Dear Comrade Chaulieu,

I suppose that your review Socialisme ou Barbarie does extend its realm also to problems of Marxian theory. Such a problem is treated in the accompanying article. That socialism is founded or should be founded on ethics is a common widespread belief among intellectual sympathizers, usually combined with a critical mood toward its scientific basis laid down by Marx. On the other hand several authors have tried to combine them and to make ethics an essential part or the basis of Marxism. This is not simply a theoretical question, because modern discussions of the future of socialism are connected with it. You know that comrade Maxime [sic] Rubel—well known by his bibliographic work on Marx—strongly defended this point of view in his “Pages choisies,” and lately made it the subject of his Doctor Thesis at the Sorbonne. It induced me to take up again the study of Marx’ earliest works, where we can find the genesis of his theory; and I think on that basis we can refute the opinion that ethics in any way played a part in it. Since you kindly offered me your hospitality and since Rubel’s work was published in French, I prepared an article on this question which I hope you will find suitable for your review. I wrote it in German, because this is easiest for arguments of Marx’ theory; I trust you will find it possible to having it translated.