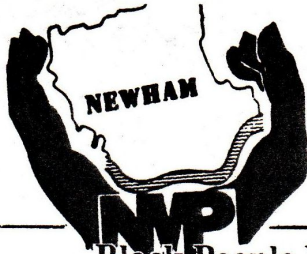


# SEARCHLIGHT

FOR SOME time anti-racist and anti-fascist activists have been concerned about the political direction of *Searchlight* magazine. It played a divisive and destabilising role in *Anti-Fascist Action* in the mid-'80's, making allegations that the anarchist *Class War* group were in league with the National Front. It has become increasingly pro-Zionist and anti-Palestinian, totally ignoring the rise of the fascist-Right in Israel and the anti-Arab racism and pogroms in that country whilst consistently alleging that Arab regimes and the PLO are in league with various fascists. This, and the links of its editor Gerry Gable with the intelligence services, particularly MI5, are documented in an article *Defending Zionism - Undermining Anti-Fascists* in *Palestine Solidarity* No. 42.

*Searchlight* has also played a pivotal part in setting up the Jewish Awareness Group, a body described (*Observer* 28.10.90) as a right-wing Zionist group. On Gable's own admission it contains members of the semi-fascist Herut group. The statement below describes what happened at one of its first meetings:



## NEWHAM MONITORING PROJECT

### Black People Banned From Meeting

Members of Newham Monitoring Project and representatives of other black organisations including Newham Asian Women's Project and London Alliance Against Racism and Fascism were denied entry to a public meeting on rising anti-semitism in Britain held at Ilford Federation Synagogue yesterday. The meeting was organised by the Jewish Awareness Group and advertised in *Searchlight* magazine. Newham Monitoring Project has always supported anti-racist meetings and demonstrations and went along in solidarity with this latest initiative, hoping to build links with all genuine anti-racists.

To our surprise and horror, three of us (Unmesh Desai, Barry Mussenden and Asad Rehman) were banned from the meeting by security guards under orders from the organisers and Gerry Gable of *Searchlight*. The police were called to remove us from synagogue property. Various 'justifications' were given for the ban, ranging from individuals' stand on the Palestinian question to unknown 'personal reasons'.

The rest of us who were allowed into the meeting were thoroughly questioned and searched by security guards. Jasbir Singh, the Secretary of NMP, was forced to spreadeagle his body against the wall and undergo and intimate body search, including a search of his hair. Not a single white person was subjected to such humiliating treatment.

When we sat down at the back of the hall, we were surrounded by security guards who watched our every move. It was obvious that the organisers felt that members of the black community constituted a threat to the meeting.

When we realised that our friends were not going to be allowed in, we walked out, explaining to the meeting why we were leaving. Gerry Gable's response was "Just get out of here." Adding insult to injury, a member of the *Jewish Awareness Group* told the meeting that we were all members of a "Trotskyist Group."

Meanwhile, seven other local black people arrived and were also told that they were not welcome at the meeting.

As we were about to leave the area, a car drove by containing fascists from the *British National Party*, including Richard Edmonds, the BNP's deputy leader. In spite of the racist behaviour of the organisers, we stayed in the area to lend our support, in case of a fascist attack.

That black people who have played a leading role in fighting racism and fascism in Britain are excluded from a public meeting on anti-Semitism and treated like criminals is outrageous and must be condemned. That *Searchlight* played an integral part in this banning of black people is an indictment of the magazine itself and all it purports to stand for. (25.10.90.)

## Kahane...

(Continued from page 12)

"A Jewish state means that, at a minimum, there must be a majority of Jews; a Jewish sovereignty with the power to make our own laws." he said in a 1985 interview. "This is why Jews have left Europe and have come here. If we were now to apply to the letter the principles of Western democracy, we would agree that decisions are to be made by a majority. It's at this point that I ask a question that sends Israelis crazy, both on the left and on the right. The question is as follows: if the Arabs settle (sic) among us and make enough children to become a majority, will Israel continue to be a Jewish state? Do we have to accept that the Arab majority will decide? Obviously, nobody in Israel can accept this. Because to accept this would amount to being anti-Zionist!.. There's no question of setting up democracy in Israel, because democracy means equal rights for all, irrespective of racial or religious origins... You just can't, on the one hand want a Jewish state and at the same time give non-Jews the right to become a majority."

Kahane's analysis of the incompatibility of Zionism and democracy was incisive and accurate. His solution, however, was not to jettison Zionism, but to get rid of democracy, namely by creating an exclusively Jewish state through the expulsion of all Palestinian inhabitants. This goal is shared by many in Israel's ultra-right governing coalition, e.g. agriculture minister, Rafael Eitan, Moledet party leader, Rehavam Zeevi and Tehiya party leader, Geula Cohen.

Meir Kahane may be dead but his legacy of racism and hatred lives on at the highest levels in Israel. ■■

SUBSCRIBE TO  
*PALESTINE SOLIDARITY*  
£3.00 for 6 issues.

