

**LEADING BLACK ANTI-SEMITES HOLD  
FIERY RALLY AT ELITE BLACK SCHOOL**

By Pamela Druckerman

WASHINGTON, April 25 (JTA) -- From the look of things, the hundreds of people lined up outside of Howard University's Cramton Auditorium last week could have been waiting to hear a concert, or an academic lecture.

Men and women, many dressed in turbans and colorful African fabrics, smiled as they greeted friends and listened to the Caribbean rhythms floating up from street stands offering Jamaican patties and African lemonade.

Only the sign outside the hall with the program's title, "Documenting the Black Holocaust," with featured speakers from the militant Black Muslim Nation of Islam, and the men in sharp suits wandering among the crowd hawking the organization's newspaper, *The Final Call*, bespoke the true nature of the evening's event.

On the campus of America's pre-eminent black university, three of the most prominent proponents of a black pride that espouses anti-Semitism addressed a crowd of about 2,000.

The April 19 program was sponsored by a Howard student group, Unity Nation, but most of the audience consisted of working-class blacks from the Washington area, with only a smattering of Howard students.

University officials only grudgingly consented to the use of their hall for the event, saying they were bound by the First Amendment to rent it out to the sponsoring student group.

The evening featured Khalid Abdul Muhammad, of the Nation of Islam; Leonard Jeffries, chairman of the black studies department at City College of New York; and Wellesley College Professor Tony Martin.

**Calls Holocaust Memorials 'Malicious'**

During the nearly five-hour program, they charged, among other things, that Jews control the banks and the media and are collectively responsible for the suffering of American blacks.

Following a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum the day before, Muhammad, Jeffries and Martin added another element to the Nation of Islam's anti-Semitic platform, with the claim that the genocide of Jews in Nazi Europe paled in comparison with the "black Holocaust" of Africans under slavery.

"They had piles of shoes," said Muhammad of the Holocaust Museum, "as if I was supposed to be impressed. We didn't even have shoes."

Speakers also charged that Jewish Holocaust memorials were a malicious effort to divert attention from the mass killing and exploitation of African slaves.

In the auditorium's stifling heat and under the watchful gaze of Nation of Islam security guards, the crowd sat mesmerized throughout the evening while a series of speakers paid homage to a version of history in which the oppression of blacks is pinned almost entirely on the pernicious conspiracies of past and contemporary Jews.

In a lilting West Indian accent, Martin, a

tenured professor in the African Studies department at Wellesley College, fastidiously explained how slavery, and indeed centuries of black African suffering, are the product of a cabal of "Jewish rabbis" who conspired -- via the Babylonian Talmud -- to degrade African people with the curse of Ham.

This curse, Martin alleged, formed the "intellectual underpinnings" of modern black suffering and "the pretext upon which the slave trade was built."

Martin went on to explain, in brutal detail, many of the horrors experienced by African slaves, implying in no uncertain terms that Jews were to blame.

Where Martin played the serious-minded academic, City College Professor Jeffries was the spiritual tempest, with the fitful pedantic instincts of a man born to teach.

Clad in yellow African robes, Jeffries -- who was recently reinstated as head of City College's black studies department after being relieved of his post for anti-Semitic remarks -- received hoots of approval and standing ovations for his efforts to root anti-Semitic notions in African pride.

"Get into your African mind," he told the crowd, which rose with clenched fists to the rocking cadences of his teachings.

**Have 'Redefined Reality'**

But the message of self-discovery soon turned to rage, as he lashed out at Jews, gentiles, bankers and Hollywood, attacking non-militant blacks, and Howard University students not present at the lecture, as "Negroes without anything to say."

As he spoke, Jeffries worked himself into a frenzy, shouting over the static of the microphone to cram a semester of his controversial Afro-centric historical teachings into a 90-minute diatribe.

At the end of his talk, Jeffries, visibly overheated, claimed an existential victory.

"We have now redefined reality," he said, "and that's real power."

But the main event of the evening was Muhammad, whose recent notoriety came when the Anti-Defamation League ran advertisements quoting from a speech he gave last fall at Kean College in New Jersey.

In a sleek double-breasted suit, Muhammad smiled as he darted and bounced across the stage, calling Jews "swindlers," and Colin Ferguson, the black gunman who is charged with the shooting deaths of six people earlier this year on the Long Island Rail Road, a "modern-day Nat Turner."

But it is not what Muhammad said -- his message consisted of a string of disconnected accusations -- but the particular brilliance of his delivery that made Muhammad shine.

Few seemed to care that he was repeating, often verbatim, the same clever catch-phrases and assaults on Catholics, homosexuals and Jews he had used at widely publicized speeches elsewhere.

They seemed to have come, instead, to see a repeat performance of a favorite act, and to

enjoy the derogatory one-liners for which Muhammad has gained notoriety.

