

STATEMENT BY ALBERT J. SMITH, MAYOR OF SKOKIE...

June 23, 1978

Today's decision by the National Socialist Party to cancel their planned demonstration in Skokie on June 25 is a triumph for all mankind, not just the people who reside in our village. The philosophy represented by this group is an affront to free men of all races and creeds. Their intended demonstration has reaped a mental hardship on not only our residents, but concerned people everywhere. I consider this decision a victory for the American way of life...a victory for the freedoms guaranteed by our forefathers.

Much could be said about the efforts spent attempting to block this despicable event. What has happened is now history, but I would be remiss if I did not express the gratitude of every Skokie resident for the magnificent outpouring of support we received from both Christians and Jews from around the world.

Today, we look forward to a return to peace and tranquility - long a hallmark of the Skokie lifestyle. We are proud of the patience and orderly demeanor exhibited by our residents and in our effort to work within recognized judicial procedures. We are thankful for this decision and equally proud of our Village's unwaivering stand on the issues involved.