Office of the Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: April 7, 1999

Black Leaders Meet with Governor Whitman's Close Advisors to Discuss Racial Profiling by State Police

NJ Gov. Christie Whitman today said she was disappointed that the representatives of the NAACP, the Black Issues Convention and other organizations who met for nearly an hour with her Chief Counsel, John Farmer, and the Secretary of State, DeForest Soaries, failed to discuss or mention the demands they later presented to her office.

"It is certainly disappointing and somewhat disingenuous for these organizations to meet with my closest advisors and a member of my cabinet and fail to discuss their demands. Waiting for the glare of camera lights to make these demands certainly gives the appearance that they are more interested in making headlines instead of headway," Gov. Whitman said.

"The allegations by Democrat Assemblyman Donald Tucker on behalf of the Black Issues Convention, labeling the Attorney General a 'racist' are reckless, reprehensible and completely without merit. They are indicative of a partisan agenda completely inappropriate for an organization that purports to be dedicated to fairness and justice," she said.

"The recommendation that New Jerseyans attend a birthday celebration for Mumia Abu-Jamal, a convicted cold-blooded and brutal cop killer, is both absurd and insulting," she added.

"The Attorney General and I have taken very seriously the allegations of racial profiling by the State Police. We have moved swiftly and deliberately to address the situation. The Attorney General launched a first-of-its-kind review of state police policy and practices," she said.

"We have taken all of these steps in good faith and believe that we will make real progress in restoring the faith and confidence of all New Jerseyans," she said.

"However, some of the allegations raised today certainly call into question the level of good faith that is being exhibited," she said.

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