

# NATIONAL

## Conference To Focus On Reconstruction Of The Black Community

Hundreds of African Americans from across the nation will gather in Baltimore at the National State of the Race Conference (SORC) Nov. 17-20 for a series of grassroots meetings, planning sessions and workshops to discuss the plight of African Americans, the destiny of the race and reconstruction of the Black community.

Consistent with the spirit of the National African American Leadership Summit launched by Dr. Benjamin Chavis, the SORC promises to be one of the most significant conferences of our time. "Taking Responsibility for the Reconstruction of the Black Community" is the theme of the four-day gathering, which will be held at Sojourner Douglass College, the Fifth Regiment Armory, and Radisson Hotel and other locations throughout Baltimore.

Many of the country's most prominent African American leaders will examine a variety of concerns including education, economic development, political empowerment, the crisis of Black youth, women's issues, foreign policy, religion, the urban peace and justice movement, communications and the media, and technology.

"We have assembled a great group of leaders -- free of charge -- to assure that we move beyond just talk, rhetoric and the paralysis of analysis," said Ron Daniels, chairperson of the SORC coordinating committee. "Parents, teachers, activists, lawyers, doctors, social workers, entertainers, welfare mothers, youth, preachers -- any concerned African Americans -- ought to be there to listen, learn and fight for a new future."

## Radio Networks Support NAACP Initiatives

In an effort to raise awareness in the civil rights organization, NAACP, the American Urban Radio Networks will bring a series of initiatives aimed at assisting the nation's oldest and largest civil rights group.

They include two public service campaigns, a nationwide address by the organization's leadership and the airing of the NAACP's 7th Annual Radiothon, designed to increase membership.

"As the nation's only and largest African American owned radio network company, we see it as our responsibility to help in a campaign that puts the historical and current worthiness of the NAACP in perspective," said Jerry Lopes, president of the networks program operations and affiliations.

The initial campaign will begin this month with 30 second announcements ranging on topics from voting rights to economic empowerment.

The theme of the campaign is "Imagine An America Without the NAACP." In February, another campaign will feature testimonials from everyday people on what the NAACP has done for them.

The promotion will conclude with the radiothon on April 22, a three hour information and entertainment special to be aired on more than 100 radio stations across the country.

American Urban Radio Networks is the only African American owned radio network with over 250 affiliate stations.

## Civil Rights Leader John Lewis Honored

Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) said, "I know, firsthand, the political and moral power of American blacks and Jews working side by side toward the same goals," as he accepted at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) National Executive Committee Meeting. "We stood together during times of difficulty. We must continue to do so now," he said. "We can never turn a deaf ear or a blind eye to hate. In real sense, we are one nation: one community; one people; we are one house, the American house; we are one family, the American family," he said.

"John Lewis is a man who has dedicated his life to the struggle for human rights and decency," said Burton M. Joseph, ADL honorary national chairman, who made the presentation. "During the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's, he marched in the face of danger, he sustained severe beatings during the Freedom Rides, and he was in the forefront of registering nearly 4 million minority voters, transforming the American political landscape," Joseph said.

"As Americans," Lewis told the gathering, "we should be about the business of building a truly interracial democracy, rather than dividing people along racial, ethnic and religious lines... I am committed," he said, "to the work of strengthening



Burton M. Joseph, ADL honorary national chairman (left), the benefactor of the Joseph Prize for Human Rights, and Rep. John Lewis (D-GA), the recipient.

the ties between the African American community and the American Jewish community. We have many challenges ahead of us."

The ADL Joseph Prize was established by Joseph and his sister.

Betty Greenberg, in honor of their parents. The award recognizes individuals whose life's work has been focused on the improvement of human relations and the advancement of human rights. Past recipients in-

clude former U.S. Congresswoman and civil rights leader Barbara C. Jordan; Germany's President Richard Von Weizsacker; Andre D. Sakharov; Anatoly Shcharansky, and George P. Shultz.

## Race Is Not A Factor In IQ Score Gaps

Disadvantaged children of all races could make up the entire gap in cognitive test scores if they received greater intellectual stimulation at home and inequality were eliminated. That's the conclusion of a study done by a sociologist at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

According to "Dispelling the Myth of Black Intellectual Inferiority," by Jonathan Crane, assistant professor of sociology and of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, when home environments and family socioeconomic status are equal, there are no genetic differences in intelligence among races.

Using data on mothers and children from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, an annual study of 12,686 people born between 1957 and 1964, Crane examined the effect of race on children's math and reading test scores. When all other factors were equal, he found no differences in the scores. In fact, one reading test, black children had significantly higher scores than white and other nonblack children with the same

home family backgrounds.

Crane concludes that disadvantaged children need a level of socioeconomic playing field. They also need intellectual stimulation at home to bridge the test score gap.

