



(c) crown copyright

B.I.B. - Mr. Drower.

You may like to have the enclosed translation of an article which appeared in the "Trybuna Ludu" of June 4th 1949.

This paper is the official organ of the Polish United Workers Party.

B4C/FGD
30.6.49.

328/3

H. Dwyer
P.C. Derbyshire.

PIEV
19.7.49

460 Pa/DST

PF44990

ROBESON.

R4

30/6

105th

te for F.44990

Int. letter to Paul ROBESON from
nah SHEEAN, dated 27th May, received
4 June 1949, indicates the possibility
of ROBESON's return to England in June.
He is invited to a festival of theatre
and ballet at Hampstead on June 16th
(organised by a working people's group.)

D/B.1.b.
.6.49.

[Handwritten signature]
19.7.49

EXTRACT FROM
SUMMARY OF WORLD BROADCASTS, PART IIA, NO. 12
dated 2nd June, 1949

H28 to
1- 57 411 / P (down)
Note for
PF 44 94
ROBE
BIA

POLAND T.U. Congress.

- 6 -

Warsaw also noted (22.00, 29.5.49) that the Moscow 'Trud' gave much space to the Polish TU Congress and quoted its comments on the importance of the meeting for Poland and for the international workers' movement.

The first foreign delegates reported to have arrived were representatives of the French CGT, including Frachon, Duquast and Duchat. Gebert, Deputy-General of the WFTU, arrived with the French delegates. Saillant was expected on 31st May (PAP Morse in English 28.5.49). Hermann Schlimme and Herbert Warnke were named as representatives coming from Germany to represent the FDGB (Warsaw 06.00, 28.5.49; see also under International Affairs). Arrivals on 30th May included the Greek delegate Apostolos Grozos, members of the Central Executive of the Workers' Syndicate, four delegates from the Czechoslovak URO and a Chilean representative Contreras (PAP D/S 23.00, PAP Morse in English 30.5.49). Paul Robeson, who is to sing at the Congress, also arrived in Warsaw on 30th May. The Hungarian agency announced that the Hungarian representatives at the Congress would be Laszlo Goga, Deputy-President of the Hungarian TUC, and Istvan Kristof, Secretary-General of the leather and hide workers' movement. (MTI 21.00, 30.5.49)

105

EXTRACT FROM SUMMARY OF WORLD BROADCASTS, PART IIA,
NO. 12, dated 2nd June, 1949

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- 38 -

Paul Robeson's Statements

Considerable space was given to statements by Paul Robeson in connection with the Congress. Addressing foreign and colonial students at the National Club in Prague on 27th May, he said that he considered the fate of the 12 US Communists at present being tried as a "life and death test" of democracy in the USA (Prague 05.00, 28.5.49). At a Press conference on 26th May Robeson condemned the racial discrimination against Negroes in the USA (CTK in English 20.00, 26.5.49). Robeson also expressed his views at some length in a broadcast from Prague Radio (in English 22.45, 28.5.49).

B4 19/9 105

Vol. 1.

EXTRACT.

act for File No.: P.F. 44990 Name: ROBESON
 nal in File No.: S.F. 411/Czechoslovakia Serial: 4271 Receipt Date:
 Original from Summary of World Broadcasts Under Ref.: ----- Dated: 30.5.49
 Extracted on: 19.9.49 by: AET Section: B4

Ex act from Summary of World Broadcasts Part 11a re Foreign Guests at the Congress of the Communist Party in Prague mentioning ROBESON

.....
 The Arrival in Prague, to attend the Communist Party Congress, of the following foreign delegates was announced in various Prague Radio broadcasts and transmissions:-

.....
 In ~~an~~ according to CTX (in English 1400, 25.5.49), by noon on 25th May 55 delegates from 29 countries had arrived to attend the Congress. Prague Radio (19.00, 24.5.49) announced the arrival in Prague of Paul ROBESON, who stated (Prague 23.00, 26.5.49) that he had come as a leading representative of the U.S. Progressive Party.

44990
 105



The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

105/20

28th May, 1949.

Reference 12/94076/1/49

2551

SECRET

Dear

Please refer to your letter of the 16th July 1948 about Mr. Paul Robeson's proposed visit to Jamaica.

I enclose a copy of a savingram from the Governor of Jamaica and should be grateful for your views on this question.

Yours sincerely,

1 page *Maurice Loggan.*

~~BBB~~
~~PE 44990~~

~~BIT~~
~~27/5~~
~~8/15/18/16~~
~~2/19/49~~

BOX 500.

