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METROPOLITAN POLICE (Special Branch)

LOCAL REPORT

15th day of June, 1949

100

SUBJECT Paul ROBSON.

Paul ROBSON, the singer, United States passport No. 58303, was among passengers arriving at this airport from Moscow via Prague and Frankfurt en route to New York at 8.30p.m. to-day. He stayed on the airport and left for New York at 10p.m.

He appeared to be travelling alone and was not seen in conversation with anyone whilst on the airport.

REFERENCE TO PAPERS

Submitted. I. Taylor  
Sergeant.

G. Jenkins P.

REC'D

SUPERINTENDENT.

21 JUN 1949

816/810  
PF 44990

Superintendent L  
B. 275

Handwritten initials/signature

VOLUME 1

- 1.
- .5.33. Cross-reference re. Mrs. Paul ROBESON and London Group on African Affairs. 1a.
- 2.
- .9.33. Cross-reference re. Paul ROBESON and League of Coloured Peoples. 2a.
- 3.
- .4.34. Cross-reference re. Paul ROBESON and the Left Theatre. 3a.
- 4.
- .3.35. From S. African Police re. Paul ROBESON. 4a.
- 5.
- S.3.a.
- Would you please try the T.I. for particulars of Paul ROBESON. (sd) P.R. for M.E.D.C.
- S.9.  
28.3.35.
- 6.
- S.9.
- Please see copy of Arrival Card enclosed. 6a.
- S.3(a).  
2.4.35. (sd) M.H.
- 7.
- 4.35. To S. African Police, in reply to 4a. 7a.
- 8.
- 8.35. Cross-reference re. Paul and Essie ROBESON. 8a.
- 9.
- 9.35. Cross-reference re. Larry BROWN and Paul ROBESON. 9a.
- 10.

Mr Courtice, Passport Office, rang up to say that Mrs Essie ROBESON and her small son had been granted an Empire-wide endorsement on their passport in order to proceed on a two months tour, booked by Cook's, to Nyasaland, via Beira and the Union of South Africa. Mrs ROBESON is interested in anthropology, and is studying at University College, London. Mr Courtice said that on referring the matter to the South African authorities they had stated that Paul ROBESON and his wife were known to them as ardent Communists, and in the ordinary course of events would not be permitted to land in Cape Town. They have, however, granted Mrs ROBESON a transit visa to Portuguese East Africa. Mr Courtice wished to know whether we had any confirmation of the fact that the ROBESONS are Communists.

Mr Courtice subsequently rang up to say that he had been speaking to the Colonial Office, who know all about Mrs ROBESON's trip and are, in fact, facilitating her journey.

Spoke Mr Cumming who said that no action should be taken.

	11.	
1.11.36.	Int. cable from Moscow to SOVKONSUL, London.	11a
	12.	
27.5.37.	Cross reference to visa application by FORD, mentioning ROBESON, P.	12a
	13.	
24.6.37.	Cross reference to S.B. report re ROBESON.	13e
	14.	
13.8.37.	Cross reference to Telephone Check re ROBESON.	14e
	15.	
22.10.37.	Cross r ference to -	15a.
	16.	
26.10.37.	Cross reference to -	16a
	17.	
31.10.37.	Cross-reference to S.B. Report.	17e
	18.	
22.11.37.	S.B. report re Paul ROBESON.	18
	19.	
10.12.37.	Copy of M/S report re Paul ROBESON and SIGGINS.	19
	20.	
23.12.37.	Copy of letter to Colonial Office re 29a.	20
	21.	
17.1.38.	S.B. report re Paul ROBESON.	21
21.1.38.	Cross-reference to S.B. Report.	21
	22.	
22.1.38.	S.B. report re Paul ROBESON.	2
	23	
24.1.38.	Int. letter from C.P. to Glyn JONES re ROBESON.	2
	24.	
31.1.38.	Press cutting from Manchester Guardian re ROBESON.	2
	25.	
4.2.38.	SB report re return of Paul and Eslanda ROBESON	2
15.2.38.	Cross reference re S.B. on - and I.P.C. Conference.	2
	26.	
16.2.38.	Extract from Telephone Check on Holborn 8915 re Paul ROBESON.	2

27.

4.38. S. B. report re arrival of ROBESON'S son. 27a

28.

6.38. Cross reference to S.B. report re ROBESON 28a

29.

1938. Cross-reference to FSU. Circular letter. 29a.

30.

