

The Secretary
A.F. Group
London

Dear Comrade,

After careful consideration, in which the interests of the movement have been as always the guide to our decisions, we feel that no useful purpose will be served by our continued association with your group. We realize the significance of such a decision and if we have not taken this step before it has been because we felt that no move of this kind should be made in the heat of the moment which might in any way damage the movement. This reluctance ~~on our part~~ has however been interpreted by some members as a sign of weakness on our part, and the time has therefore come for us to officially sever our connections with your group whilst nevertheless still accepting the three part programme of the A.F. as originally constituted. We stress this point particularly for those members who have been accepted as (and have accepted to become) members of the A.F. though not agreeing with the 3 part programme and not qualifying by reason of their inactivity so far as the movement is concerned.

We realize that severing our connection with your group must create a number of complications for you, but since we recognize your right to build a movement in the way you think best, and since the restrictions at present in force would make this difficult, we wish to make certain points quite clear so that there shall be no cause for misunderstandings or complaints at a later date. In passing may we draw your attention to the fact that had we taken the narrow legalistic view, which has characterized the proposals made to and accepted by the group, during the past months, such consideration as we propose to give to the position of your group would not arise since from a legalistic point of view everything is in our hands. Instead we have always accepted the disadvantages of this position, as the events of the past three weeks have shown,

Point 1 refers to WAR COMMENTARY. Whilst we feel quite competent to produce the paper ourselves and still infuse its pages with Anarchist ideas the present regulations make it difficult for your group to start another paper for the time being. We therefore propose that for the duration of the war the editorial board be composed of three members of your group and three from the Freedom Press and that this be conditional on your group making itself responsible for selling a minimum of 500 copies of each issue of War Commentary.

Point 2 refers to existing Freedom Press publications. These will be made available to your group as and when required by you if you consider any of them suitable for your propaganda, and will be invoiced to the secretary at full price less 33% (25% on War Commentary), settlement to be made monthly as far as is practicable.

your
only

Point 3 refers to future publications. The Freedom Press will continue to issue from time to time books and pamphlets which our group will unanimously consider valuable contributions to the movement's literature. Once more taking into consideration present day conditions, we propose to assist you in a disinterested way to produce your literature. We suggest that there are two courses open: (a) that the publications be issued by Freedom Press in which case our group must first agree to publish them (b) that the publications be issued by your group in which case they bear your imprint and you therefore accept full responsibility

Point 4 refers to the means for publishing your pamphlets. There is little to say on this point since we have never taken a legalistic view regarding the We maintain that you have the same rights to make use of it as Glasgow and ourselves. Members of our group have been administering it in the interests of the movement and to the best of their ability during the past three years and at no time can it be said that ~~any attempt at monopoly~~ there has been any attempt at monopoly by these members. It is our intention to administer this concern so that income will meet expenditure and at the same time give first priority to work for the movement.

Point 5 refers to finances. As you must be aware Freedom Press has never enjoyed such a luxury as having liquid capital. Our only assets, in addition to our willingness to work hard for the movement, are i. stocks of pamphlets ~~ii.~~ ii. sundry debtors iii. fixtures e.g. plant and furniture. Under the above arrangements you have access to both pamphlets and plant, and as good Anarchists access to the means of production is all you require.

We trust that the foregoing is an earnest of our intentions which are that you should not be hampered in any way in carrying on your activities whilst at the same time being able to continue the task some of us undertook many years ago, and in which others have more recently joined in with us to carry through. If you think it both of value to the movement and to your group to develop these five points we shall be glad to meet your representatives for further discussion at an early date.

Yours fraternally,
p.p. FREEDOM PRESS GROUP.

London 6.1.45.