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Law School of Harvard Univ.
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

November 12, 1973

The Militant Business Office
14 Charles Lane
New York, New York 10014

Dear Subscription Department:

I have been on The Militant's mailing list over the past two years and for a period longer than that I have been an attorney who has offered free services to The Socialist Workers Party.

The Party's and the Militant's consistently demonstrated policy of anti-semitism requires that I discontinue these relationships. Please do not send any further copies of The Militant to me at any address.

Sincerely,
s/David Rosenberg

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New York, N.Y.
November 16, 1973

David Rosenberg
Harvard University Law School
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear David:

The Subscription Department will discontinue sending you The Militant, as requested in your letter of Nov. 12.

At the same time I must, in all friendliness and frankness, take strong exception to your characterization of the policy of the SWP and the paper as anti-Semitism. This is not only a false judgment but even a slanderous allegation which must arise from a misunderstanding of our position.

The SWP is anti-Zionist, as it is anticapitalist and anti-imperialist. But we are not anti-Jewish. As socialists and internationalists, we have no prejudice against or partiality toward any race or religion. However, we do not identify the interests and welfare of the Jewish people in Israel and elsewhere with the Israeli state. On the contrary, we believe that Zionism has set a deadly trap for the Jews.

In all cases of conflict we are guided by the following socialist and democratic criterion: we take the side of the oppressed against their oppressor. In the Mideast we regard the Arab-Palestinian inhabitants as the aggrieved party and the Zionist regime as the aggressor and have taken our stand accordingly.

This does not make us anti-Semitic, any more than opposition to U.S. intervention in Vietnam makes us "anti-American." We condemn anti-Semitism in principle and have consistently fought any of its manifestations. From the 1930s on our movement has sprung to the defense of the Jews wherever they have suffered oppression, even when conservative Zionist leaders have hesitated to do so.

For example, we have defended the right of the Jews who experience discrimination in the Soviet Union to equal treatment against the Soviet authorities. But when Jewish teachers and residents on Manhattan's East Side oppose the right of the Puerto Rican, Black and Chinese majority to control the community schools, we stand with the latter against the former.

I am sending you two pamphlets we have published on our record and views in the fight against anti-Semitism. The one by Peter Seidman refutes similar charges of anti-Semitism levelled by the Anti-Defamation League against us. The other written by me presents a Marxist criticism of the Zionist pseudo-solution to the Jewish problem. Since both authors are Jews as well as socialists, we have both a personal and political stake in promoting a realistic and enduring solution of this terrible problem.

Although these writings may not alter your own opinions, they should at least demonstrate that our position is based on reasoned convictions proceeding from socialist considerations and has nothing whatsoever to do with anti-Semitism which we have a mutual concern in combatting. These differences on the Mideast do not diminish our gratitude for the services you have

rendered us in the past and will not, I hope, stand in the way of future cooperation in safeguarding civil liberties at home.

Respectfully,
s/George Novack

copy to Leonard Boudin.