

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

September 24, 1974

TO ORGANIZERS AND CAMPAIGN DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Attached is a letter by Dave Frankel to Mike Taber on the use of the slogan "Free All Soviet Political Prisoners." This should be brought to the attention of comrades preparing campaign statements, banners, and placards on the question of Soviet political prisoners.

Comradely,



Doug Jenness
National Campaign Director

Dave Frankel
New York

September 18, 1974

Mike Taber
Chicago

Dear Mike,

Thanks for sending me copies of the material you put out in Chicago. I hope the Kovanda forum went well, and I was glad to see that we put out a campaign statement on the Soviet dissidents.

I wanted to raise two things that I noticed about the campaign statement. I think we should avoid using the slogan "Free All Soviet Political Prisoners." (It was an error that this slogan appeared on a banner at Oberlin.) The reason is that this slogan might be interpreted to include people guilty of actions against the workers state.

I think that most of the political prisoners in the USSR are in prison as a result of the Stalinist repression of legitimate dissent. But there are also genuine agents of imperialism and capitalist restoration--though the dangers posed from this quarter are far less than in the early years of the revolution. We are in favor of the right of free expression of different political views--even for those of people like Solzhenitsyn--because this is not a danger to the workers state. On the contrary, freedom of speech will aid in the rebirth of Leninism. But in no case are we in favor of the right to act against the workers state with impunity. A better slogan would be "For Democratic Rights in the Soviet Union," or "Against Stalinist Repression," or something else along similar lines.

The other point that I thought should be raised was that the leaflet should explain that the thrust of the dissident movement is towards the rebirth of Leninism. It is not just a question of civil liberties and democratic rights, important as these are, and since this is a campaign statement we should make that point.

Let me know if anything new happens around the November actions.

Comradely,

s/Dave Frankel