

Leyst (Holland) Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1949  
Regentereelaan 8

Dear Comrade Mattick. It is a long time since I wrote my last letter; the chief reason was that I was entirely occupied by preparing an English edition of a study I made on the origin of man; it is now ready for its course on reaching a publisher, but much other work too prevented writing. In the meantime I received some letters and printed matter from you. The last one was a copy of "left" with your article on Organisation and Spontaneity, for which my thanks. I had already seen it, but now I could read it with more attention. I read it with the greatest interest; though there are many points that do not entirely concord with my own views, or that at least I would have expressed in another way, it was full of interesting suggestions and valuable exposures on modern development of capitalism. You emphasize that to attack and subvert the solidly organized structure of society a strong and solid organisation is needed; ~~and~~ since existing workers' organisations are insufficient for that aim, we appeal to spontaneity as a superior and mysterious power to bring a solution of the contradiction. This is not entirely as I see it. Where in history "spontaneous" risings, mass-actions occurred, it means only that the action was not prepared and made after a deliberate plan, but came forth from the unexpected, <sup>of</sup> inner feelings and passions. Here is ~~the~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>as</sup> opposition of conscious and unconscious; but then on a higher plane. Spontaneous actions are not without cause; capitalism produces continuously causes of discontent, opposition, resistance; but these must be suppressed, because experience and intuition indicate that the power to get results is lacking. But all this experience brings tensions and strains; they are <sup>repressed and</sup> retained mostly in subconsciousness where they accumulate; and then when they increase ever more, arousing a feeling that they are unsupportable, a small event can bring them to a sudden explosion. That is

\* It is a common story that in Jan 1848 in Paris the revolutionary groups expected that there was nothing to do or to expect of present; all attacking forces of the workers had in appearance.