7.38. Cross reference to S.I.S. report re ROBESON. 30a.

31.

7.38. Cross reference to report re ROBESON? Paul. 31a.

32

8.38. Extract from Telephone check on Holborn 8915. 32a

33.

8.38. Cross reference to intercepted letter to Eric Kingsley COOK from HUGHES, re ROBESON. 33a

34.

10.38. Extract from Telephone Check on Holborn 8915. 34a

35

11.38. Extract from telephone check on Holborn 8915. 35a

36

12.38. Extract from Telephone check on Holborn 8915. 36a

37.

13.38. Extract from Telephone Check on Holborn 8915. 37a

38.

14.38. Cross-reference to S.B. report re arrival of Fernando Castillo Garcia NEGRETE to stay with ROBESON. 38a.

39

15.38. Extract from telephone check on Holborn 8915. 39x  
S.B. report re ROBESON. 39a

40.

16.38. Cross reference to int. letter from DEI ANANG re - . 40a

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~~Transferred to PF 147660 on authority of B.I.G./I.H.M. 5.14.20-9 H~~  
~~23.4.39. S.B. report re arrival of P. Robeson and L. Brown.~~

42.

24.4.39. Cross-reference re Carlos CASTILLO, evidently staying with ROBESON.

43.

10.5.39. From S.B. re ROBESON, Paul.

-6.39. Cross reference to Unity Theatre Circular, re ROBESON

44.

10.7.39. From S.B. re arrival of ROBESON, P

45.

18.7.39. Extract from telephone check on Holborn 8915.

45

46.

30.9.39. S.B. report re ROBESON

4

~~47.~~

~~10.10.39. To American Embassy re P. ROBESON.~~

~~4~~

47.

14.10.39. From S.B. re ROBESON.

4

48.

8.1.41. Cross reference to extract from Inter Continent News, - message from ROBESON.

5.6.42. Cross reference to report from S.I.S.'s New York Agent re Negro Organisations in the U.S. mentioning Paul ROBESON

49.

50

1.6.43. Extract from S.I.S. report mentioning Paul ROBESON.

51.

10.6.43. Extract from S.I.S. report mentioning Paul ROBESON.

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MINUTE SHEET.

Reference P. R. 44990

52.

.46. Extract from memorandum forwarded by American Embassy London re Council on African Affairs mentioning ROBESON. 52a.

53.

7.46. From S.I.S., attaching report from Consul General in Leopoldville re Mrs. Paul ROBESON. 53a.

54.

~~B.3~~

You may care to see the S.I.S letter at 54a regarding Mrs. Paul ROBESON. May we discuss possible action please ?

F.2.a.b  
18.7.46.

L. J. E. Bagot  
M. J. E. Bagot.

55

7.46. To Nigeria re Mrs. ROBESON. 55a

56

7.46. To Accra re Mrs. ROBESON. 56a

57

7.46. To Sierra Leone re Mrs. ROBESON. 57a

58

7.46. To Gambia re Mrs. ROBESON. 58a

59

~~F.2.a.b~~  
18.7.46.

With reference to minute 54, about which we spoke, please see serials 55a - 58a.

125796/1581

B.3.c.

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60.

7.8.46. From Police Headquarters Gambia re. Mrs Eslanda ROBESON.

61.

19.2.47. From R.C.M.P. H.Q., Ottawa, re Eslanda ROBESON.

62

19.5.47. Ext. from S.I.S. report received from U.S.A. re Robeson. (

5.6.47. Extract from letter from U.S.O. Burma re the "Bangkok Mirror" and mentioning ROBESON.

62b

63.

18.7.47. Extract from D.S.S.C. to D.S.O. Burma re P. ROBESON.

61

7.8.47. To S.D.S.O. Caribbean Area re Caribbean Labour Congress.

6

64.

5.12.47. Extract from S.L.O. East Africa letter mentioning ROBESON. 61

65.

19.12.47. Cross reference from reply to serial 64a ment: ROBESON.

66.

20.4.48. Extract from int. letter from Oslo G.P. to G.P. King St. mentioning Paul ROBESON.

67.

3.5.48 Copy of letter to S.I.S. re WILLOCH, mentioning Paul ROBESON.

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68

1.6.48. Cutting from "Manchester Guardian" - "Paul ROBESON's stand". 69a

69

14.7.48. From Colonial Office enclosing copy of telegram from Jamaica re proposed visit of ROBESON. 69a

70

16 7.48. To Colonial Office in reply to 69a. 70a

29. 48. Extract from Intercept cable from Warsaw, mentioning ROBESON. 70b

71.