"You have your Schindler's List, but it's really a swindler's list," Muhammad said to the obvious delight of the crowd. "You have swindled us, you have stolen our birthright."

Muhammad even seemed to cast himself as a modern-day version of Zionist leader Theodor Herzl, calling on blacks to build "a nation of our own."

A few Jews came out to protest the event, among them activist Rabbi Avi Weiss from New York, who held a placard with racist and anti-Semitic quotations from Muhammad's previous speeches, including controversial remarks made at an address at Howard University in February.

As a colleague adjusted a prayer shawl on his shoulders, Weiss complained that Jews have not responded adequately to the Nation of Islam.

"How is it possible that the Jewish community is not out here in force to confront the bigots? There's tremendous fear. To stand out here, it's not easy," Weiss said.

Minutes later, a small crowd gathered around him, shouting insults and questioning his right to protest.

"There's no such thing as a black-Jewish relationship," said Washington resident Joel Johnson. "It's just us for us. You got so much power, hit the road."

But others in the crowd said they did not understand all the fuss.

Gabrielle Lane, a sophomore political science major at Howard, insisted the view that the Nation of Islam is anti-Semitic is a simple case of "miscommunication."

"If they'll step outside of their own situation, they'll see there's no reason to protest," Lane said of the demonstrators.

When asked about black-Jewish relations, Joseph McKenzie, a dapper young black man with a narrow mustache and a thin leather tie, spoke with concern over the fate of the Jews.

"There are numerous amounts of groups in this country, their sole purpose is to destroy the Jews. I don't know if they're in fear of the Jews or what, they just hate them," he said. These groups "are in a preparatory state of starting race wars against them."

But McKenzie, like others who had come to the rally, was quick to exclude Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan from this category.

"I don't think he's anti-Jewish. I think he's anti anyone who's anti-black," said McKenzie.

But later, McKenzie joined those who were shouting down Weiss and his supporters.

"What has the Nation of Islam ever done to a white person?" he shouted. The speakers "have the right to say whatever they want to say."

#### AUSTRALIAN JEWS DEMAND APOLOGY FOR PAPER'S CHARGE OF RITUAL MURDER

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, April 25 (JTA) -- Australian Jewish leaders have demanded a public apology from the editor of an Arabic-language newspaper which printed the claim that Jews practice ritual murder.

The article was printed in an issue published during Passover, the traditional time in Europe when such blood libels were made by Christians

for many centuries. More recently, the charge has surfaced in Syria.

The Australian Arab newspaper, Al-Moharrer Al-Arabi (The Arab Editor), is published in Sydney.

Its editor, Morris Tadros, is an Egyptian Christian who holds elected office as a municipal councilor and serves in a senior position in the Ethnic Communities' Council of New South Wales.

The article, titled "Blood for Zion's Unleavened Bread," included claims that Jewish "directives" include killing "gentiles, who are not different from animals."

It charged that shedding "Muslim blood is justifiable" for Jews, who are depicted as followers of a religion that finds it "easy" to murder "hundreds of human beings, even the entire human race."

The article depicts holy Jewish texts as "perverted books" with "bloody teachings."

The article claimed that "the Jews have two holy feasts where they eat unleavened bread mixed with human blood, where the victim's blood is drawn off by means of the needles barrel, a barrel that fits the victim's body, where sharp needles are affixed in all its sides."

The article said that the blood is given to a rabbi for matzah preparation.

The article's author, Taleb Shaheen, gave this as an explanation for the Feb. 25 massacre of Muslim worshipers at a mosque in Hebron.

Isi Leibler, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said, "The entire article is racist pornography of an unparalleled degree."

He called for "an immediate, total and unconditional apology" and said, "The writer's claims will incite hatred of Jewish people and the Jewish religion."

#### Editor Blames Article On Staff Error

The New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies has complained to the Anti-Discrimination Board, which administers legislation outlawing such racial vilification.

Peter Wertheim, vice president of the Board of Deputies, said the paper's editor was "anxious to make amends" and that Tadros had blamed the article on a "mistake by one of his staff."

Wertheim said the paper committed "a serious breach of law."

The Ethnic Affairs Commission of New South Wales has also demanded a public apology and withdrawal of the offensive article.

Stepan Kerkyasharian, chairman of the Anti-Discrimination Board, said he would also like to see the publication run a series of articles about Jewish culture and history.

This would undo some of the damage caused by printing the offending piece, he said.

In 1985, another Sydney Arabic language newspaper, An Nahda, accused Jews of "awakening Christian hatred" for them by kidnapping Christian men and children and slaughtering them to obtain their blood for making matzah.

The Australian Press Council censured An Nahda for publishing "unsubstantiated allegations that are typical of the kind of propaganda that has been used to stir up anti-Jewish prejudice and justify racial persecution."

