

From Raoul Vaneigem
To Guy Debord
19 February 1961¹

Dear friend,

Thanks for sending me the complete series of *Situationnisme*.² To tell the truth, I knew issues #3 and #4, which had been obligingly loaned to me by Attila Kotányi, a mutual friend thanks to whom I learned of the existence of the situationist movement, which I consider to be the only revolutionary one at the moment. And yet, to attain a real level of efficaciousness, we must develop one or two of the techniques of agitation that are likely to render concrete one of the phrases that, in these times of senile scavengers, is read with delight: “to experience free life through struggle organized against the capitalist order.”³ (...)

We must seek the active forces that we can make use of in the spontaneous revolt of the groups that feel alienation the most odiously: the workers and the intellectuals. Sooner or later there will be a return to a certain kind of Blanquism, to creating action-groups or, if you prefer, “dynamic situations tasked with ideologically and materially preparing for the socialist revolution.” You can succeed where the Surrealists failed, free as you are from a redoubtable myth: the *virtual* efficaciousness of the P.C.F.,⁴ which in the 1930s, was able to frustrate the legitimate revolutionary pretensions of Breton’s group. But there is material for so many discussions that I can only hope to meet you as soon as possible, either in Brussels, in which case I would ask you to give advance notice, or in Paris.

¹ These excerpts were published in Raoul Vaneigem and Gérard Berréby, *Rien n’est fini, tout commence* (Editions Allia, 2014). Translated by NOT BORED! 9 November 2014.

² He means *Internationale situationniste*. Note that he made the same error in his first letter to Debord, dated 24 January 1961:

<http://www.notbored.org/vaneigem-debord.pdf>. Note as well that when Debord responded to Vaneigem on 31 January 1961,

<http://www.notbored.org/debord-31January1961.html>, he didn’t correct him.

³ A quote from Pierre Canjuers (Daniel Blanchard) and Guy Debord, “Préliminaires pour une définition de l’unité du programme révolutionnaire” (Paris, 1960).

⁴ The French Communist Party.