THIS IS A COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958. *July 2004*

Secretariat No.C. 3823-17

IRMAIL

SECRET

From: The Governor of Jamaica

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies

SAVING TELEGRAM NO. 31
JAMAICA

5K May, 1949



Your telegram No. 604 of the 17th of July,
1948. Paul Robeson.

In view of recent public utterances by person
named, e.g. at World Peace Conference in Paris, I shall
be grateful to learn whether Security Services consider
that any further application for a visa for Jamaica which
may be made on his behalf should be granted.

1054

27th May, 1949

Paul ROBESON is now in Prague, where he is attending the International Music Festival. From Czechoslovakia he will go to Poland, where he is to give a number of concerts.

hand put

USE WITH
CAUTION

81B/92

~~AS~~
26/1815
9/6/45

1054
COPY

NORTHOLT AIRPORT.

o. 5. (Flimsy).

METROPOLITAN POLICE (Special Branch)

L REPORT.

24th day of May, 1949

T Paul
N

The following person, subject of former Northolt report, left this airport for Prague at 9.36 a.m. today en route to attend the Prague Spring Festival:-

Paul ROBESON, American, born Princeton 9.7.1898, in possession of American passport No.58303 issued Washington 8.5.47.

REFERENCE TO
PERSONS.

He appeared to be travelling alone.

Henry Keen
Sergeant.

Submitted, *G Campbell*
Sergeant.

BIB

ENCL.....

J. Smith
SUPERINTENDENT.

TO..... *BIA* Direct

REF. *PF 44990*

BIB 13/5/49

W. P. 13/5/49

SECRET.

rm 81

BIA 27/5

(49)

(16) 905

EXTRACT.

P.F. 44990. ROBESON, Paul.
 Subject for File No. Name:
 O.P. 16Q/1 (1) Vol. 6. 254b 25.5.49.
 Serial in File No. Serial: Receipt Date:
 C.C. Birmingham. X5885/8/5409 24.5.49.
 Original from Under Ref. Dated:
 10.6.49. ASM R. 5.
 Extracted on: by: Section:

Extract from C.C. Birmingham 4, re a meeting of the British Soviet Society, and mentioning Paul ROBESON.

BRITISH SOVIET SOCIETY.

During the evening of Saturday 21st May, 1949, a meeting convened under the above auspices was held in the Town Hall, Birmingham. There was an attendance of just over 2,000 people, and although there were a few vacant seats, all tickets had been sold.

The speakers were Mr. Harry BAKER, J.P.; Reverend Stanley EVANS; Paul ROBESON and the Rev. E. CHARLES. In addition to the speeches, selections from their repertoire were rendered by the Clarion Choir. Paul ROBESON also sang two groups of songs.

.....

ROBESON warned members of the audience to be careful of the present association between America and Britain in case it led to war with Russia. The new concepts of democracy had to be weighed very carefully. The Soviet people had the right to build

their kind of life. We could live in peace and unity and not be a party to the war which would certainly destroy the socialism of Britain and the possibility of a new deal in America. He concluded by saying that he would always be pleased to speak from a British-Soviet Society platform as he firmly believed that only co-operation between Britain, Russia and America could peace, happiness and prosperity be assured.

.....

B3B
- 22-6

EXTRACT.

93

105AD

act for File No. P.F. 44,990 Name: ROBESON.

nal in File No. Q.F. 262 Serial: 55a Receipt Date: 24.5.49

Original from S.B. Report Under Ref. 400/48/28 Dated: 22.5.49

Extracted on: 21.6.49 by: JB Section: B4.

Extract from S.B. Report on a meeting held by the CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS, (London Branch) on 22.5.49 at the National Trade Union Club, 12, Great Newport St., W.C.2. Paul ROBESON was mentioned in connection with C.D.C. activities.

....

The Secretary discussing C.L.C. affairs.....

...

Two dances had been held during the year, the first a financial loss and the second (attended by Paul ROBESON a financial success.....

Handwritten signature/initials

CONFIDENTIAL -

105d

em al

EXTRACT.

et for File No. P.F. 44990. Name: ROBESON, Paul.
al in File No. O.P. 160/1 (1) Vol. 6. Serial: 854ab. Receipt Date: 24.5.49.
Original from: C.C. Coventry Under Ref: CIDX 52 Dated: 22.5.49.
Extracted on: 10.6.49. by: ASM Section: R.5.

Extract from a report from C.C. Coventry on a meeting and concert arranged by the British Soviet Society, (Coventry Branch) which was attended by Paul ROBESON.

I respectfully report that at 7.0. p.m. Friday 20th May 1949, a Meeting and Concert was arranged by the above Society at the Central Hall, Coventry, commencing at 7.30 p.m. 13 people of both sexes were on the platform, including Paul ROBESON.....