An Nahda's offense was cited as reason for introducing legislation against racial vilification in New South Wales in 1989.

**ISRAELI LOANS BACKED BY U.S. GUARANTEES REMAIN FROZEN DUE TO INTERNAL DISPUTE**  
By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA) -- A dispute between the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Israel has frozen the money earmarked for immigrant absorption that the United States helped secure by providing billions of dollars in loan guarantees.

The disagreement may have already cost Israel millions of dollars.

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat is reported to have swooped down on the Treasury and taken away bundles of documents to help in her office's probe of the dispute.

The Treasury apparently wanted to use the money secured with the loan guarantees to help companies wishing to invest in new infrastructure projects or to expand their investments in existing projects of that type.

But the Bank of Israel objected to the Treasury's direct involvement in determining who should receive the money.

As a result, a considerable part of the money has been left on deposit abroad for a period far longer than initially anticipated.

The much sought-after loan guarantees were offered to Israel by the Bush administration after a protracted and bitter fight with the American Jewish community.

They were secured at a relatively high rate of interest -- in the region of 7 percent annually -- while the interest being paid on the current deposits abroad is at a lower short-term rate of only some 3.5 to 4 percent.

Bank of Israel figures issued last week show that of the \$3 billion that Israel raised on the U.S. money market, only some \$800,000 have so far been disbursed, leaving \$2.2 billion unused.

The Treasury claims that the U.S.-guaranteed loans are being spent daily as the general Israeli public and the business sector buy foreign currency to finance investment and the import of capital goods needed to push economic growth at an accelerated pace.

According to a report in the Hebrew daily Ha'aretz, the Treasury explains that the drain on foreign currency reserves is being financed by loans that the U.S. funds are guaranteeing.

As a result, said the Treasury, Israel is getting credit on the best possible terms available in the world's money markets.

**ISSUES OF SOVEREIGNTY STILL UNRESOLVED IN ISRAELI-PLO AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS**  
By Devorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA) -- While remaining optimistic that a final agreement is imminent on implementing the Palestinian self-rule accord, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres cautioned this week that certain important details remain to be worked out between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was expected to review the package being hammered out by negotiators in Cairo when he returns from a trip to Russia at the end of this week.

Two main issues are to be left to Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat to thrash out together: the stationing of a Palestinian police officer

on the Allenby Bridge, which spans the Jordan River; and the size of the Jericho autonomous enclave.

The PLO wants an area of 40 square miles around the West Bank town of Jericho, while Israel is prepared to cede only 24 square miles.

Other disputed issues are those which reflect on who has sovereignty over the autonomous areas. The PLO would like to be able to issue its own stamps, currency, and passports, and have a telephone code all its own, but Israel objects to these manifestations of statehood.

At the same time that negotiators were sounding their upbeat note this week, some less encouraging signs came from the territories.

A group of 23 prominent Palestinians, led by Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, issued a statement protesting what it considers excessive PLO concessions to Israel. Abdel-Shafi formerly headed the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

"Any legitimation given to unilateral Israeli actions such as the expropriation of Palestinian lands, the establishment of settlements and the annexation of East Jerusalem shall not be binding on the Palestinian people," said the statement.

Speaking in Jerusalem, Abdel-Shafi accused Arafat and the PLO of being out of touch with the Palestinian people, who would be forced to pay a heavy price for mistakes the PLO is now making. He also called for greater democratization of the PLO.

**RUSSIA EXPRESSES AN INTEREST IN SECURITY COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL**  
By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA) -- Showing a renewed interest in the Middle East peace process, Russia has expressed a desire to work out military and security cooperation with Israel, according to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is on a visit to Russia.

The idea surfaced during a lengthy meeting between Rabin and Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin on Monday.

"I raised a number of issues in the hope that Russia, which is now resuming an active role as a co-sponsor of the peace negotiations, may be able to use its connections with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iran to advance the cause of peace in our region," Rabin said after the meeting.

Commentators noted that Rabin's mention of Iran was a broad hint at the role Russia might play in securing the return of Israel's missing servicemen, who were captured in Lebanon in the 1980s and believed held by pro-Iranian groups.

The Russian proposal, of which no details are yet known, was not a total surprise in Jerusalem. Observers believe it may well be connected with another development -- the announcement that Russia may resume arms supplies to Syria.

The former Soviet Union was the chief arms supplier to Syria until it broke up in 1991.

The Russians have been quick to reassure Israel that all they intend is to supply spare parts for weapons already in Syria's possession.

