

Jackson's flying high but campaign hurting

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While the NAACP, Congressmen Charles Rangel and Major Owens were congratulating the Rev. Jesse Jackson for the spectacular achievement of his Middle East mission, its very brilliance appears to have deepened divisions in his campaign organization as factions here fought for the honor of representing him at the Democratic National Convention.

Jackson not only rescued Navy Lieut. Robert Goodman, Jr. from a Damascus jail, but also compelled an 180-degree turn in Reagan Administration policy toward Syria and its President Hafez Assad.

"All Americans should be proud of the Rev. Jackson's humanitarian mission and its success," the national board of the NAACP said in a statement released to the press Monday, by Executive Director Benjamin Hooks. Without Jackson, Goodman would still have been held a prisoner, it said.

"The NAACP calls upon all Americans to note the continuing dangerous situation that exists in the Middle East because of the failure of the Reagan Administration's policies in the region. The Rev. Jackson's mission helped to underscore these failings," the statement said.

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JESSE JACKSON

Jackson flying

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And, "the mission also helped underscore the invaluable role that Blacks can and should play in the development and practice of American foreign policy," the NAACP stated, noting late Black diplomat Dr. Ralph Bunche's role in settling the 1948 Palestinian war.

Rep. Rangel, termed Goodman's release "a very significant step toward easing tensions between Syria and the United States."

"The Reagan administration's confrontational relationship with Syria has been drawing us closer to a military showdown in Lebanon," Rangel stated. "I really hope that Rev. Jackson's efforts will lead to a rapprochement between the two nations."

Jackson, he continued, "deserves full recognition for the release," which he accomplished despite criticism and obstruction by "talking directly to Syria's leadership for Goodman's release." Middle East problems can only be solved through negotiation and the Americans should act "as mediators" and "end the perception of many people that we are yet another faction in Lebanon," Rangel ended.

Owens, who was at Andrews Air Force Base to greet Jackson and Goodman on their return last week, said the successful mission had demonstrated that Jackson is "a man for the whole nation, a man for the whole world." He was not deterred by "protocol and technicalities from acting to alleviate the 'suffering of one human being.' The Jackson mission should lead to "larger negotiations for peace," Owens said.

Meanwhile in both Brooklyn and Queens, Black groups failed to negoti-

ate their differences and filed separate slates for delegates and alternates with the State Democratic Committee. In Brooklyn, Assemblyman Albert Vann, state chairman of the Jackson campaign committee entered a slate being opposed by the Brooklyn Independent Democrats for Jackson.

The Independents are led by Rev. William A. Jones, Jr., pastor of Bethany Baptist Church. The they will contest for 21 delegate and 8 alternate places at the April 3, presidential primary. Congressman Major Owens is with Vann while Congressman Edolphus Towns is with Rev. Jones. It was the effort of Vann's aides to keep Towns from meeting Jackson in Brooklyn Dec. 17, that opened the rift.

In Queens an Independent Team of five Democrats led by Errol Hart filed also to run as Jesse Jackson delegates and alternates. They came out in opposition to the regular Queens Committee for Jackson headed by Councilman Archie Spigner.

Meanwhile all factions are expected to participate in one of the 1000 fundraising affairs being hosted across the nation, Saturday, Jan. 14, to raise \$1 million for Jesse. This would enable him to qualify for federal matching funds.

Ferrybank Restaurant, 1 Front St., Brooklyn Heights, is the setting for the fundraiser, to run from 2 to 4 p.m. Dr. Thelma Adair, only Black female member of Jackson's entourage on the Syrian trip, will speak.

There will be a \$15 admission fee payable by check only, according to Federal regulations, and made out to Jesse Jackson For President Campaign. Fundraiser for the day are Dorothy Height, Vivian Jackson, Francis Dory and Berthe Hammond.