
Letter to the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America in New York from Abram Jakira in New York, March 18, 1922.

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 100, l. 15.

March 18 [1922].

To CEC.

Dear Comrades:—

I wish to protest against your decision instructing me against my will to accept the position of DO6 [District Organizer for Detroit District].†

You are fully aware of my opinion regarding the tactics used by you — tactics that have led to a complete break up of the Party, that are destroying the #2 [Workers Party of America], for which we have spent so much energy and time, tactics that have discredited you in the eyes of almost the entire membership. You also know my opinion on the Russian Federation Bureau. How then can you expect me to act as the agent of you and of the same Bureau, the reorganization of which I have only recently recommended to you?

It is true that Party Discipline demands of every Party member to defend the policies of the

CEC even if he does not agree with them. But you must realize that it is absurd to appoint a comrade with my opinions about the personnel, activities, and conduct of your committee as your *sole representative* in the District. I do not refuse to do party work and carry out your policies. There is plenty of work where I could make myself useful to the Party and to the movement. But under such circumstances I do not feel that I could conscientiously fulfill the duties imposed upon me as DO.

Your decision is to my mind a preconvention maneuver on your part to have me *exiled* from NY at this moment. I have been awaiting your orders for 6 weeks, and have been on account of this unable to undertake any responsible party work. After having notified you that I would refuse to be any longer deprived of participation in party activities, I was officially notified by you that a committee of 3 was appointed by you to look into the matters of the Russian Federation and that committee was to see me regarding my future

†- Detroit District Organizer and Central Executive Committee member “M. Green” — tentatively and quite likely incorrectly believed to have been the pseudonym of Meyer Lunin — resigned his DO position in February of 1922. The CEC initially determined to replace him with Abram Jakira, leader of the pro-underground “National Caucus,” better known as the “Goose Caucus.” Jakira sensed that his choice was an effort to remove him from the political mix prior to the forthcoming Second Convention of the unified CPA, which was held at Bridgman, Michigan in August, and refused to accept the posting. At the March 14, 1922 session of the CEC, upon motion of newly elected Executive Secretary Jay Lovestone and by a narrow 4-3 margin, Jakira was “instructed to abide by the decision of the CEC regarding his appointment as DO#6” [f. 515, op. 1, d. 95, l. 4]. Instead, Jakira followed the course sought by the defeated CEC minority (Alex Bittelman, Joseph Stilson, and Jim Cannon) and wrote the following letter of explanation of his decision. Jakira’s violation of party discipline does not seem to have had a lasting effect, as he was elected Executive Secretary of the unified CPA by the 1922 Bridgman Convention and after the dissolution of the underground party was unanimously elected DO of the Philadelphia District of the Workers Party of America in January 1924 [f. 515, op. 1, d. 330, l. 4].

work. It was after another three weeks' delay that I found out that the information given me by the Secretary of the Party† in an official communication did not correspond to the actual facts — that such a committee was never appointed by the CEC.

It was only after you discovered that I began again to be active in the local party work that you decided to act, sending me to another district. Under such conditions I must consider myself fully justified in making the statement that it was political reasons that prompted you to appoint me DO at this particular moment. Especially when I still remember that not long ago you made a similar maneuver. In order to compel me to resign from the Russian Bureau, where I was badly needed at that time, you also decided to send me to D10 [Buffalo] as DO.

I realize that the number of capable organizers is limited in our organization. But there must still be some active and capable comrades who are in full agreement with you, who could act as your representatives in the District, not by compulsion, but by conviction.

Not wishing to take up your extremely valuable time with more details and hoping that you will not add another mistake to the many made by you in the past

Fraternally yours,

A. Dubner [Abram Jakira]‡

†- Probably a reference to Will Weinstone, who resigned as Executive Secretary of the unified CPA on the Feb. 22, 1922 session of the CEC for reasons of health and was replaced by Jay Lovestone in the post.

‡- Jakira used the pseudonym "J. Miller" after the August 1922 Bridgman Convention. Leading party personnel generally switched their pseudonyms after each convention for security reasons.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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