This was followed by songs by Paul ROBESON.....

Paul ROBESON then rose again and sang several more songs, two of them having the words altered so as to make them political, and followed this by a speech. He told the audience of his campaign and said "Whatever talents I may have, I am devoting to the struggle of the working people of the world for peace". He recalled something of his own early struggles as a poor coloured boy in America, and mentioned that his own father was a slave. His ambition was to see a peaceful world with ordinary people living

a decent life. His primary aim was to raise the status of life of negro people in America, where, he said, a third of the population coloured and white, were ill-fed, ill-clothed, and living in deplorable circumstances. He mentioned that his own son had been to school in the Soviet Union, and said that in Scandinavia, France and this country, he had seen the forces of peace growing, and when he returned to America with this impression it would mean a great deal to the Wallace regime, and to the workers, to know that this unity for peace was so powerful.

.....

The meeting was quite orderly, and ROBESON received applause every time he sang or spoke.

.....

A Souvenir Programme, and a press photograph of Paul ROBESON is also filed with the original in O.F. 160/1 (1) Vol. 6. 254ab.

.....

105c

24.5.29

Extract from Daily Worker. ~~4-6-29~~

ROBESON BOOK THE SPARKS BY STORBE

Worthing, Monday.

Over 250 electricians gave Paul ROBESON a tumultuous welcome at the annual conference of the E T. U. here today

The great Negro singer and artist, a special guest, sang and told of the struggles of the common people, white and black, yellow and brown.

His appeal for unity in the fight for freedom, dignity peace and a decent living for all, was simple and tremendously moving.

TEARS IN EYES

Some of the delegates had tears in their eyes as they listened to ROBESON, who spoke and sang with the eloquent anger of an oppressed people in revolt.

In fact the recital was so overwhelming that Mr. Frank FOWLKES, the president, forthwith closed the afternoon session a quarter of an hour before schedule.

Even reporters stood and joined with the delegates in singing For He's a Jolly Good Fellow.

And ROBESON, himself moved, smiled shyly at the compliment.

The hall vibrated to the melody of "Joe Hill", song of the revolutionary whose spirit never died, and to the immortal "Ole Man River."

UNITY OF PEOPLES

The kernel of ROBESON's passionate speech, which took the conference even more by storm than his singing, was

~~Handwritten signature~~
ALLEN 12
9/6/49

2-2-42

that working people of all races want to live proudly and decently, to bring their children up in peace and plenty, and not cursed by fear of war and poverty.

To achieve that would demand the building of unity among common men and women everywhere. It would mean the ending of privilege, of exploitation, of Jim Crow.

"Then nothing the capitalists can do will frighten us," he said, to terrific applause.

BIA
1056

Date..... 22 5. 49

MR. FOULKES ADJOURNS
20 MINUTES EARLY

Comrade Robeson stops the show

By TREVOR EVANS

WORTHING, Monday.—Paul Robeson stopped the Electrical Trades Union conference here today. For three-quarters of an hour he sang and spoke. Finally he recited Langston Hughes's poem, "The Freedom Train."

The conference president, Frank Foulkes—a Communist, like most of this union's



PRESIDENT FOULKES
Tears filled his eyes

top officials—was so full of emotion that with tear-filled eyes he abandoned the conference 20 minutes before time.

Mr. Foulkes said earlier that Mr. Robeson was being invited as the representative of all oppressed people.

Robeson has been touring Britain as a singing politician, but this was his first appearance as a guest speaker at a trade union conference. His audience found him a diffuse speaker, jumping from one topic to another. The only connecting link was his deep emotion.

"I'll talk a little, then I'll sing, and then talk a little more," he intoned. It was cavalier treatment of a conference which prides itself on its minute-to-minute schedule of business.

Mr. Robeson sang four songs, ending with the inevitable "Ol' Man River." One song he dedicated to newspapers which have criticised him. It was a Negro folk tune, "Scandalise My Name."

Startled

Then he talked. He said there were signs that workers everywhere were about to rebel against oppression. He said he saw too much difference between "the boys at the top" and the workers at the bottom in this country.

Many things have surprised him here. He was startled to see Commonwealth leaders gather round Mr. Malan of South Africa—"He is about to do to my people out there very like what Hitler did to the Jews."

The Robeson interlude came at the end of a lot of other fighting talk. For this 180,000-strong union is critical of the Government, the T.U.C., and its nationalised employers.

The conference decided to demand higher wages and a fortnight's paid holiday.

Paul Robeson recently made a concert tour of Britain, said that his fee was £500 a time.

Pa
PF 44990
ROBESON.

Thb

Handwritten signature or initials.

22/5/49
2/10/49