

43A/36

7/11/50

Dear Comrade Kenafick,

thanks for your letter of 7/7/50. I am inclined to agree with your shipper, not only because of the red tape involved and the expenses, but also because of the changed political situation in this country. One of the most reactionary institutions in America are the custom-agencies, and it is quite possible that even if the shipment arrives in New York Harbor it will not be allowed to get into my hands. If there is just one idiot who objects to the printed matter, that would be enough to start a procedure that may take months, if not years, to consummate. They are here now quite hysterical on account of the Korea war and all stupidities are possible. It would be a pity to get through all the labor and expenses just to be sabotaged here in the New York Harbor. In brief, it does not seem wise to send the bulk of the pamphlet by regular shipment at this moment.

I do not think, however, that it is a good idea to send the stuff by post. You would need in all probability about 75 separate packages to send the whole printing. It would take a long time before all these packages have here arrived. It would be rather bothersome to reassemble them, to collect them, and to process them. All this seems rather unpractical to me. Besides it will also be a quite expensive undertaking.

Having now the complete pages in my hands I come to the following conclusions: The quality of the paper (thickness) does not require binding by stitching. No hard cover is required either. In fact, I find it more tasteful to have a soft, flexible cover. This makes it possible to side-stitch the whole job, that is, to put it together like any magazine and to paste the cover to the back. (Just like we did with Pannekoeks "Lenin as Philosopher"). The Dutch edition of the "Workers Councils", too, is sidestitched and paper-bound. The point is simply, to make the book available to readers and to make it as tasteful as possible. The paper used suggests itself the form of binding I recommend. This can be done very easily and inexpensively anywhere and certainly also by your printer, who has the stuff at his place anyway. As the cover-page has to be reprinted anyway, either here (incase we get the job) or there, in case your printer does it, because of the wrong address (The "West" is left out on the Street Address), and because Anton should not be shortened to Ant., I think it best to tell your printer to side-stitch and bind the whole thing and send copies in intervals to New York City. Much money will be saved this way, much unnecessary labor eliminated, and the whole procedure is less awkward as now contemplated. It will be, in any case, cheaper than sending it by ship or by mail. Whatever new expenses occur will be easily recovered by sales in New York and from New York. You simply keep book on your expenses and we will send you this money from the sales here made. In brief, reprint the front-page, change the address (or eliminate it altogether in favor of a Australian address,) revise the preface accordingly, have the thing bound as suggested and begin shipments to new York in small budles. We will then start at once sending money to you to compensate you for all your expenses.

I send a copy of this letter to Pannekoek. He most probably will write you on this issue too.

Most sincerely,