6.10.48. Extract from S.I.S. Periodic Summary of Communist & Allied Activities, U.S.A., mentioning ROBESON. 71a.

72

4.48. Secret tel. reRobeson's visit to Trinidad 72a

73.

48. From British embassy Washington re ROBESON. 73a.

74.

8. From Washington further to 73a re ROBESON. 74a.

75.

B. 2b. 7/1/48

You may like to see 73a and 74a.

B. 3b.  
13.12.48.

*D. I. A. Hamblen*  
D. I. A. Hamblen.

76

From Governor, Trinidad to British Embassy, Washington re ROBESON 76a

11.11.48. Photostat copies of enclosures sent by BEM Washington under a covering letter re COUNCIL on APRECIAN AFFIARS signed by ROBESON, Paul.

15.1.49. Ext. from report re CHAMBERS/HISS mentioning ROBESON.

19.2.49 Secret Cross Reference re ROBESON.  
 + 18.2.49. Telecheck mentioning ROBESON.  
 23.2.49. Ext from Tel check on TEM 9228 re ROBESON  
 23.2.49. Telecheck mentioning ROBESON  
 25.2.49 Copy of T.I. card for ROBESON.

77ab  
 77aa  
 77b  
 77ba 77c

25.2.49. From British Embassy, Washington re ROBESON

## 79.

March, 1949. Cutting from H.O. Monthly Bulletin re ROBESON and others.

3.3.49. Minute from IPI re extracts from telephone checks on Temple Bar 3689, 79a. and Temple Bar 2151.

## 80.

4.3.49. Copy of T.I. card re Paul Robeson.

## 81.

4.3.48. Telecheck mentioning ROBESON.

## 82.

4.3.49. From Win Scott <sup>Copy to</sup> to ~~SAIS~~ re ROBESON.

## 83.

7.3.49. Cutting from Daily Worker.

## 84.

10.3.49. Traffic Index card re Paul Robeson.

10.3.49. Cutting from Daily Worker.

83

84  
E

## (84) - cont.

- .49. Telecheck on Temple Bar 2151. outgoing 8.3.49. 84ab.
- .49. Copy of source report mentioning ROBESON. 84b.
- .49. Telecheck on Temple Bar 2151. Outgoing 11.3.49. 84bb
- .49. Cutting from Daily Worker. 84c.
- .49. Telecheck on Temple Bar 2151. Incoming 15.3.49. 84d.
- 85.
- .49. Cutting from Challenge, re ROBESON's message to Young Britain. 85z.
- .49. From the Americans re ROBESON re World Congress of Intellectuals. c 85a.
- .49. Extract from Daily Worker re ROBESON speaking on Malan. 85ab.
- .49. Telecheck on Temple Bar 2151. Incoming 16.3.49. 85ac.
- .49. Telecheck on Temple Bar 2151. Incoming 16.3.49. 85b.
- .49. Telecheck on Temple Bar 2151. Outgoing 17.3.49. 85c.
- .49. B.l.a. source report re ROBESON. 85d.
- 86.
- .49. Telecheck re Michael SHAPIRO, Laud ROBESON etc. 86a.
- .49. Source report re ROBESON. 86b.
- .49. B.l.a. source report re ROBESON. 86c.
- 87
- .49. Telecheck mentioning CLAYTON, RICHARD PALMER and Paul ROBESON. 87a.
- .49. Telecheck SHAPIRO rings Hilda FORBES, mentioning ROBESON; 87b.
- .49. Extract from Summary of World Broadcasts re ROBESON leaving U.S.A. 87c.
- .49. B.l.a. source report re ROBESON. 87ca
- .49. Telecheck mentioning ROBESON. 87cb.
- .49. Int. letter to London District C.P. re ROBESON's message to Marx memorial meeting. 87d.
- .49. Ext. from Rumanian News No. 414. re 'Paul ROBESON sends message' 87e.
- .49. Secret Cross Reference. 87f.
- 88.
- .49. Extract from T/C ment. ROBESON'S reception 88y. 88y.
- .49. Cutting from Russia Today, re ROBESON. 88z.
- .9. Do Thistlethwaite re ROBESON. 88a.
- .9. Telecheck. IRATIN rings ARNOLD re ROBESON. 88b.
- .9. B.l.a. source report re ROBESON. 88ba.
- .9. Secret cross reference re ROBESON. 88c.
- 89.
- .9. Telecheck Temple Bar 2151 re ROBESON. 89y.
- .9. B.l.a. source report re ROBESON. 89z.

