

Nazis pledge to rally soon in suburbs

By DIANE DUBEY
Staff Writer

THE SMALL band of southwest Chicago neo-Nazis who had requested permission to demonstrate at Centennial Park in Evanston Saturday, Sept. 29 – Yom Kippur Day – will not demonstrate anywhere that day since they were turned down by officials of Evanston and two other suburbs.

But their spokesman this week vowed that they eventually will hold rallies in every Chicago suburb and targeted Skokie as one of their 1981 destinations.

“Our plans (for Sept. 26) have been changed,” said Dennis Milam, a member of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America Tuesday, Sept. 16. “We are a totally legal organization and, if we obey the law, the City of Evanston is going to have to obey the law, also.”

JOEL ASPROOTH, Evanston’s assistant city manager, said the Nazis’ permit request was denied because the demonstration “would constitute a public nuisance if conducted any time during the three-week (Jewish) holy season.” But, since no new application to demonstrate on another date has been submitted, “I can’t say what will happen until we have a further application,” he added.

But Milam said his group would

wait only until Monday, Sept. 22, for Evanston officials to provide an alternate date for their rally. Otherwise, he said, a lawsuit will be filed charging the city with abridging the Nazis’ right to free speech.

Milam also pledged that the Nazis will punish those communities which resist their efforts to demonstrate.

“We’ll keep coming back to the ones who give us the most resistance,” he said.

Of Evanston, he added, “Once we get there, we’ll be back several times in a row because they’ve made it so difficult for us.”

APPLICATIONS TO demonstrate in Cicero and Oak Park Saturday also were denied, although Milam said Oak Park officials have granted permission for the following Saturday, instead.

However, their Oak Park rally is contingent upon the presence of a large number of police – and the village has decided that the Nazis must pay for their own police protection, Milam said.

The National Socialist Party of America is the same Marquette Park-based neo-Nazi group which gained worldwide attention by attempting to march in Skokie at various times between December 1976 and June 1978.

Frank Collin, their leader throughout that period, currently is serving a

seven-year prison term for taking indecent liberties with a child.

Apparently to get away from that stigma, Milam insisted that “We are a totally new NSPA with new leaders....We are not held to his (Collin’s) commitments.”

MILAM SAID the decision to demonstrate in Evanston came not because of that community’s significant black population, but because “there are still plenty of white people left in that area and white people at Northwestern University...to hear our messages.”

Although Skokie’s 1½-year legal battle with the neo-Nazis resulted in one court after another upholding the group’s First Amendment right to freedom of speech, an earlier precedent involving Skokie did prevent a Nazi demonstration during the 1966 High Holy Days.

The American Nazi Party, led by George Lincoln Rockwell, had announced plans to encircle Skokie synagogues and march around carrying anti-Semitic placards.

But their plans were aborted by a ruling of U. S. District Court Judge Joseph Sam Perry who issued a permanent injunction forbidding such marches, meetings, picketing or demonstrations on any Jewish holy day in any location closer than one-half mile to a synagogue.

The Nazis and Rockwell, who was assassinated the following year, wanted to carry “placards inscribed with vicious, irreverent and vulgar language directed to worshiping, law-abiding citizens of the Jewish faith – all this under the cloak of freedom of speech and all in direct and flagrant violation of the right of a people to assemble and worship peacefully and without insult,” Perry wrote at that time.