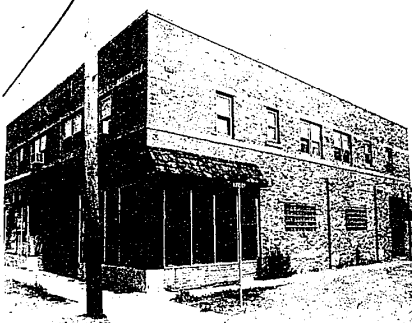




Detroit Muslim officials deny this building at Five Mile and Aubrey in Redford Township will be the future site of their national organization.

Muslims deny Redford move

By LYNN ORR

Newspaper articles announcing the purchase of two buildings in Redford Township to establish a national headquarters for the Federation of Islamic Associations (FIA) caught township officials there by surprise last week.

"They have not applied to us for any permits of any sort," said township Supervisor James Kelley Friday afternoon.

The articles claim Nihad Hamed, representing the FIA, paid \$100,000 given by King Khaled of Saudi Arabia for two buildings on the southeast corner of Five Mile and Aubrey, between Beech Daly and Inkster.

The FIA is an Islamic group with members in the U.S. and Canada. Members are Muslims who follow the teachings of Islam.

News of the purchase and impending move of national FIA headquarters from New York surprised Detroit Muslim leaders as well.

Hussein Makled, vice president of the FIA, denies that his organization had anything to do with the alleged purchase. He said Hamed was expelled from the presidency of the group on May 31 and has not been authorized to buy property for the group.

THE FIA and Islamic Center of Detroit are separate entities, said Makled. Neither group has received money from Arab countries for activities in the U.S., he said.

Makled said Hamed was impeached by the FIA executives in May after Hamed closed a meeting with the executive board. Members had heard rumors that Hamed received funds and asked him about the money.

"We heard that he received some money from Saudi Arabia. We tried in vain to find out if he received the money."

Any money should have been put in the FIA treasury, Makled said. When Hamed refused to discuss the situation, he was impeached by the executive board.

According to articles in two Detroit dailies, Hamed purchased two buildings in Redford Township at the Five Mile-Aubrey corner to house the new national headquarters of the FIA.

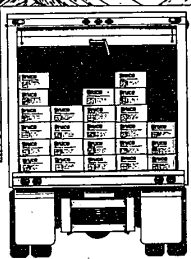
However the stucco building described in the Detroit News account is owned by John Ambrose, a Redford township attorney, who denied selling the property.

"I have not been approached by anyone," said Ambrose, who said he has owned the stucco building and another building at 25321 Five Mile for 20 years.

Another building on the corner at 25341 Five Mile, housing storefronts on the first floor and apartments on the second floor, is thought to be one of the buildings purchased.

However the purchase was reportedly made by land contract, and there is no record of a sale.

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