[P.T. Over

- 5.4.49. Int. letter from Pat Devine to Rees Thomas, re ROBESON. 81
- 5.4.49. Extract from Int. letter from C. P. Holland to C. P. G. B. re ROBESON. 89
- 6.4.49. From American Embassy re ROBESON. 81

90.

- 6.4.49. Telecheck MICHAEL rings MIRATIN, re ROBESON. 90
- 7.4.49; Secret cross reference re ROBESON 90
- 7.4.49. -Co. y of B. 2. a. note re New Central European Observer, re ROBESON. 90

91.

- 7.4.49. From C. C. Glasgow, re ROBESON. 91

92.

- 9.4.49. Int. correspondence re ROBESON. 92
- 9.4.49. Copy of telecheck on Temple Bar 9228 ment. ROBESON 92
- 9.4.49. Extract from telecheck on Temple Bar 9228 ment. ROBESON 92
- 10.4.49. Telecheck mentioning ROBESON. 92

93.

- 11.4.49. Cutting from Daily Worker re ROBESON.
- 12.4.49. Telecheck Temple Bar 2151 re ROBESON.
- 12.4.49. Cutting from Diplomatic Bulletin re ROBESON's recital.
- 12.4.49. From U. L. O. East Africa re ROBESON.
- 12.4.49. Telecheck Temple Bar 2151 mentioning ROBESON.
- 13.4.49. Secret cross reference re ROBESON.
- 18.4.49. Cutting from Daily Worker re ROBESON.
- 19.4.49. Cutting from Daily Worker re ROBESON.
- 19.4.49. From B. 4. c. enclosing translation of article in "Trybuna Ludu".
- 19.4.49. Telecheck mentioning ROBESON.

94.

- 22.4.49. Secret cross reference re ROBESON.
- 22.4.49. Int. cable to ROBESON in Stockholm.
- ~~22.4.49. Secret cross reference.~~
- 22.4.49. Secret Material.
- 22.4.49. Cutting from Daily Express re ROBESON in Stockholm.
- 22.4.49. Extract from Swedish Press Summary No. 93. re ROBESON.
- 25.4.49. Extract from S. B. report re Stegney election campaign re ROBESON.

(94)

49. Cutting from Danish Press Summary re ROBESON. 94c.
- 95.
49. Report on concert given by ROBESON at Polish Embassy on 8th April 95a.
49. Extract from Summary of World Broadcasts re ROBESON. 95b.
- 96.
49. Cutting from Danish Press Summary re ROBESON. 96a.
49. Int. cable to ZILUJACUS from ROBESON. 96b.
- 97.
49. Cutting from Summary of World Broadcasts, re ROBESON. 97a.
- 98.
49. Telecheck mentioning ROBESON. 98y.
- Int. letter to Miss W. DAWSON enclosing tickets for ROBESON show. 98x
- Secret cross reference re ROBESON. 98y.
49. From S.B. re ROBESON's arrival at Northolt from Oslo. 98a.
49. Secret cross reference re ROBESON. 98b
49. Secret cross reference re ROBESON. 98c.
- 99.
9. From C.C. Gateshead, re ROBESON's three concerts, enclosing copies of invitation cards. 99a.
49. Extract from TELEPRESS, re Oslo ban on Paul ROBESON. 99b
- 100.
9. Cutting from Summary of World Broadcasts re Meeting of Norwegian-Soviet Friendship League. P.T. Over 100a.

- 11.5.49. Cutting from Daily Worker - "ROBESON - and six Negroes".  
 11.5.49. Int. letter to C.P. King Street from C.P. Yorkshire re ROBESON.

## 102.

- 11.5.49. T.I. arrival and departure re ROBESON.  
 12.5.49. Int letter to POLLITT mentioning ROBESON P.

## 103.

- 14.5.49. Int. letter from Lancashire and Cheshire C. P. to C.P.H. 2.  
 16.5.49. Ext. from C.C. Glasgow re meeting held by USSR ment. ROBESON.  
 16.5.49. Cutting from Daily Worker re ROBESON in Edinburgh. 1  
 16.5.49. Extract from Summary of World Broadcasts. 1  
 17.5.49. Int. letter from C.P.H.Q. to Mick BENNETT, Yorkshire. 1  
 18.5.49. From C.C. Sheffield re ROBESON. 1  
 18.5.49. Telecheck mentioning ROBESON. 1  
 18.5.49. Int letter to Daily Worker from Editor of Friheten 10  
 mentioning Paul ROBESON.

