

Jackie Abramian
10 Appleton Terrace
Watertown, Massachusetts 02172
(617) 924-2592

April 10, 1987

Dear members of Cambridge City Council:

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association I find your recent decisions on adopting a resolution with an amendment and the development of pre-conditions on the cultural ties between Yerevan and Cambridge appalling. As a powerful body of local government the City Council has, historically, been a forerunner in controversial and human understanding issues in the past. Its reputation is clearly liberal. Thus I am surprised to know that the same council which created the first U.S. city Peace Commission is so easily intimidated and manipulated by a local group which obviously is a clear barrier to human understanding between the Soviet Union and the U.S.

An indepth examination of the Action For Soviet Jewery position paper on our association will indicate to the council that this group is using our association to score historical animosity with the Soviet Union. By using our sincere project, the AFSJ will only develop resentment against its own group within the community. The council, in turn, by adopting and abiding by their intimidation, will lose its well established reputation in the community and this country.

Already negotiations and dialogue have developed between Soviet and Israeli officials to open Jewish emigration in the Soviet Union. By next year approximately 12,000 Jews will be out of the Soviet Union. This progress was not gained through anything but clear dialogue between the officials of the Soviet Union and Israel.

The sister city project's limited power can not be exercised as a channel to establish better understanding through cultural ties between the two superpowers, if pre-conditions are set. No pre-conditions will be accepted by the association. No dialogue or exchanges will begin by the Soviet sister city with pre-conditions set. You do not begin a friendship with insults, but rather with sharing of common concerns, which in this case is to secure a safe future for our world. It seems that the AFSJ can not foresee a frienship between U.S. and the Soviet Union which may indeed lead to peace. It instead searches for all possible means to strain and eliminate any attempts made to open doors between the two nations which will lead to open discussions in the future.

I urge the Cambridge City Council to stand by its reputation and not threaten the recognized and well respected position it has gained in the community by voting on pre-conditions for the Cambridge-

(more)

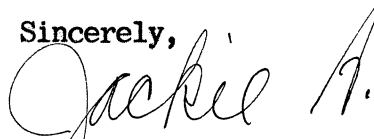
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Yerevan Sister City Association. Afterall it was the same city council which voted to create this project initially. How can it then afford to be the cause of its ilimination?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jackie A.", written in dark ink.

Jackie Abramian
member, Board of Directors
Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association

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Comm. from Jackie Abramian, Member, Board
of Directors, Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City
Assoc., in opposition to the adoption of
pre-conditions on the cultural ties of
Yerevan & Cambridge.

In City Council,

April 27, 1987

Placed on File