

ADL link is probed in Khalid Muhammad shooting

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The growing obsession of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) in recent months with eliminating Nation of Islam religious leader Louis Farrakhan took an explosive turn with the May 29, 1994 shooting of controversial NOI figure Khalid Muhammad, following a lecture he delivered at the Riverside campus of the University of California.

The event has grave political implications, not only for the United States but globally, with potential repercussions for the international financial superstructure as well. Following the shooting, police nationwide were placed on alert over the possibility of race riots in the event of Khalid Muhammad's death. Had such riots broken out on Memorial Day, the entire U.S. political situation, already destabilized by the persistent British-led "Clintongate" assault on the presidency, would have been thrown into chaos.

Upon learning of the shooting of Khalid Muhammad by former NOI Minister James Edward Bess, *EIR* initiated a special investigation into the incident. Preliminary results of that investigation, focusing on the pivotal role of the ADL in stripping security at the Riverside campus, were reported in the June 6 issue of the weekly *New Federalist* newspaper, in a front-page article by Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., headlined "ADL Investigated in Riverside Shooting."

The LaRouche-authored status report offered preliminary findings based on 72 hours of interviews, and on cross-gridding of news accounts and background files. LaRouche reported that "even if the indications are that only a single shooter was involved in the assault upon Khalid Muhammad and the other victims in the incident, the fact that the security stripping was arranged in a way which greatly facilitated this occurrence requires intense investigation of the possibility that some relevant person or persons might have known of the intended assault in advance, or might even have fostered

the shooter's intent to make such an attempt. In any case, the ADL's current and relatively massive hate-propaganda campaign against the NOI contributed to creating the circumstances in which the shooting occurred.

"In the case that any person linked to the ADL either fostered the shooter's impulse to make the assault, or merely possessed relevant foreknowledge of the intent, the ADL is the prime suspect," he pointed out.

LaRouche also emphasized that, although the shooting had targeted Khalid Muhammad, the principal target of the ADL's efforts is NOI leader Minister Louis Farrakhan, and that the Riverside incident was one of a string of ADL-linked actions over the past year that targeted Khalid Muhammad as a means of "ricocheting a shot actually aimed at eliminating Minister Farrakhan."

The ADL launched the most recent phase of its longstanding racist campaign against the NOI last year, when it purchased a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* expressing outrage over a speech which Khalid Muhammad had delivered at Kean College in New Jersey. Although Minister Farrakhan subsequently dismissed Khalid Muhammad as an official spokesman for the NOI, the Anti-Defamation League campaign accelerated, with pressure on the Black Congressional Caucus to cut off all dialogue with the Nation of Islam.

On May 12 of this year, the ADL issued a press release announcing its publication of a new report targeting both the NOI and Lyndon LaRouche. The press release generated a wave of smear publicity during the two-week period leading up to the Riverside shooting.

EIR has learned that the ADL effort against LaRouche is part of a revival of a mid-1980s "active measures" campaign directed by Wall Street neo-conservative John Train. The

current Train effort, closely coordinated with the London-based Hollinger media conglomerate, is also targeting President Clinton.

ADL contamination of local police

The preliminary *EIR* assessment of the ADL's crucial role in the shooting incident was also based on extensive public evidence of ADL contamination of local police departments in at least 20 jurisdictions in California alone. Beginning in November 1992, the San Francisco police conducted a year-long probe of ADL spying on a wide range of domestic political groups, including the NOI, Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the LaRouche movement. That probe revealed that the ADL had successfully penetrated and compromised police departments all across the country, illegally obtaining confidential data on tens of thousands of Americans, and, even more significantly, had planted ADL hate propaganda in police files on groups on the League's "enemies list."

The presence of such contamination heightened *EIR*'s state of alert concerning a coverup of the circumstances surrounding the shooting of Khalid Muhammad and several of his bodyguards. Any effort to write off the incident as a simple case of a "lone assassin" would constitute *prima facie* confirmation of just such an ADL-orchestrated coverup.

Security stripping confirmed

Continuing *EIR* investigation has confirmed that the ADL played a direct role in the security stripping at the Riverside campus. Beginning on May 26, officials from the ADL offices in Los Angeles and Orange County descended on the campus, convening a meeting with Jewish student groups and community leaders in an effort to have the Khalid Muhammad event cancelled.

ADL officials Jonathan Bernstein and Barbara Bergen, the assistant ADL general counsel for the West Coast, reportedly met with the university's chancellor and with student government officials. Although the event was not cancelled, the ADL intervention did result in several crucial security-stripping measures, such as the refusal to permit NOI security personnel to search attendees at the lecture. (That responsibility was placed in the hands of local and campus police.) Also, "reporters" were allowed to enter the event with tape recorders, creating an additional screening burden for the security and heightened tension at the event.

ADL counsel Bergen attended the lecture, and other ADL officials were also present at a protest demonstration outside the student building where the lecture took place. Jewish Defense League leader Irv Rubin was among the "protesters" on the campus the night of the shooting.

The June 6 *New Federalist* story also raised questions about the would-be assassin. "The first consideration in a case of this sort," LaRouche wrote, "is to determine if the

shooter has a relevant sort of psychiatric problem or relevant kind of history of violence, or strong obsessions. The next step is to determine if some relevant agency with the professional or related capabilities for psychological manipulation of such a type of disturbed person might have had access to the shooter."

Evidence unearthed since the publication of the LaRouche *New Federalist* story points to possible psychological tampering with the accused shooter. According to news accounts, Bess was placed in the psychiatric evaluations section of California's Vacaville Prison in the mid-1960s. At that time, Vacaville was the location of a covert behavior modification project which, among other things, produced several future members of the terrorist Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA).

Leading psychiatric professionals involved in those 1960s programs typified by the Vacaville unit, are still active today, and publicly function as consultants to the FBI's Behavioral Sciences Unit at Quantico, Virginia, or as officers of two other ADL-linked groups, the American Family Foundation and the Cult Awareness Network.

ADL merchants of hate

FBI-ADL collusion against black civil rights leaders has a history dating back to the 1960s, when the ADL functioned as a key component of then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's war against Rev. Martin Luther King. Former ADL public affairs official Henry Schwarzschild recently told reporters for *San Francisco Weekly* that he quit the ADL in the mid-1960s when he discovered the League was collaborating with Hoover by spying on Dr. King.

Ever since the ADL sponsorship of a conference in Montreal, Canada on Nov. 3-4, 1991 on "Anti-Semitism Around the World," the ADL has devoted its principal international fundraising and dirty tricks resources to a campaign to smear educated black Americans as the nation's worst anti-Semites. At that conference, Prof. Leonard Dinnerstein delivered a keynote speech detailing the purported "history" of black anti-Semitism since the time of slavery. More recently, he authored a book-length elaboration of the speech, titled *Anti-Semitism in America*. The book singles out Minister Farrakhan for attack, citing his role in the 1988 Jesse Jackson presidential campaign as a disturbing sign of the NOI's emergence as a political force inside the black community.

The history of decades of ADL-FBI racist collusion provides a conclusive pattern of evidence that whenever a black leader attempts to step outside of the ghetto and pursue broader political goals and alliances, he is targeted for elimination. The cases of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King are well known. The more recent efforts by Minister Farrakhan to forge broader political alliances, as in his 1988 cooperation with the Jackson for President effort, and even more recent continuing signs of such a breakout, place him in the cross hairs of the ADL and the ADL's patrons.