like that does even more harm to you than it does to other people. It reduces the meaning of whatever you do. Look what it has done to him. And the reason that I was so furious with Biachini that night is that he was reducing you too, mystifying his own knowledge and confirming his right to power over you in this way. I found it disgusting, and it hurt me deeply. That is really the left and the men of the left. All the working class can be is raw material on which they can build their theories which they must then teach back to the class. We are never human where they are concerned. I have had too much of that not to be extremely sensitive to it. The only other choice to be sensitive to it is to pass it along in my attitude to others.

I think the most important thing about relationships is if they harm you, if in combatting a man - for example the one in question - we are forced to respond in a way that reduces us in all other relationships. As you can see, I worry about myself and am extremely concerned what relationships - or the absence of them - do to me.

I'm not sure that all the above will make sense - ~~and~~ there are too many things I am trying not to say.

I am carrying on, by the way, a most hysterically funny correspondence with the brother from Grenada (who is now in Canada). He writes me long and frequent letters about the situation in the West Indies and is doing his best to spread our literature around there (the French publication of Power of Women is very important for this - if we are to be an international collective we must be really international and not stuck in the metropolis). We will probably meet in May in NY and I may go for "political" reasons to the West Indies in October. I don't know where all this is headed, though, but it is either a serious relationship or none at all. I'm not the casual type, and I don't think he is either.

Close now. Much work. If the Swiss publishing house looks good I'll call you and you must handle it. First, you have the language, and second you know what you want very precisely.

Love, S