



# California Students for Soviet Jews

900 Hilgard Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90024

474-153 Ex.49  
879-2100 Ex.49

April 25, 1970

Lou Rosenblum  
7696 Alan Parkway  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Lou:

I'm sure you will be interested to know the latest developments on the Los Angeles and national fronts as they concern me.

Yesterday, April 24, I was called into Charles Posner's office. Posner is the Executive Director of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater L.A. I was informed at that time that my employment with the Jewish Federation Council as their Staff Executive for the Committee on Soviet Jewry was terminated. My employment would run until April 30, 1970.

The reasons and history Behind the CRC director's decision are varied, so let me begin from the beginning. On Thursday April 16, 1970, I had a telephone conversation with Yoram Dinstein at which time he informed me that he was quite concerned about the fact that the California Students for Soviet Jews appeared on the stationery of the Union of Councils. He went on to inform me that if I did not find some way to eliminate the CSSJ's name from the stationery, I would no longer be working for the Federation. He said that this was a "declaration of war" on my part, and that I could not expect to be working for the Federation after a period of two or three weeks. He said that this was not his desire or his war, but rather that of the NCRAC and the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry.

After that conversation I called Abe Bayer, hoping that he would relate my message to his superiors, saying that if he had any intentions of declaring war or of influencing the length of my employment with the Federation, he was making a mistake. It was a brief conversation in which he said that "the words 'declaration of war' might not be the proper choice of words." He did not confirm or deny Dinstein's statement that the AJCSJ was sending out or phoning out directives that "all those on the Union of Council's stationery who are presently funded by the Jewish Welfare Federations around the country should be immediately cut off."

On the weekend of April 17-20, Posner went to New York for an Executive meeting of the NCRAC at which time Bayer made a statement dealing with the negativness and dividiveness of the Union of Councils, and that they are bad for Soviet Jews.



# California Students for Soviet Jews

900 Hilgard Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90024

474-153 Ex.49  
879-2100 Ex.49

-2-

In view of this, I offer the following suggestions: It is my feeling that the decision to terminate my employment was made in New York; for there was never any indication that I would be terminated before that. Certainly, Posner and I never saw eye to eye although I did try to put on that facade. But evidence that the decision did take place in New York came on Wednesday April 8 at a meeting of the Commission on Soviet Jewry. The question was asked ask to how I would go to San Francisco for the Conference on May 16-17; Posner said that that would be no problem, for "Zev will go as our Staff person, and that will pay his registration and plane fare." Thus, at least as of April 8 there was clearly no indication of yesterday's decision; indeed, quite to the contrary. You will just have to trust me when I say that between April 8 and April 17, when Posner left for New York, nothing unusual took place which might have precipitated the action.

There were two major reasons for Posner's decision, according to Posner. First, my association with the Union of Councils was unacceptable to the policy of the NCRAC, "and we take our direction from the NCRAC." I think that statement needs no elaboration on my part. Second, he stated that there was no more budget for the Commission, so that it would be impossible to continue my employment; this is a blatant lie. Further, he stated, "we have no more plans for the rest of the year, at least until Simchat Torah," so that my employment WOULD be unnecessary. The fact that there will be nothing done on their part to further action on Soviet Jewry in the future is clear.

Thus, I think the real reasons became clear at once. My association with the Union of Councils has brought about the termination of my employment with the Jewish Federation Council. This may be a blessing in disguise, and possibly not even in disguise, for now I am in a much more independent position, and I can go to work on things on which I had to be overly cautious in the past. I might only add one thing; Posner told me that Joe Yanitch, of the American Jewish Congress in Miami, was to be "locked out" in the immediate future.

I hope you will find this letter informative and useful. Please feel free to use it in any sensible way you think you should. I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Shalom,

Zev Yaroslavsky