## 104.

- 18.5.49. Telecheck on Temple Bar 2151. Incoming 16.5.49.

- 23.5.49. Cutting from Summary of World Broadcasts re ROBESON.  
 23.5.49. Source report re ROBESON.

## 105.

- ~~24.5.49. From S.B. re ROBESON's departure for Prague Spring Festival.~~ *Filed in case.*  
 24.5.49. Cutting from Daily Express re ROBESON.  
 24.5.49. Cutting from Daily Worker (copy) re ROBESON.  
 24.5.49. Extract from report from C.C. Coventry re British Soviet Society meeting.  
 24.5.49. Ext. from S.B. report re Caribbean Labour Congress ment ROBESON  
 25.5.49. Extract from C.C. Birmingham letter re British Soviet Society meeting.  
 25.5.49. S.B. report re ROBESON's departure for Prague Spring Festival.  
 27.5.49. Source report re ROBESON.

(105)

- .49. From Colonial Office re 70a. enclosing copy of savingtam from Jamaica. 105fa  
.49. Extract from Summary of World Broadcasts mentioning ROBESON. 105fb

49. Cutting from Summary of World Broadcasts re ROBESON at Csech Communist Congress. 105g.  
.49. Int Letter to ROBESON from Dinah SHEEAN. 105h.  
.49. Articale in 'Trybuna Ludu' by ROBESON. 105i.

106.

49. \*Cutting from Daily Worker re ROBESON's invitation to Belfast. 106a.

107.

49. Cutting from Daily Express re ROBESON in Moscow. 107a.

108.

9. Cutting from Daily Express re ROBESON. 108a.  
.49. Telegram ment ROBESON. 108b.

109.

49. Cutting from Daily Mail re ROBESON's journey to New York. 109z.  
49. to PADMORELY from U.S. Information service re ROBESON 109az.  
49. note from B.I.B. re ROBESON. 109aaz.  
49. From S.B. re ROBESON's arrival at London Airport en route to New York. 109a.

**"FILE CLOSED"**

110.



111.

21.6.49 To Mr. Gimperman enclosing copy of note at 110a.

111.

~~21.6.49. To Colonial Office enclosing copy of note at 110a. (letter not sent)~~

112

21.6.49. To British Embassy, Washington enclosing copy of note at 110a.

21.6.49. To S.L.O's East, West and Central Africa att. report re ROBESON- see att. at 110a

TRANSFERRED

113.

22.6.49. To the C.O. in reply to 105fa. re a visa for Jamaica for ROBESON.

PAUL ROBESON.

B w/emp 20/6

17th June, 1949

109AAZ

Further to report of 13.6.49.:

✓  
At ... of ...  
PE 49990  
This is a ...  
...

Paul ROBESON during his recent visit to Prague became a Czechoslovakian, so that he now has two nationalities. He acquired this automatically through his appointment as a teacher at the School for Coloured People in Prague, thus making him a civil servant since the school functions under the auspices of the Czech Ministry of Education. This is in reality an institution controlled by the Colonial People's Division of the Cominform.

This information comes from a not very reliable source.

4/3-

B1B/105

R4 30/6

USE WITH  
CAUTION





# THE AMERICAN NEGRO AND MR. ROBESON

*From*

THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

April 23, 1949

This article has been copyright cleared for republication in all countries except the United States and Canada. All reprints must give credit to the author and the publication.

# The American Negro and Mr. Robeson.

Max Yergan Contends Singer Did Not Speak for His Race at Paris Conference

**T**O THE New York Herald Tribune: Yesterday's New York Herald Tribune reports statements made by Mr. Paul Robeson at the so-called World Peace Conference now in session at Paris. These statements assert that American Negroes would never fight Russia, and that President Truman's program for colonial development means new slavery for Africans. These statements by Mr. Robeson raise at least two questions: the truth or accuracy of what he says, and his authority for saying them.

