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WORTH NOTING

## **WORTH NOTING; The Intifadah Spreads to Rutgers**

By John Sullivan

The meeting is not for three months, but the shouting has already begun.

News that a pro-Palestinian group, the New Jersey Solidarity Movement, plans to hold a national meeting at Rutgers in October has angered some politicians and led the governor to call for an explanation from Richard L. McCormick, the university president.

Critics say the group opposes the existence of Israel, and in a letter to the governor, John O. Bennett, the Senate co-president, called the group "a radical anti-Israel organization."

Mr. Bennett wrote: "Certainly this group, the New Jersey Solidarity Movement, has a right to espouse its views. However, I am strongly opposed to our taxpayer dollars being used to help spread their message of hate and intolerance."

Still, Rutgers officials say the university plans to allow the group to use a meeting halls for the event. "This group is being treated exactly the same as any other student group would be treated," said Pam Orel, a university spokeswoman.

Charlotte Kates, a Rutgers law student and an organizer with the group, said the movement supports the rights of Palestinians and opposes the policies of Israel. And while the group has not supported violence, Ms. Kates said, it has not condemned violence against Israelis.

"Palestinians have a right to resist occupation," she said. "It is not our place to dictate the forms and practices the Palestinians must use."

Trying to sum up the group's position more succinctly, Shai Goldstein, director of the New Jersey Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith, said the New Jersey Solidarity Movement "believes in the destruction of the state of Israel."

Nonetheless, Mr. Goldstein said Rutgers should not cancel the meeting since the group has a right to free speech, though he did say that the university should disassociate itself from the message.

Governor McGreevey has his own concerns, and plans to meet with Dr. McCormick next week. John Sullivan

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