Israel's former ambassador to Moscow, Arye Levin, told Israel Radio that the Russian offer of cooperation with Israel may be connected to Russian fears of Muslim fundamentalism that threaten to engulf southern parts of the former Soviet empire.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:****NEW JEWISH SCHOOL IS FRONT LINE  
IN WAR ON ASSIMILATION IN TURKEY**

By Cynthia Mann

ISTANBUL, Turkey, April 25 (JTA) -- In a city of about 12 million Muslims, the 22,000 Jews of Istanbul say their toughest enemy is assimilation, and they have declared war.

Their ammunition is a new Jewish school with top academic standards and state-of-the-art facilities, community education leaders told a visiting group of board members from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee here last week.

So far, \$4 million has been invested and more funds are slated to be raised for the school, which leaders call "a shield against assimilation."

Jewish leaders in Istanbul admit to a rate of intermarriage of about 10 to 15 percent, but outside experts say the rate may be twice that.

Jews here are concerned about intermarriage and dwindling numbers, in part because religious communities here enjoy official government recognition as minorities entitled to special rights only if they number at least 15,000 members.

While there are no official figures available, the community estimates there are 25,000 Jews in Turkey today.

The new Jewish school, scheduled to open in September for 750 students, will operate with a \$1.4 million initial annual budget and will gradually serve 1,000 students, from primary through high school grades.

The Jewish educators say the principal aim in building the new school is to attract back into the Jewish educational system the students who have left over the years to attend more competitive non-Jewish schools.

"It is the ultimate, biggest, most important project this community has ever undertaken," Beti Delevi, a member of the school board, told the JDC delegation. "It is our pride. Therefore we have to be successful."

The Jews of Istanbul are financially self-sufficient and are not seeking Diaspora funding per se, explained Avi Alkas, the vice president of the community's executive council.

**Community Aided By Jewish Agency And JDC**

But they need and welcome technical assistance in their ambitious undertaking, in areas such as library construction, computers, Hebrew language learning and teacher training, he said.

For years, the community has been getting professional help in education from the Jewish Agency-World Zionist Organization's Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education. The Joint Authority provides teachers, Jewish studies curricula, guidance on youth activities and programs in Israel for Turkish youth.

More recently the JDC has stepped in to lend its technical help. With the Joint Authority and the JDC, the community is now planning Jewish camps on the three nearby islands where the vast majority of Istanbul's Jews spend their summers. The camps are to begin this summer.

"The Turkish Jewish community has placed Jewish education very high on the communal agenda because it views it as being key to Jewish continuity," said David Harman, director-general of the Joint Authority in Jerusalem.

The new school will replace the elementary and junior high schools run by Istanbul's Jews for nearly 80 years. They currently offer the secular 25-hour curriculum mandated by the nation's Ministry of Education, supplemented by three to five hours weekly of instruction in Hebrew language and Jewish history and culture.

Tuition is paid by students who can afford it, and the community pays for those who cannot.

While the quality of education at the Jewish schools used to be high, the community leaders say it has declined in recent decades, prompting many parents to send their children to other, non-Jewish private schools.

Ninety-five percent of Jewish students in Istanbul go to university, which the leaders describe as a prerequisite to success in Turkey. The non-Jewish, "foreign" schools in the city enjoy a better reputation than the Jewish high school for preparing students to compete for entrance into a good university, they say.

Although the educators concede the new school will not increase the amount of Jewish education now offered, they hope the quality of the program will attract more Jewish students who might otherwise not receive Jewish education.

"While assimilation of the Istanbul Jewish community hasn't (increased) at the same rate as in most Western countries, there is still an alarming growth in intermarriages," said Delevi.

"In this context, the presence of a Jewish school of high standards which would attract not only the children of conservative families, but also those of modern liberal families, who are more inclined to assimilate, gains particular importance," she said.

**The School Moves With the Community**

The new school is located in a "prestigious residential district around which a considerable percentage of the Jewish community lives," said Delevi. She explained that the need for the school stemmed in part from the migration of the bulk of the Jewish community away from the area around the existing schools to the "newer, more fashionable districts in Istanbul."

But, more important, the new school was a response to "the gradual decline in the level of education and academic standards of the student body and the inevitable loss of faith in the schools," Delevi said.

"We wanted to change the (school's) image and compete with the foreign schools," said Hayim Hason, a member of the board of education and general secretary of the community's Talmud Torah, the community's extracurricular Hebrew school, which will run the islands' summer camps.

"For that, we needed a good building and (the best) academic program," added Hason. He said the new school was the inspiration of Bernar Nahum, a successful 80-year-old local businessman, himself a graduate of the Istanbul Jewish schools.

A board of trustees of 30 business leaders govern the school's funding. At least 10 percent of the student body will be given scholarships.

The new campus will house two libraries, science and computer labs, an auditorium, kosher kitchen and indoor and outdoor recreation areas.

In the high school, the curriculum will be supplemented by Jewish studies, computer studies and intensive English, which will be the language of instruction for math and science.