Within recent months Communists everywhere in non-Communist controlled countries have made statements to the effect that their party and followers would not support their country if the latter went to war with Russia. The world has become accustomed to this repetition of what is accurately interpreted as the Kremlin-inspired "line." While the American public knows how to regard statements which come from supposedly authorized Communist spokesmen, representing, as in this country, a relatively small Communist minority, it must be observed in this instance, that Mr. Robeson purports to speak not just for that Communist minority, but for one-tenth of the American population, some fourteen million Americans of Negro extraction.

What are the facts and reasonable conclusions with regard to Mr. Robeson's postulation that American Negroes will never fight Russia? First, American Negroes, as in truth of most other Americans, hope that our country will never have to fight any other country. Further, American Negroes, knowing suffering as they do, may, I am sure, be counted among that vast majority of the American people who thoroughly believe in and want peace. But it would be a mistake for the enemies of America to presume upon the peaceful character of Negroes, just as it is a mistake for any enemy of this country to presume upon the peaceful character of the American people as a whole.

American Negroes, again like other Americans, and, indeed, like any spirited people, will fight. The record is clear in this respect. For a cause in which they believe and

when their country calls, they will respond, and they will maintain the proud record that no American Negro has ever betrayed his country.

With many thousands of Negroes who can look back upon the same fact, I recall with pride that in the Civil War my grandfather wore the uniform of the United States government. In the first world war, with hundreds of thousands of other Negroes, I served in the army of my country. In World War II, my three sons, again with sons and daughters of hundreds of thousands of Negro Americans, wore their country's uniform. Two of these sons, now young physicians, recently volunteered to the call of the War Department. One is already an Army doctor, the other will enter the United States Army in July. I encouraged them to volunteer and I am proud of their action.

It is obvious that Mr. Robeson himself, does not speak for Negro Americans in any representative capacity or on any large scale. He is, himself, the victim of Communist domination and intrigue. Only a few months ago, Mr. Robeson went up and down this country speaking before many gatherings of Negroes, saying exactly what he has been saying in Paris, and identified himself in America with the counterpart of those amongst whom he moves in Paris today. The American people, including American Negroes, had the best possible opportunity to express themselves with regard to what Mr. Robeson, Mr. Wallace and others of that group had to say. We are in no doubt whatever as to the reaction of American Negroes and other Americans to the Robeson-Wallace preachments: they drew no larger number of Negro votes; they carried not a single Negro district in this country; they were thoroughly repudiated. Although it is well known, it should here be set forth for the record that Mr. Robeson did not speak for, nor did he represent, American Negroes when he made his statements in Paris on April 20.

It is reasonable to conclude that the Robeson statements had as their purpose the vicious and cynical efforts which Communists in America have for a long time been putting

forth to drive a wedge between American Negroes and their fellow American citizens. The ridiculous and futile effort of Communists to persuade American Negroes to think of themselves as a "nation," the Communist effort to popularize the term "Negro people" and the totally unwarranted boldness with which Communists set themselves up as spokesmen for American Negroes, are clear indications of their aim to divide, disrupt and create confusion and disorder. This Communist effort amongst Negroes in America has failed. It has failed because Negro Americans know full well what their problems are and know also how to deal with them.

No thoughtful person in America, certainly no Negro, denies that most Negro Americans face limitations which, in the light of constitutional guarantees and citizenship rights, ought to be removed. Communists have not been needed, however, to point out that fact.

Any objective examination of the facts makes it clear that this country is moving forward on all fronts and in all of its geographical areas in bringing about social well being, democracy and a realization of constitutional guarantees for all of its citizens, including American Negroes. The daily press and other channels of news, as they reflect what is happening in our country, carry convincing evidence of the widespread realization amongst American citizens that Negroes are also citizens of the United States. We Negroes know that to be a fact. And because we know it, we are convinced that our task as Americans, with the assistance of other Americans, and with the facilities and methods which America offers, is to realize every guaranty and expression of that citizenship. No effort to drive Negroes off into some separate compartment, whether advocated by the political descendants of Bilbo or by the Communist party, will ever succeed. The trend by every last toward complete Americanization, complete citizenship, is in the opposite direction.

The ridiculously untrue reason given by Mr. Robeson for his assertion calls for some comment. "It is unthinkable," he said, "that American Negroes would go to war on

behalf of those who have oppressed us for generations" against a country "which in one generation has raised our people to the full dignity of mankind." What, one may safely say, has the Russian crowd done for Negroes in America? What can it do? The answer is so obviously nothing that one need pursue the question no further. The accuracy of Mr. Robeson's rhetorical emotionalism may, however, be tested close at home.

