

## NAACP SUSPENDS JAPANESE MARCH PENDING OUTCOME OF FURTHER TALKS

For the past 60 days, the NAACP has maintained an informational picket line at the Japanese Embassy in Washington. Plans were well underway for a massive demonstration at the Embassy on December 15, involving thousands of demonstrators, and which is supported by major African-American organizations. The daily picketing and the planned demonstration were a response to insulting racial remarks by Japanese officials and to perceptions of discriminatory hiring and business practices by Japanese firms doing business in the United States. Both the daily picketing and the December 15th demonstrations have been suspended pending the outcome of further talks with Japanese government officials and leaders of the Japanese business and industrial community, according to Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, Executive Director of the NAACP.

Earlier, the more than 2,200 units of the NAACP had been notified of the proposed demonstration which was linked to the unsatisfactory pace at which negotiations between Japanese officials and the NAACP were progressing. The negotiations were over a number of recommendations for action contained in a position paper prepared by the NAACP and submitted to the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and to the Japanese Prime Minister on Oct. 5th.

Included in the recommendations were those related to the dissemination of African-American history through the Japanese schools; the employ-

ment and promotion of African-Americans working for Japanese firms; the securing of franchise and dealerships for Japanese products by African Americans, etc. "Over the past several days we have received indications from the Japanese that we are beginning to make progress. Based on this, we have concluded that we should hold the planned demonstration in abeyance while we proceed with the talks," Dr. Hooks said. "The NAACP has also scheduled a meeting in Washington on December 4th with 20 key executives of Japanese firms doing business in the United States. We will be strongly urging them to exercise their considerable influence to help substantially improve relations between the Japanese and the African American community."

## A NIGGARDLY NEGRO

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I phoned Michael Williams' office (202/732-1213) and left the message that I thought his decision represented a pernicious and hateful attack on a people made vulnerable by centuries of abuse and that for a Black person to hurt his own people this way, it was particularly disgraceful.

Williams' behavior demonstrates my oft-proclaimed belief that racism is not the primary enemy, self-hatred is. For anyone to confuse, as Williams does, the Bakke decision against fixed quotas, with helping a group

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chapter discloses fascinating insights on topics such as: the relationship between Black children and their parents; rape; AIDS and its threat to Black Americans; and the crisis in Black male and female relationships. Her unraveling of the network of fears embedded in such European symbols and practices as ball games, money, gold, guns and even the white Christ-figure, will force readers of all colors to examine their own participation in a system of racial violence and negation.

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sity. She is currently a medical officer at the Department of Human Resources, Mental Health Administration, and Clinical Director for the Paul Robeson School for Growth and Development, Washington, D.C.

*The Isis Papers* is a provocative work sure to excite much debate. With its publication, third World Press, one of the few independent African American publishing houses in the nation, adds Dr. Cress Welsing to its list of distinguished writers, including Gwendolyn Brooks, Dr. Chancellor Williams, Sonia Sanchez, Cheikh Anta Diop, Ruby Dee, Mari Evans, Dr. Bobby Wright and Haki Madhubuti.



Dr. Frances Cress Welsing, author of *The Isis Papers: The Key to the Colors*

economically and socially imprisoned because of race overcome the effects of that enforced status — is preposterous. This Negro really believes that if you identify the Black victims in order to aid them, the action is anti-White.

For a professional White race-baiter or David Duke demagogue to exploit fears among Whites that remedies to those made downtrodden by a historic pattern of malice, ignorance and greed in anti-White is bad enough. But for a Black person to label compassion as "race exclusive" and go to the extreme of punishing anyone who deliv-

ers relief to the victims, escapes my ability to comprehend.

"Misguided" and "politically motivated," the president of the American Council on Education, representing 1,600 higher education institutions, called Williams' absurd attack on Black and Hispanic youths who want a college education.

"Outrageous," was the reaction by Dr. Richard Wood, President of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, which has one of the most enlightened scholarship programs in the country. Dr. Wood is White and co-chairman of the Task Force

for Minority Opportunities of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Moreover, Williams, whose title should be "Assistant Secretary for Civil Wrongs," attempts to use an alleged fairness argument to confuse financial aid for disadvantaged groups with a fixed quota. "Anything," he says, "where race is a determining factor is a race exclusive scholarship." Williams' fairness argument is fraught with moral bankruptcy.

Is race a "determining factor" in the maybe-soon-to-come Persian Gulf War? If there's any dying to be done in a war against Iraq, Black men and women will do 30% of it, although we represent only 12% of the country's population. Is that fair?

That kind of race exclusivity doesn't bother Williams. Blacks out-dying Whites for a country that ignores race when it is dying-time, but wants it considered when it is scholarship-time literally "kills" two birds with one stone.

The American government has paid reparations to the Japanese-Americans for a five-year incarceration during WWII, but has not even apologized to African-Americans for almost 400 years of slavery and centuries of overt persecution. Is that fair? Will Williams argue that race is not a "determining factor" in that case? Africans were enslaved because of their race; and built America's infrastructure and economy for the same reason. The slave trade, for example, built Brown University. Is that fair? That use of race as "the"

determining factor is precisely at the core of today's disadvantage, as the Supreme Court has been trying to tell us for the last 30 years.

Racism bred poverty and poverty bred disadvantage and this lack of opportunity fuels the need to consider race at all. What are Williams' plans to interrupt this cycle?

I make no case for race as "the" determining factor. But Williams' argument that race as "a" factor should be ignored in an attempt to interrupt an essentially poverty-driven cycle that is racially determined amounts to a mean-spirited social policy.

That's why Williams' color-blind facade is both unfair and morally bankrupt. Moreover, this is some message from an agent of our "Education President" to disadvantaged youths.

Those who are pulling the strings of this "committed Black conservative" ideologue had better realize that he is a political liability to the President and the GOP's attempts to attract Blacks and attract and hold fair-minded Whites.

However, my response will not end with an irate column or a speech. In February 1991, my Buy Freedom Network 1-900 number will be equipped to brief callers on this and other issues by telephone and then transfer their calls, in this case, directly to President Bush's office (or John Sununu, his Chief of Staff).

In the meantime, call President Bush immediately (202/456-1414; ask for John Sununu) and tell him to fire this niggardly Negro, Michael Williams.

## BLACK PRESENCE

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author's argument. The studies of historical-Biblical readers and/or students of ancient history, especially those of Black and African emphasis, will be enriched by these two books on **The Black Presence in the Bible**. Both are valuable assets for understanding the Bible and the ethnological identity of its peoples. They are also useful for furthering the process of integrating Biblical history and ethnology with its counterparts found in ancient humanity, proto-civilizations, and indigenous cultures.

Since the early '70's, Reverend Walter Arthur McCray, a Black Baptist minister with over 21 years of experience, has been researching and teaching about the Biblical history of Black people. Since 1985 he has been conducting in-depth seminars on "The Black Presence in the Bible" in Chicago and across the nation. His new books are the fruit of those studies. McCray holds degrees in the fields of both Christian Education and Biblical Studies, and is an experienced lecturer, researcher and writer, having previously authored six books espousing a Christian Black Biblical viewpoint. He resides in Chicago, IL, and considers himself a Christian Black educator and servant-leader in the Christian Black community.

**THE BLACK PRESENCE IN THE BIBLE**, both the *Teacher's Guide* and the *Table of Nations*, can be purchased separately for \$19.95 each, either in area bookstores, or directly from the publisher: **Black Light Fellowship**, Post Office Box 5369, Chicago, IL 60680; (312) 722-1441.

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