

W. J. Smith
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STATEMENT FROM ALBERT J. SMITH, MAYOR OF SKOKIE...

June 23, 1978

Tonight's statement by the National Socialist Party regarding their proposed Sunday demonstration in Skokie left strong doubts about whether or not that group actually plans to implement this event. As a result of the demonstration permit issued by the Village to the National Socialist Party on May 23, Skokie has undertaken massive logistical preparations for the handling of such an event. These preparations have involved not only the Village of Skokie, but a number of neighboring communities and the State of Illinois as well. This planning has involved not only hundreds of man hours, but a substantial financial commitment.

Additionally, we have been reluctantly forced to take steps which will both inconvenience and restrain the free movement of our citizens on Sunday...moves designed to protect both lives and property during the anticipated crush of outsiders who are expected within our borders for the demonstration. These plans are now in effect. We can no longer stand by idly and let Mr. Collin and his followers play cat and mouse games with the Village of Skokie and its citizens. The time is now past when we can reasonably be expected to mobilize or demobilize at the whim of the National Socialist Party.

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Furthermore, I would like to state unequivocally that Skokie has not taken part in any of the proceedings between the National Socialist Party and the Chicago Park District. We have stayed away from this situation and have had no contact with either the Nazis or the Park District.

We have done all that we can to accommodate the proposed demonstration. In fairness to the people of Skokie, we can wait no longer for a final decision from the Nationalist Socialist Party.

Therefore, after due consideration of all the factors involved and to eliminate the unreasonable burden which has been put on the citizenry of Skokie by this latest delaying tactic - we are taking the following action: By a vote of the Board of Trustees, we have revoked the permit of the National Socialist Party to demonstrate in Skokie on Sunday, June 25. If Collin or members of his group appear for purpose of assembly, they will be in violation of the Village's Codes and Ordinances.

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