

# ADL assails blacks as anti-Semites

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Last November, *EIR* published an exclusive report on a closed-door conference of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) in Montreal, Canada, at which leaders of the so-called civil rights group accused American blacks, and especially black intellectuals, of being "inherently" anti-Semitic. One speaker went so far as to claim that blacks have been anti-Semites ever since the pre-Civil War era of slavery when they were taught to hate Jews by their plantation masters.

It was one thing for the ADL, a group with deep historical ties to the drug mafia, which has flooded this country's urban streets with deadly narcotics, to "let it all hang out" in a private meeting by suggesting that the traditional Jewish-black civil rights alliance may have been a mistake from the outset. But now, the ADL has come out publicly in print accusing the black community of fostering the biggest rise in anti-Semitic violence in over a decade. The language is toned down, much of the message is veiled, but the point remains the same: As far as the ADL is concerned, the biggest current and future threat of anti-Semitism in America comes from the black community, especially from black intellectuals and political leaders.

The message was delivered in the form of the ADL's "1991 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents," published early this year and now being widely circulated among police, prosecutors, and Jewish groups. The report was authored by ADL officials Richard Shaffer, Gail L. Gans, Michael Lieberman, Amy Solnin, and Marc Caplan, and was edited by Alan M. Schwartz, director of the Research and Evaluation department of the ADL's Civil Rights Division.

## The Crown Heights incident

The ADL report begins with a brief foreword bearing the dramatic headline: "The Shock of 1991: An Anti-Semitic Riot."

The two paragraphs of the foreword read: "In 1991, for the first time in recent memory, a mob's cries of 'Kill the Jew' echoed on an American street. The awful threat embodied in those words was soon realized: Yankel Rosenbaum, a 29-year-old Jewish scholar, was stabbed by a group of young rioters during unrest in Brooklyn's Crown Heights on the night of Aug. 19, following the tragic accidental death of a black child in an automobile mishap. Rosenbaum died later in a local hospital.

"The Crown Heights outburst, with its dozens of assaults and acts of vandalism, was the most dramatic and disturbing eruption of anti-Semitic violence in America in many years. These attacks were among the most noteworthy of the anti-Semitic incidents reported to the ADL during 1991—the fifth straight year of increased anti-Jewish acts nationwide."

The report later referred to the Crown Heights incident, which was indeed a tragic incident of black-Jewish violence, as "the first lynching of a Jew in the United States since that of Leo Frank in 1915."

Underscoring the fact that the ADL report singled out American blacks for special attention, the "Audit" boasted a significant drop in acts of anti-Semitism by skinheads, neo-Nazis, and other white racist groups, at the same time that anti-Semitic incidents were up 11% overall, and acts of anti-Semitic violence were up 25%, according to the ADL statisticians.

The most extended attention was focused on the university and college campuses, where the ADL claims that anti-Semitism among black students and faculty members is at an all-time high.

## Black leaders targeted

The ADL "Audit" specifically singled out by name many black leaders and intellectuals. The report read: "Stridently anti-Semitic speakers including Louis Farrakhan, Kwame Ture, rap music figure 'Professor' Griff, and Prof. Leonard Jeffries, have become popular with black student unions around the country. Openly anti-Semitic representatives of the Nation of Islam are also accorded warm campus receptions, including Conrad Muhammad, who addressed the Columbia Black Students Union at Columbia University in the fall of 1990. . . .

"Another anti-Semitic speaker making the rounds on campus was Abdul Alim Musa, a member of the Islamic Movement of North America. . . .

"The case of Prof. Leonard Jeffries, chairman of the Black Studies Department of the City College of New York, presents another kind of campus concern, anti-Semitism and racism by a faculty member, rather than from student groups. . . .

"These anti-Semitic developments illustrate the disturbing fact that many black student leaders and representatives—in effect, a significant portion of the future leadership of the black community—repeatedly invite and enthusiastically support speakers who are well-known for their Jew baiting. These student leaders thus offer a respectable platform for anti-Semitic prejudice and ignorance—while generating tension among Jewish students who feel they are 'under siege.' "

The idea of labeling a campus address by a spokesman for the Nation of Islam as an "anti-Semitic development," and of lumping together black professors with rap musicians in one undifferentiated pile of "Jew-baiters," is typical ADL double-speak. It is sure to stir up anti-Semitism, rather than curb it.