

# Nazis ask press facilities to rebut rabbi

**By Jackie Klein**  
staff writer

Members of the American Nazi Party say they'll call off their planned protest of a speech by Rabbi Meir Kahane in Southfield if the city gives the Nazis free use of a room for a press conference.

Ralph Richards, director of Southfield Parks and Recreation, said the request to reserve a room in the building will be reviewed upon written application by members of the S.S. Action Group.

Similar procedures would be followed as for any other organization, including a charge for renting the space, Richards said. But, he added, he doubts if the Nazis will follow through.

Southfield officials agreed Friday to

rent space in the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building to militant Jewish Defense League leader Kahane for a Dec. 15 speech.

Officials, fearing a confrontation with the Nazi group which threatened to appear at the gathering, canceled a Nov. 23 reservation for a Kahane speech.

OAKLAND COUNTY Circuit Court Judge Frederick Zelm last Tuesday refused to order the rental in the parks and recreation building. But U.S. District Judge Patricia Boyle on Friday reversed Zelm's ruling.

Kahane last Tuesday night addressed a small crowd who gathered in the rain outside the building. Five members of the S.S. Action Group of the National Socialist Party, the Michigan branch of

the Nazi organization, showed up in riot gear but arrived after Kahane left. Southfield police escorted the group away.

The S.S. Action Group in a letter delivered Monday to city officials asked for free use of a room from noon to 2 p.m. Jan. 30 -- "the 50th anniversary of the legal democratic rise to power of the National Socialists in Germany."

The letter signed by Mark Heydrich, John Reich and Mike Kelerwin says the group wants to hold an interviewing session and conference for local news media and 75 invited "friends and racial comrades."

Richards said because the names on the letter are fictitious, the Nazis probably would be called into the parks and recreation building with Southfield police to discuss the proposed Jan. 30 meeting.

"THE NAZIS can fill out an application to rent the room and it will be dealt with," Richards said. "We charge for rentals and provide space for non-profit organizations."

"We're not against freedom of speech but we have a responsibility for control of the building and the safety of people who use it. Security and a large room to accommodate an expected crowd will be provided for the Kahane appearance since we have advance notice."

Southfield police officers on Wednesday work double shifts so there would be no overtime for security at the Dec. 15 meeting, Richards said. Officials haven't discussed police protection for the Nazi meeting, he said.

"People who meet in the parks and recreation building for good purposes don't get publicity," Richards said.

"But the radical wings come in and they're given a lot of press. That's what the Nazis want and I'd be surprised if they followed through with their meeting."

The S.S. Action Group's letter says the proposed meeting, an alternate plan to the protest of the speech to be given by the Kahane, will ease pressure on the city and its police department.

"With the press conference we wish to demand freedom for Rudolf Hess, the prisoner of war, Walter Rader, World War II war hero, and hundreds of others still illegally imprisoned on both sides of the Iron Curtain," the letter states.

Kahane last Tuesday said he would have "broken the legs of any Nazis" who dared to show up for his talk.

"Nazis have no rights," he told a

cheering group of about 50 followers outside the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building. "Someone who would put me in an oven has no rights. Nazis are no different whether they're in America or Germany."

Kahane vowed he would return in two weeks and slap Southfield with a \$1 million lawsuit for denying his right of free speech.

The Jewish idea, a New York group, had a contract with the city to use the room for Kahane's Nov. 23 speech: "West Bank Destiny: Jewish Rights vs. Arab Power."

Southfield officials said they were unaware of Kahane's appearance when the contract was signed and decided to cancel it after police learned there was a possibility of violence.

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