

Anti-Defamation League pushes racial confrontations in U.S.

by An EIR Special Correspondent

From all evidence on display at the July 6-8 World Jewish Congress (WJC) conference in Brussels, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and its cohorts are contriving to provoke a new round of racial confrontations in the United States.

For much of the second day of the conference, WJC speakers, including ADL National Director Abraham Foxman from the United States, mounted a barrage of attacks on "black anti-Semitism," focusing largely on Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam. Completely divorced from any serious discussion of the horrifying situation in the black ghettos in the United States, the effect was to portray the growing anger and frustration among blacks at living conditions as "anti-Semitism," thereby justifying an intensified U.S. government crackdown against black leaders, under the rubric of "fighting hate crimes."

The clearest sign that the ADL mob was going for a confrontation, came in the response by leading conference spokesmen to a speech by Rev. Jesse Jackson, who had been invited by WJC President Edgar Bronfman to announce his "reconciliation" with the Jewish community. At its best points, Jackson's speech could be seen, in a charitable interpretation, as an attempt to recall the collaboration between blacks and Jews in the days of Martin Luther King and the early civil rights movement, and it was from this vantage-point that Jackson was introduced to the conference by New York Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. But otherwise, the speech was a case study in groveling, as Jackson bent over backwards to show his credentials as a long-standing fighter for Zionist causes, and to praise Zionism as a "liberation movement."

Foxman demands break with Farrakhan

But neither of these tendencies was good enough for the ADL. Foxman immediately released a statement, distributed by the WJC press office. Including additions and amendments that Foxman made later in the day, it read:

"I welcome the Rev. Jesse Jackson's effort at reconciliation with the Jewish community.

"I welcome anything that Jackson says which unqualifiedly confronts and rejects anti-Semitism and those who give it voice. His words in this spirit, at critical moments, will help blunt anti-Semitic threats, and will bind wounds when

they occur.

"Over time, maybe, such actions by Rev. Jackson will, no doubt, build increasing confidence in him as a friend of the Jewish community. I certainly would welcome such a development.

"Having stated that fervent hope, I must also note that Jackson's record on anti-Semitism and other issues of deep concern to the Jewish community is not a blank slate. It is not a result of one word, one sentence or one speech. It is a record that has been marred by insensitive statements and a troubling unwillingness to condemn certain black extremists, who repeatedly use anti-Semitism as a bludgeon against the Jewish community. It is a record that has been marred by an insensitive view of Jewish history, the Holocaust, Zionism and the modern Jewish state, its governments, and their policies. It's not that easy to erase the hurt.

"One speech to the Jewish community in the Palace of Congresses in Brussels will not repair it—Reverend Jackson's opposition to anti-Semitism, to be meaningful, will have to be delivered in Crown Heights [in Brooklyn, New York], the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, and at black student unions around the country.

"Reverend Jackson's words of opposition to anti-Semitism will have to be buttressed by credible action—action which will build a constructive relationship to the benefit of both the black and Jewish communities.

"To this end, I reach out to him as a ready and willing partner."

Specifically, numerous conference spokesmen insisted during the day that what is meant by "credible action," is that Jackson must publicly condemn, and break with, Louis Farrakhan. He was frequently criticized, both publicly and privately, for not having done that.

Breindel's 'pogrom'

Even before Jackson had spoken, the stage was set for a confrontation. The entrance hall to the Palace of Congresses in Brussels was dominated by a montage of photos and documents, depicting ostensible incidents and promoters of anti-Semitism around the world. In one section, Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam were featured as a prime example of anti-Semitism in the United States.

Needless to say, the designers of this exhibition never

mentioned any of the positive contributions of the Nation of Islam to improving life in black communities, notably its fight against drugs and drug traffickers. Here, as usual, the ADL was acting as the protection agency for the international drug merchants.

Just before Jackson's speech, David Levy, president of the World Union of Jewish Students, warned of the various forms of anti-Semitism now spreading in the world. Prominent among these, were the dangers to Jews posed by the "black youth culture," typified by "rap music, the popular culture for millions," which contain "lyrics replete with anti-Semitic references." While many cogent things could be said about what is wrong with rap music, Levy's simplistic "black youth culture equals anti-Jewish culture" successfully whipped the more receptive among the 1,000-plus attendees into the desired state of paranoia.

