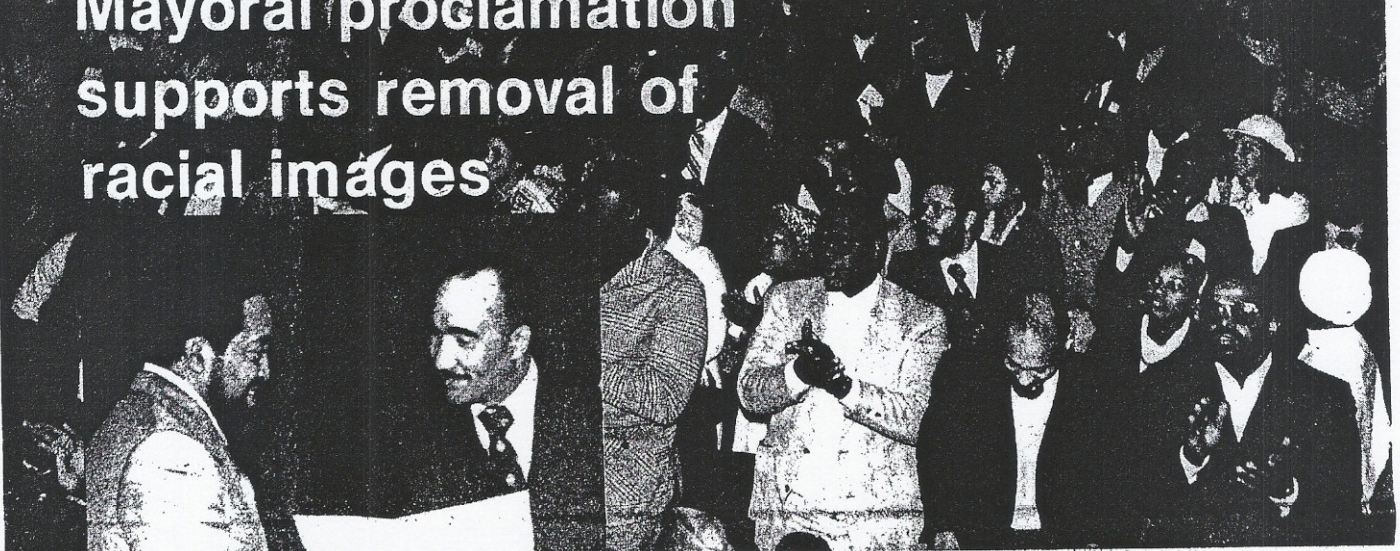


New York hails Ethnic Survival Day

Mayoral proclamation supports removal of racial images



Part of exuberant crowd at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Photos by Wali Akbar Muhammad

Basil Patterson, right, deputy mayor of New York City, presents proclamation to Emam Wallace D. Muhammad announcing city's recognition of Ethnic Survival Day.

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NEW YORK, N.Y.—More than 30,000 people crowded into the halls of Radio City Music Hall, Manhattan Center, Masjid Malik Shabazz, and Masjid Muhammad in Brooklyn to pay special tribute to Emam Wallace D. Muhammad, and to honor scores of Bilalian heroes on Ethnic Survival Day.

The occasion marked the first of a week-long series of meetings being conducted by the World Community of Al-Islam in the West honoring great Bilalian leaders and moral reformers whose achievements unquestionably rival those of many ancient sages and prophetic figures. In what can only be described as a historic gesture, Mr. Basil Patterson, New York deputy mayor, presented a proclamation to Emam Muhammad announcing the city's recognition of

Ethnic Survival Day, and its unqualified support of the new direction of the World Community of Al-Islam in the West. The proclamation, signed by Mayor Edward Koch, urged all the citizens to likewise recognize this occasion and the work of Emam Muhammad, as significant and historic. The proclamation hailed the advance of the World Community of Al-Islam in the West under the "new

direction of Emam Muhammad."

Lauding such traditional achievements and "the great strides" as the reform of criminals and the general betterment of the society, it took particular note of WCIW current problems, such as education, health care, aid for the elderly, and the liberation of women.

Most significantly, the proclamation called for support of the Emam's call for the elimination of all racial images of Divine, and the ultimate replacement "of racism with humanism, and a moral-conscious human society."

REPEAT HONOR

This was the second time New York City had so honored the Muslim community under Emam Muhammad's direction. The first occasion was upon his visit to Madison Square Garden in June, 1975.

Among other notables sending solicitations were Manhattan Borough President Andrew Stein, and New York Governor Hugh Carey. Emam Muhammad was also honored by the Bilalian Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America.

Prior to the Emam's address, the audience witnessed a unique performance entitled "Confronting Images," by a Muslim drama group. The skit was based on Emam Muhammad's appeal for humanism

and the removal of images of Divine.

A narrative on the great works of scores of famous Bilalians was also rendered in keeping with the theme of the occasion.

The impact of the Muhammad's address was clearly registered among New York's citizens. One major New York daily newspaper declared that he "clearly focused upon the character of humanistic religion and revealed the little-known history of the founder of the Nation of Islam."

The newspaper's reference was to Master Fard Muhammad as Emam Muhammad credited him with instilling respect for culture and civilization within the infant Muslim community in the early 1930s.

He inspired the Emam's father, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, to rise within the Nation of Islam to world prominence. Emam Muhammad took the occasion to speak at length on the history and work of the "mystical teacher" whose picture hung among the Bilalian heroes on the huge wood-paneled frame to the rear of the speaker's stand.

He quoted from an early "Problem Book" authored by Master Fard which established "culture and refinement" as hallmarks of the budding Muslim society.

Speaking of the evolution of the WCIW, Emam Muhammad pointed out that this community resented such evidence of human evolution