

The ADL's 80th anniversary conference may be its last

by Scott Thompson

From June 9 to June 12 the National Commission of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith met at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the ADL's 80th anniversary. The celebration was replete with congressional resolutions of congratulations, a host of foreign diplomats, and a speech by Attorney General Janet Reno endorsing "hate crimes" sentencing enhancement. But the fête was in reality a Potemkin Village. Although the press packet was replete with items like the May/June edition of *ADL on the Frontline* defending the League from charges that it had conducted illegal spying on behalf of the Israeli and South African governments, there was almost no mention at the meeting of the spy case or of pending indictments of ADL officials in San Francisco.

In fact, the only mention of the spy case came during the opening dinner on June 9, which was attended by representatives of 25 embassies, in a message that Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Itamar Rabinovich delivered from his government: "The Israeli government gives its full support to the ADL while it is being defamed in San Francisco. We are with you. It is significant mainly because it reflects the importance of the work the ADL has been doing. You will weather this mini-storm. The relationship between the ADL and the Israeli government has been a reciprocal one. The Israeli government supports you."

One indication of how thin support for the ADL has become, was that a resolution praising the ADL, Senate Concurrent Resolution 30, issued with ADL arm-twisting on June 11, drew only 13 co-sponsors from among U.S. senators. Although many of these were hard-core ADL supporters, like Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.), the irony was that the chief sponsor of the resolution, Sen. Hank Brown (R-Colo.), had not even been informed of ADL illegal spying on civil rights, anti-apartheid, and Arab-American citizens.

In a press release on June 11, Senator Brown was effusive in his praise of the ADL, stating: "The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is one of the nation's oldest civil rights and human relations organizations. . . . The Anti-Defamation League has been a leader in developing educational materials, programs and services designed to build bridges of understanding among diverse faiths and all racial and ethnic groups. We celebrate its quests for justice and fair

treatment for all citizens . . . and commend it for effectively pursuing the goal of tolerance throughout the world."

But when Senator Brown's press secretary, Steve Chase, was confronted with the findings of the joint FBI-San Francisco Police Department investigation of ADL illegal spying, he almost dropped the phone and said: "We knew nothing about it," adding, "Senator Brown is on the Judiciary Committee, and he just thought the ADL was doing useful legal work to fight discrimination."

On the defensive

The May/June issue of *ADL on the Frontline* carried a schizophrenic series of articles defending the League from charges of illegal spying. The lead article, entitled "The Big Lie—An Attack on ADL's 80-Year Mandate to Protect All Americans," simply lied that the ADL has done no spying, least of all on "legitimate organizations like the NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People], or Greenpeace." There is no mention, of course, that police raids on the ADL offices found the League had spied on people ranging from Israeli leader Moshe Arens's pro-peace son to the recently slain African National Congress leader Chris Hani, as well as 980 groups including the NAACP and 12,000 other individuals on the West Coast alone, and that it had turned key information over to Israeli and South African intelligence agencies.

After simply denying the evidence in police hands, a second article by Rabbi Allen I. Freehling of University Synagogue in Brentwood, California stated that undercover spying is essential to fight anti-Semitism. He claims that this necessary "ADL-investigator arrangement" is being destroyed by a handful of people, including "a renegade member of the San Francisco Police Department." This is an apparent reference to Tom Gerard, a former San Francisco policeman who turned over law enforcement files on targets in which the ADL had an interest.

Although Rabbi Freehling and ADL officials have called for "the Jewish community to speak as one voice to combat the charges," it is notable that a third article on statements of support was only able to draw on organizations in the immediate ADL orbit. Among these is the World Jewish Congress, which the article claims is representative of Jews in 86 countries, but whose chairman, Edgar Bronfman, is an

honorary ADL vice chairman and was the keynote speaker at the 80th Anniversary ADL National Commission meeting. Likewise, the article claims a statement of support from the World Zionist Organization, which represents 21 Zionist groups; but the statement is in the name of Seymour Reich, who is a long-time League officer, as well as former chairman of the ADL National Executive Committee.

Clearly, it is the ADL that is practicing the "big lie" technique to cover up its illegal spying, but this cannot hide the fact that it is rapidly losing the support of the Jewish community.