The counterpart of Mr. Paul Robeson's Russian idol, the American Communist party, certainly has not "raised our people to the full dignity of mankind." I know some Negro Communists. Few of them are individuals who have experienced the "full dignity of mankind." Most of them are, by every test, the slaves of slaves. As president of the late National Negro Congress, I saw Communists, rank and file members, as well as so-called leaders, who resorted to the most abject groveling, the most undignified concealment of their deeper personal convictions and the grossest denial of the ordinary principles of decency when their party bosses cracked the whip.

It is the grossest travesty upon truth to say that these miserable cowards and hirelings have been raised "to the full dignity of mankind." These are the only Negroes that American Communists have influenced. Fortunately, their duplicity has never touched the majority of the Negro population. A few people know how Mr. Robeson had abused their confi-

dence within the limited circles of the Council on African Affairs. It will be recalled that a little over a year ago, there was fundamental conflict within that organization when Mr. Robeson and the Communists who were associated with him sought to use that organization to attack American foreign policy and to support the foreign policy of Russia. Leading a majority of the members of that organization, I was in conflict with the Communist-led and Communist-inspired forces and, with other council members, fought these forces. Even by his non-Communist friends within the organization, as well as by most other members of the council who were not Communists, Mr. Robeson was severely and openly condemned for his disgracefully unfair and undemocratic action and for his slavish following of Communist instructions with regard to the organization. I count it as one of the most important actions of my entire lifetime when, along with the majority of the individuals within that organization, I left it. Our leaving it established the fact that today it is what it is, an instrument of the Communist party. Communist intrigue and Communist use of it, not in the interest of the people of Africa, but in the interest of the Kremlin masters of Communists everywhere.

Finally, Mr. Robeson's reference to "President Truman's program for colonial development," which he says "means new slavery for Africans," needs no extended comment

from me. It is sufficient to state again that, in context, his reference is but a reflection of Russian opposition to social progress among people everywhere.

The enlightened opinion and action of democratic leadership which has learned much, and is rapidly learning more, coupled with the good sense of Africans, will see to it that a philosophy of a far more ancient vintage than Marxism, with the addition of all that democratic peoples have learned in these late years, will be the basis for action among and with the peoples of the African continent. I, for one, with some knowledge of Africa, as a Negro, and as an American living at this period of our American democratic responsibility - I, for one, look with hope and confidence upon the possibility of an ever expanding democratic expression as opposed to totalitarian oppression by Communists within the African continent. And I believe that the bold new program as announced in President Truman's inaugural address is of great importance to African welfare and democracy. It is related to the welfare of my country and I would like to see it make progress. Yes, we American Negroes can be, deeply grateful that Mr. Paul Robeson did not speak for us in Paris a few days ago. MAX YERGAN,\*

New York, April 22, 1948.

\*Secretary Young Men's Christian Association, World War I Chaplain

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

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early lunch

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**Robeson flies in—out**

Paul Robeson, who is flying from Moscow to New York to give evidence at the trial of 12 Communists charged with conspiracy, reached London Airport last night and resumed his journey an hour later.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
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FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Daily Express Date 9<sup>th</sup> June 1949.

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### Ol' man Robeson wants to live

MOSCOW, Wednesday. — Paul Robeson gave a new version of "Ol' Man River" tonight. Instead of wishing to die in the song he was determined to live and fight for freedom.

Robeson, who was cheered, said: "You know how happy I am to be back on Soviet soil."—Reuter.

PF 44990

15/6/49

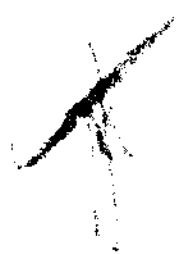
FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Daily Express

Date 6. 6. 49

**Moscow spiritual?**

MOSCOW, Sunday.—Paul Robeson arrived in Moscow today for the 150th anniversary of Alexander Pushkin, Russian poet and novelist.  
—Exchange.



15/6/49

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Cutting from Daily Worker. 4.6.49.

**Robeson invited  
to Belfast**  
Daily Worker Reporter

**P**PAUL ROBESON and Professors P. M. S. Blackett and J. D. Bernal have been invited by Belfast Trades Council to speak at the Peace Conference which they intend to hold in October.

The Council has also decided to contact Queen's University Socialist Society, Belfast, and members of the legal profession so that arrangements could be made for setting up a branch of the National Council of Civil Liberties in Northern Ireland.

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