

May,17, 1965

Dr. Louis Nemzer
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Dr. Nemzer,

I am sorry that I did not have the opportunity to meet again with you when I was in Columbus last month. From my discussions with Rabbi Kaplan, Armand Cohn and Sylvia Nakrin, I understand you are still vitally concerned with the problem of Soviet anti-semitism. I am enclosing for your information several pieces of literature some of which have not had wide distribution.

We in Cleveland are operating on the premise that vital to a solution of this problem is 1) the U.S. government on record as condemning Soviet anti-semitic practices and 2) the U.S. government prepared to exact concessions, at an appropriate time, from the Soviet leaders involving cessation of their anti-Jewish policies. To bring this about public opinion must be developed on this issue (as it was towards U.S.-Israeli relations). It is a long difficult task and not one that can be accomplished by a single Rally or demonstration. It will require a continuing effort in every sizeable community in this country. The CCJA in Cleveland has been created for this purpose.

I should add, that we do not have much hope at this time that the existing Jewish community organizations will do the job that is required. At the national level the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (composed of 24 national organizations) is a paper organization. It has no permanent staff nor even a full time staff. Its policy committee is changed every 6 months; Three sets of 8 organizations run the show, each group of 8 for a 6 month period on an 18 month cycle. The whole operation reflects compromise and indecision; In a word, it is a farce. At the local level existing organizations have been unwilling to accept responsibility (except for Philadelphia-- the Community Relations Council and Boston-- the Board of Rabbis). Columbus is a typical example of the lack of leadership on this issue. The organizational professionals were shamed (and I use the word advisedly) into calling for the Rally to be held on May 23. They have shown little enthusiasm or understanding for creating a meeting that will inform and fire the public. No plan now exists for a follow on campaign. If the Columbus Rally is at all a success it will be due to the efforts of several lay people who are doing the bulk of the work. If you are to have any continuing effort in Columbus, I would predict that it must come from the same source.

I would appreciate your comments and suggestions. If I can be of assistance in any way please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Rosenblum