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100
RF 44980
B16.

Summary of World Broadcasts. I. No.5. 9.5.49.

Meeting of Norwegian-Soviet Friendship Society Paul Robeson and the Soviet envoy in
Oslo were present at a meeting of the Norwegian-Soviet Friendship Society in Oslo
in commemoration of Pushkin's 150th anniversary. (Moscow 21.30, 4.5.49)

99b

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

From THE CORPORATION OF DU

..... Police Department.....

Sir Percy Sillitoe, G.B.E., D.L.
Box No. 500,
Parliament St. B.O.
LONDON, S.W. 1

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHERIFF HILL. 111

VISIT OF
MR. PAUL ROBESON

*(By courtesy of Councillor G. C. Esther
Chairman of Gateshead Labour Party and Trades Council).*

on FRIDAY, 6th MAY, 1949

at 6-30 p.m.

Admission to the Service only
on production of this Ticket.

Ticket Holders must be in their seats not later than 6-15 p.m.

COLLECTION.

THE WORLD FAMOUS GOLDEN VOICED SINGER

PAUL ROBESON

WILL SING

in the

TOWN HALL, GATESHEAD

On FRIDAY, 6th MAY 1949

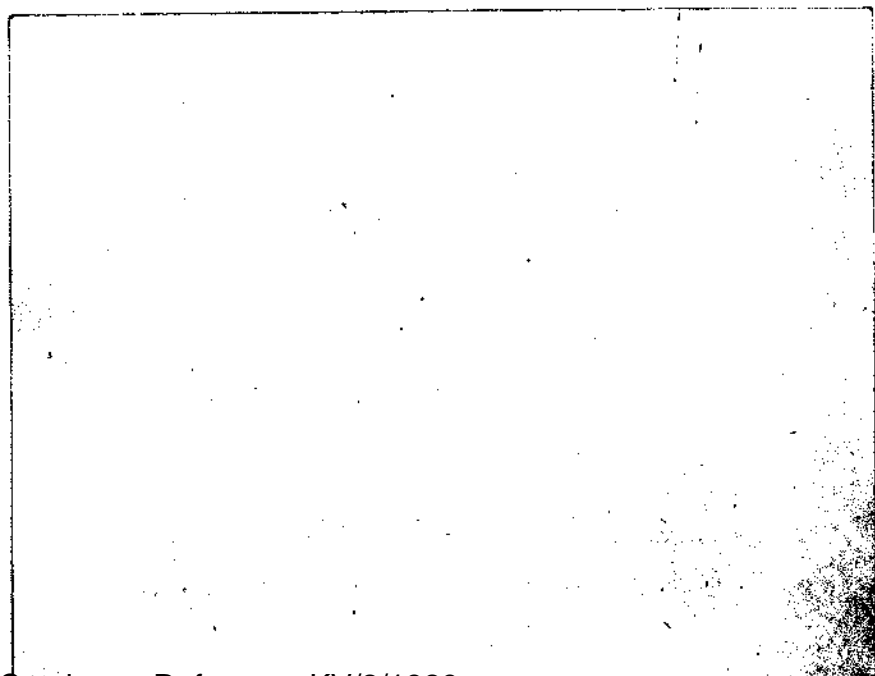
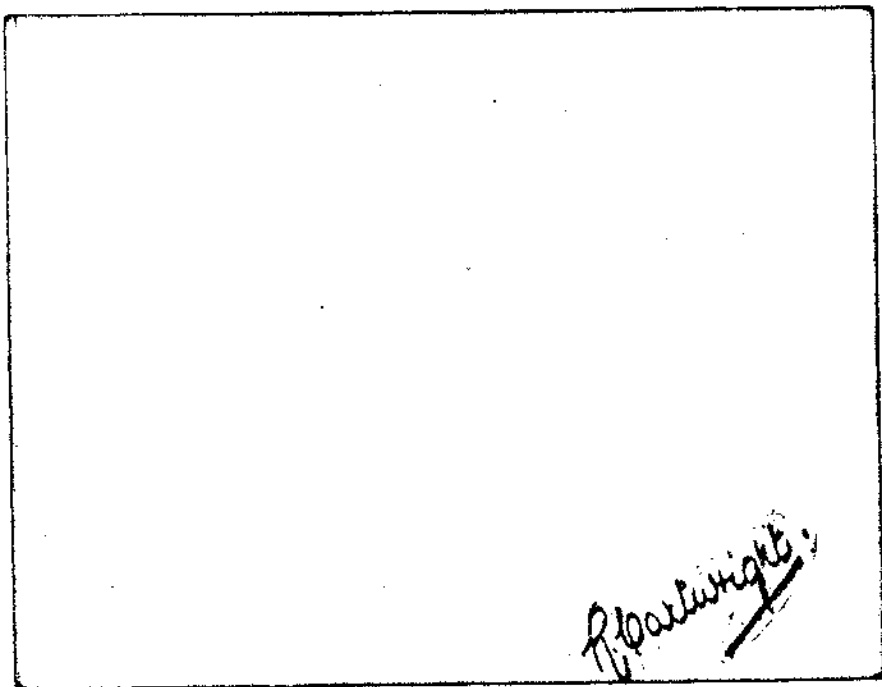
at 7-30 p.m. prompt

No Charge

Collection

ADMISSION by this Ticket only

(Arranged by Gateshead Labour Party & Trades Council).