Crane admits that if "the second goal may be unattainable in the foreseeable future, the first clearly is not." He says that through early intervention, parent training and a compensatory education system that

emphasizes parental involvement, changes in some environmental factors are possible.

"Money provides access to better housing, better neighborhoods, better education and cultural advantages," says Crane. "Parents who are better educated to be more comfortable reading to their children. Those with less education may not read as much to their children because they are not as comfortable doing so."

## New Nation Born In Pacific

BY RICHARD E. SINCERE JR.

A new nation has emerged from the colonial shadow of the United States. On Oct. 1, the tiny Pacific island group called Palau became the youngest sibling in the family of nations. This country, with just over 17,000 people had been ruled as a Trust Territory by the U.S. government since the end of the World War II.

In his independence address, President Kuniwo Nakamura expressed his "pride and joy" over his country's new status and thanked the United States and the United Nations for their fifty years of trusteeship. "Our relationship with the United States," he said, "has always been, and will continue to be, solidly based on mutual friendship, respect, and trust."

With a land area of 191 square miles, Palau is slightly more than two-and-a-half times the size of Washington, D.C., yet it has over 750 miles of coastline and vast ocean territories that may include substantial undersea mineral and energy resources. Its 200 islands range from the mountainous Babelthuap to coral islands barely above sea level. Its naturally beautiful environment makes it an obvious tourist haven, but its remote location (more than 300 miles southeast of the Philippines, 4,000 miles southwest of Hawaii) has hindered the development of the tourism industry, which nonetheless attracts more than 30,000 visitors each year. Most Palauans, in fact, work for the government; the private sector is dominated by fishing and craft industries.

Palau's political system mixes traditional politics and constitutional democracy. President Nakamura was elected in Nov. 1992 with just over 50 percent of the vote.

The bicameral legislature consists of a Senate with 14 seats and a House of Delegates with 16 seats. It also has an independent judicial branch, including a Supreme Court. All citizens 18 years of age and older are eligible to vote. Traditional chiefs still play a large role in decisionmaking.

Independence came after voters turned down seven plebiscites to approve a treaty of "free association" with the United States, each of those required a 75 percent majority for approval. After the Palauan constitution was amended to allow a simple majority for approval, voters last year voted 68 percent to 32 percent to accept independence. As a result, the new nation can expect over \$517 million in U.S. economic assistance over the next 15 years, with an initial outlay of \$190 million. In return, U.S. citizens have the right to settle in Palau (as Palauans do in the United States) and the Pentagon retains rights to use Palau as a military or naval base if global strategy demands it.

Independence has also brought with it rising interests in its business opportunities. Investors from Australia, Guam, Korea, Japan, and the United States are exploring the islands for manufacturing, tourism, fishing, food processing, and financial possibilities. One Japanese firm, the Ocean Development Company, is building a new multimillion dollar resort on the islands of Koror and Babelthuap. In his Oct. 1 address, President Nakamura said: "We invite the world to visit and do business with Palau, accepting our laws and respecting our traditions and pledge to treat you fairly as we

welcome you to our productive and growing nation."

There is plenty of room for the economy to grow, too. The private sector employs only about 1,000 native Palauans and about 2,500 resident aliens. The government employs more than 60 percent of the labor force. Yet with an adult literacy rate of nearly 95 percent, Palau holds great promise for new industries seeking skilled or trainable workers. And with a per capita income of nearly \$5,000 (10 times greater than the nearby Philippines), Palauans are natural consumers of imports from the dynamic economies of the Pacific Rim.

Recent business ventures in Palau include a resort planned by the Belau Sea Treasures Co., a gold course being built by Megae Enterprises, and a condominium under development by Palau Properties.

Its history has not been all sunshine and lollipops -- it was the site of two major battles during the Second World War and its first president was assassinated, for instance -- and, like all new nations, it is likely to experience growth pangs. As President Nakamura put it, "Through rough waters and turbulent weather, Palau has steadily sailed toward sovereignty and self-determination. We have been steered by the guiding rudder of our unique cultural values and propelled by the strong winds of progressive democratic principles. Working together, our traditional culture and a democratic system of government have successfully carried us to this point in our nation's journey."

The promise and opportunity of tiny Palau will make this island nation worth watching in the coming decades. It is time to welcome Palau to the family of nations.

Every Hour.  
Every Day.  
Someone in our family Dies From AIDS.  
AIDS, a result of HIV infection, is an epidemic in our community, killing our mothers and fathers. Our sisters and our brothers. How can we stop this disease from claiming more lives? You can begin by calling your local Red Cross chapter for information about the African American HIV/AIDS Program. A program designed by African Americans -- that can teach us how to protect ourselves and our families.

THE DIFFERENCE CAN BEGIN WITH YOU.  
PLEASE. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL RED CROSS CHAPTER.

American Red Cross