ADL penetration of Washington

Although the ADL is on the defensive and is facing a knockout blow for illegal spying on U.S. citizens, it has still displayed some ability to maneuver in Washington. Jess Hordes, who heads the ADL's Government and National Affairs Office in Washington, D.C., briefed the press on his fears of a backlash to the League's role in helping scuttle Lani Guinier's nomination to head the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. He told journalists that as soon as Guinier was appointed, the ADL wrote asking for a meeting, but that the White House thought it should wait until after confirmation hearings.

Hordes said that the White House had made every conceivable error, from not properly vetting Guinier to postponing their ability to meet with her. The ADL subsequently became the only Jewish group to abstain from the Conference of Jewish Organizations endorsement of Guinier, and it lobbied the Hill against her nomination. Hordes told an Afro-American journalist with the *Washington Post* that he was now concerned, after President Bill Clinton withdrew the nomination, that *Legal Times* is trying to depict the conflict as a black versus Jewish confrontation.

Attorney General Janet Reno, despite her many admirable qualities, has been a long-time supporter of the ADL, and spoke at the ADL breakfast on June 10. The ADL has been invoking Reno's name in recent fundraising letters, ostensibly to get money to better inform law enforcement on the danger of Skinheads—an ironic pitch, given that at least three major city police departments are investigating ADL illegal attempts to suborn their officers. On three occasions in her speech to the ADL, the attorney general referred to the need to combat "hate crimes," stating at one point about those "who deal in hate" that "I want to make sure that we have enough cells to house those people for the length of time the judges are sentencing them." In a press release by ADL chairman Mel Salberg on Reno's speech, he emphasized the attorney general's apparent commitment to "hate crimes" penalty enhancement, adding: "Attorney General Reno clearly understands that collecting information regarding hate crimes nationwide is the first step toward allocating the resources necessary to fight such crimes effectively on a national basis." The Justice Depart-

ment's Solicitor General argued on behalf of ADL model "hate crimes" legislation in the case *Wisconsin v. Mitchell*, where the Supreme Court upheld penalty enhancement for racial or sexual bias motivating crimes covered by existing statutes, during the ADL meeting.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher has also been cultivated by the ADL on several issues. One instance emerged on June 9, when, in the midst of speaking to the NATO foreign ministers on Bosnia, Christopher went into a digression on the need to control transfer of "dual use" technology to Iran, charging Iran was building atomic, biological, and chemical weapons. This is partly the result of Zionist lobby member Martin Indyk, who heads Middle East Affairs at the National Security Council. Indyk announced a policy of "dual containment" of Iran and Iraq at the Washington Institute on the Near East, which was founded as a front of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). However, ADL officials told *EIR* that they had written a letter to Christopher accompanied by a report released at the June 9-12 meeting compiled by the League's office in Jerusalem with "Israeli military intelligence sources" and "Israeli defense planners." This report, titled "A Growing Strategic Challenge," stresses that Iran is building atomic, biological, and chemical weapons systems capable of hitting Tel Aviv with the assistance of China, North Korea, Austria, Sweden, France, and the United States. The report stresses the role of German firms "in providing materials for Iran's chemical weapons effort as they did Iraq."

At the United Nations Conference on Human Rights, which began in Vienna on June 14, Christopher's speech also contained references to the need to put anti-Semitism on the agenda. Again, ADL officials told *EIR* that they had lobbied Christopher on this issue, working with Edgar Bronfman's World Jewish Congress. A press release for the June 9-12 meeting is signed by ADL national director Abraham Foxman and titled "Anti-Semitism Should Be on the International Agenda." Foxman claims that anti-Semitism is a more serious long-term problem than "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia, and he singles out the rise of anti-Semitism in Germany, Japan, Russia, and Hungary. The June/July issue of *The WJC Report* notes that Edgar Bronfman had begun this campaign by meeting with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who referred the matter to the U.N. Conference on Human Rights. After this, Bronfman held a strategy session with U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright on getting the anti-Semitism resolution passed.

The ADL also released several new reports smearing its enemies at the June 9-12 anniversary meeting. Among these was a new attack on Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam titled "Jew Hatred as History: The Nation of Islam's Secret Relationship." The report maliciously attacks the Nation of Islam for teaching the truth that some apostate Jews were slave traders who openly backed the Confederate revolt against the United States.