

JCC draws

LIFE

1,000

By DIANE DUBEY

Correspondent

INDEPENDENCE DAY in Skokie set the stage for two anti-Nazi demonstrations while members of a third group solicited volunteers for a march on the southwest Chicago headquarters of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party.

Over 1,000 participants in a July 4 rally at Mayer Kaplan Jewish Community Center, 5050 Church, heard Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the Jewish Defense League, pledge the destruction of the Nazi office in Chicago.

"I give you my word, that in the days to come, the obscenities who sit in that office in Chicago will no

longer sit there," he announced.

Standing in the JCC parking lot in 100-degree heat, listeners mopped their faces with kleenex and their shirtsleeves as Kahane exhorted them to "be good, active Jews, join your synagogues and Jewish groups, make your leaders be Jewish leaders and Jewish rabbis.

"Let us pledge as Jews never again to allow a little cancer to emerge and to swallow us up," he shouted over the noise from a police helicopter which circled the parking lot throughout the rally.

CALLING FOR a "rededication to the concept of 'never again'," Kahane told his audience that "we owe it to the six million (Jews killed by Nazis during World War II) . . . to promise that the descendants and heirs of Hitler will never march again."

A Nazi march originally planned for July 4 in front of Skokie Village hall was cancelled when Nazi leaders decided not to violate a court injunction issued in Cook County circuit court on April 30 which has not yet been overturned. A hearing on the injunction will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 8 in the Illinois Appellate court.

Also speaking at the JCC rally was the Rev. C. H.

Turner, chairman of the non-violent Martin Luther King movement who announced an August 20 march on Nazi headquarters in Marquette Park.

"The black community is asleep . . . but I hope my black brothers and sisters in ghettos on the west and south sides will wake up and see that we must stamp out the Nazi party," Turner said.

AFTER THE rally which ended with the singing of Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem, JDL members in uniforms and helmets stood on the east side of the parking lot shouting "Six million—never again."

Nearly 100 JDL members travelled to Skokie from across the country even after they were informed that the Nazis wouldn't march. Several had sticks and clubs confiscated by Skokie police.

At a 2 p.m. demonstration in front of Skokie Village hall, about 200 people gathered to hear members of the Workers' Defense Coalition protest the presence of Nazis in the Chicago area.

Earlier in the day, two women from the "Run the Nazis Out" Coalition leafletted in front of the village hall, asking bystanders to join a group leaving from Lockwood park in Skokie to participate in a march across the street from Nazi headquarters in Chicago.

MAYOR SMITH
COLLECTION

2004.012.098