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Dear Ian,

I have been meaning to write to you for a long time. Fred always shows me your letters and I have read your letters to Tribune.

What finally prompted me to write was your apparent disillusionment with the CPA, temporary I hope. I note some self criticism in your letter and I haven't the faintest idea what your complaint is. I just hope you don't resign.

If the Darwin Branch can help in any way, please write. There sure are a lot of weak links in the Party up here, and I am not too happy about it, but it would never occur to me to resign over it. I would hope to bring about changes where needed, and the CPA is flexible enough for that.

Where would China be today if Mao had resigned? I believe he was almost kicked out because of his ideas of fighting in the countryside with the peasants, but he stayed in the party & convinced everyone he was right in that situation.

Working in the bookshop I read a lot and always think of comrades dying, imprisoned, tortured and persecuted all over the world for their workfor, ^{or} simply association with, communism. Right now we are working towards avenging the deaths of 1,000,000 comrades in Indonesia and the release of up to 1000,000 political prisoners in that country. It would do your heart good to hear the courageous broadcasts coming out of East Timor three times a week on Radio Maubere. We are able to listen up here on short-wave radio. Stick with it mate. Can't say much more as these letters get censored and perhaps copied.

Fred sometimes exaggerates in his letters. I am not sure what he said about gays up here, but they are not using the bookshop and are not organised. Fred has a correct line on gay rights, without any prejudice on the matter and today he came around, concerned that you might have misunderstood him - I don't know what ~~you~~ he wrote tho. Sometimes when things are going along routine-like, I think Fred adds a little of his own color to events - for instance the police have been 'good' customers at the shop but certainly never bought it out!

I don't know what it can be like in jail, even visiting Fred gave me the horrors, but the level of discussion amongst your group seems very high, judging by the letters Fred gets.

Trib starts again this week and we are out to reach our first quarter target of 100, and 150 sales by July. I reckon it is a pretty good paper, even if Kentish doesn't (see enclosure).

Thinking of you, comrade - please write via Fred if we can help you in any way.

Bill Day