County Borough of Gateshead Police.



CONFIDENTIAL.

Chief Constable's Office,

Town Hall,

99

Telephones:

Gateshead 72222 (2 lines).

Gateshead, 8.

COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED "THE CHIEF CONSTABLE, GATESHEAD, 8."

A&S/EL/15.

ENCL. *Robeson*
QW 9-MAY 1949

May 7th, 1949.

Dear Sir,

TO *BIA* Street

BIA 7/4

REF. *PI 44, 2, 20* MR. ROBESON.

I have to inform you that the above-named gave three short concerts in this borough on the 6th May, 1949.

He came to the town at the request of Mr. Konni Zilliacus, M.P., and the arrangements for the concerts were undertaken by Councillor G.C. Esther, who is the Chairman of the Gateshead Labour Party and Trades Council and also the chief nominator of the candidature of Mr. Zilliacus as Gateshead Parliamentary Candidate for the next General Election much against the wishes of the National Executive of the Party.

One of the concerts were held in the Bensham Cinema, Gateshead, before an audience of approximately 850, and another at the Town Hall, Gateshead, before an audience of 700. He also attended an Evening Service at St. John's Church, Sheriff Hill, Gateshead, where he sang to a congregation of approximately 600.

He was accompanied at each concert by Mr. Zilliacus and Councillor Esther and although the concerts were billed as non-political, references were made during the concerts by both Zilliacus and Esther, and the singer himself to the fact that Robeson was in future only going to sing to the working-class people and devote the rest of his life in assisting them in their struggles for better conditions etc.

Robeson only sung one American Revolutionary type of song by the title of "Joe Hill", but it was noticed that during his rendering of the song "Old Man River" he changed the words "you get a little drunk and you lands in gaol" to "you show a little grit and you lands in gaol"; also the words "tired of living and feared of dying" to "tired of living but we go on fighting".

The National Anthem was played at the concert held in the Town Hall.

I enclose copies of the printed invitation cards. The cards for the public concerts were issued through the various union officials and Works Committees.

The meetings were very orderly, and Robeson was well received.

Yours faithfully,

E. Maubridge

Chief Constable.

Mr Percy Sillitoe,
Box No. 500,
Parliament Street B.O.
LONDON...S.W.1.

to. 5. (Flimsy).

BORTHOLT AIRPORT
200 0001

ESPY
[Handwritten initials]

METROPOLITAN POLICE (Special Branch)

AL REPORT.

ENGL.....

AM

3-MAY 1949

5th day of MAY

194

TO *BIA* Direct

31B

1/4
Paul

REF *DEW 085*
Among the passengers arriving at this airport from Oslo at 4 p.m. to-day was Paul ~~ROBERTSON~~, American, born in Princeton on 9th July 1893, travelling on American passport No. 58303, issued in Washington on 8th May 1947.

ROBERTSON

He was lauded unconditionally.

Search of his baggage by H.M. Customs revealed nothing of interest to police.

REFERENCE TO PAPERS.

Intended address: Stafford Hotel, London.

Henry G. Ken
Sergeant.

Submitted.

Stamphel
Sergeant.

[Handwritten signature]
SUPERINTENDENT.

13

142/15M 078 (2)

401308
14725

984

Temple Bar 161. (Communist Party H.Q)

Outgoing. 3.5.49

ROBESON

Desmond BUCKLE rings for Bill WARD Lancashire District, Bill is out so he leaves a message, to say that Paul is due back from Scandinavia on May 5th, by air, and he is going straight up to fulfil an engagement in Gateshead, and there will be no difficulty about getting him to leave there in time to arrive in Liverpool by about 1.40. Peter BLACKMAN will not be able to travel with him, and he does not think he will be able to come either, but another chap. L. BARROW, will possibly come in Peter's place. Desmond asks about St. George's Hall. He is told that there is nothing definite about that yet, but if they stick out and refuse to open it, the meeting will be held on the platform outside the Hall. Desmond will write to

Bill to confirm.
M.C.F.

~~116.32. 11/6/49
59/289. 11/6/49~~

2)
170
ROBESON
M.C.F.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY
Sheffield and Rotherham
Area Committee

Secretary: Howard Hill
Telephone: Sheffield 25962

2, Cambridge Arcade
Pinstone Street
Sheffield, 1

187

3

Dear Winifred,

Here, provided M.I. 5 refrain
from opening the envelope and appropriating
them are your two tickets.

Yours f
H. Hill

THE
DAILY WORKER
PRESENTS

Paul Robeson

with the SHARROW GLEE SINGERS

Organiser: Mrs. A. ECCLESTONE

Supporting Speaker: H. ULIVATT

CITY HALL SUNDAY, MAY 23RD

638

THE
DAILY WORKER
PRESENTS

Paul Robeson

with the SHARROW GLEE SINGERS

Organiser: Mrs. A. ECCLESTONE

Supporting Speaker: H. ULIVATT

7.30 pm. Starts. CITY HALL SUNDAY, MAY 23RD

63



2907
Sub
24/10/49