Levy then attacked the Nation of Islam, with its "anti-Semitic black consciousness-raising." Levy insisted that the black leadership in the United States was "duty-bound to distance itself" from such trends, and to "condemn messages of race hatred."

After Jackson had spoken, and with Foxman's retort circulating around the conference, the baton was passed to Eric Breindel, a former top aide to Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) who was convicted on drug charges and who is now editorial page editor of the *New York Post*. In a discourse on "anti-Semitism in the media," which included, in passing, an attack on the "far right media associated with the LaRouche group," Breindel warned about the dangers of "rap culture." These dangers were all the greater, since "a lot of people don't know about it," because "the black media speaks exclusively to blacks." He singled out Farrakhan for attack, and exclaimed that such "currents are alive and well, and are part of the mainstream black media in America." He warned that there are "hundreds of thousands of listeners" to "anti-Semitic" hosts on mainstream black radio stations, and complained that the ADL had come in for much criticism because of its efforts to monitor such activities, particularly in a just-issued ADL report on "black demagogues."

Later in the day, Breindel joined Foxman and others on a panel on the United States and Canada. Even though his scheduled presentation was on "Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Presidential Politics in America," Breindel never said a word about presidential politics. He chose, instead, to harp on the "black anti-Semitism" theme.

Here, Breindel characterized the 1991 racial confrontation in Crown Heights, Brooklyn as "the first formal anti-Semitic pogrom in the western world since the early 1900s," and "the first lynching of a Jew since that of Leo Frank in Georgia in 1915." He solemnly declared that "the 1991 Crown Heights pogrom was a turning point" in black-Jewish relations in the United States.

As ugly as the Crown Heights confrontation was, it was by no means a "pogrom." In the pogroms in Russia of the

late-19th century, hundreds of Jews were killed or wounded in well-organized rampages by mobs deployed by the regime. In Crown Heights, it all began when a black youth was killed by a car driven by religious Jews, and resulted in the death of one Australian Jewish youth, accompanied by much anti-Jewish sloganeering, much of the latter likely spewing from the mouths of FBI agents provocateurs. The FBI, however, escaped opprobrium in Breindel's diatribe—undoubtedly because the FBI will be needed to deal with "the anti-Semitic black leaders" on the ADL's target list.

In any case, to characterize Crown Heights as a pogrom, is to defame the memory of those Jews who died at the hands of the vicious Russian Black Hundreds. It has the included effect of whipping up Jewish-Zionist networks into an anti-black frenzy.

Breindel didn't stop there. He warned that support for Louis Farrakhan had experienced "enormous growth among blacks in the 1980s," and had proliferated a "ready embrace of conspiracy theories" among blacks. This fed into "black anti-Semitism on campuses," typified by New York Prof. Leonard Jeffries. At the same time, the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus was becoming a "forum for diatribes" against Jews. "Black anti-Semitism is a marked and growing tendency in American politics," he intoned.

Breindel repeated his polemics back in the United States. In a commentary in the July 19 *Washington Times*, he stressed that participants in Brussels had been "decidedly less enthusiastic" about Jesse Jackson's speech than the international media had been, since "Mr. Jackson didn't discuss black anti-Semitism—not the rap culture, not the Farrakhan movement, not the Leonard Jeffries affair, not the Crown Heights pogrom."

Breindel was followed on the panel by David Bernstein, a recent college graduate of combined black-Jewish parentage, who attacked Jackson for having served, in the past, as "an apologist for anti-Semitism." He focused on the "black radical" movement on the campuses, as a combination of "Louis Farrakhan and Karl Marx," these two figures having in common only one thing, their "unrelenting anti-Semitism." Bernstein singled out the University of Maryland for attack, for having provided funding for speakers including Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam's Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad.

These presentations shared the common feature of being completely divorced from the daily conditions in which millions of black Americans live. Rather, anti-Semitism was portrayed as something that virtually oozes from the pores of the American black population. Since Foxman, Breindel, et al. know better, why are they doing this, if not to set the stage for new racial confrontations—and for U.S. government repression against their "black enemies" list? The call by WJC speakers for the United States to strengthen its "hate crimes" legislation, and to find ways of circumventing the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling against Minnesota's hate crimes legislation, gives an idea of how they want this to work.