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F = FF 44990 .
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S. W. B. VIB/2. 4.5.49

PAUL ROBESON REFUSES TO ADDRESS STUDENTS Paul Robeson informed the Copenhagen Students' Association on the 27th that he would not speak at the meeting of the Association arranged for 28th April. He said that the atmosphere in Denmark was "such that he has no longer any desire to talk to Danish students". It was mentioned in the same broadcast that Robeson had sung in the Copenhagen Forum on the evening of the 27th to an audience of 7,000. (Kalundborg 22.00, 27.4.49)

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STOCKHOLM L312 35W 30/4 1850

KONNI ZILLIACUS 60 ABBEYROAD LONDON NW8

ARRIVING LONDON BY AIR FROM OSLO EVENING OF MAY 5-TH
STOP SURE TO BE IN NEWCASTLE MAY 6 WILL CALL YOU ON
ARRIVAL DEEPLY THANK ZILLIACUS FOR HIS COURAGE BT
ROBESON AR

pa. P.F. Robson

~~AS~~
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Danish Press Summary. 28.4.49.

RF 44950.

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MR. PAUL ROBESON

Yesterday Mr. Paul Robeson informed the board of the Students' Association that it appeared that feelings in this country were such that he had no wish to address Danish students. (Politiken)

Extract from SUMMARY OF WORLD BROADCASTS

Part VIB. No.1. 27th April 1949. Page 2.

SCANDINAVIA.

~~ROBESON ON HIS POLICY~~ Paul Robeson's concerts in Copenhagen on 27th and 28th April, arranged by the Liberal paper 'Politiken', have been cancelled at Robeson's request. Robeson was said to be willing to give a free concert for the communist paper 'Land og Folk' (Kalundborg 12.30, 22.4.49) and, according to the Swedish radio, he told reporters that the 'Politiken' concerts were cancelled because the paper supported Denmark's participation in the North Atlantic Treaty (Motala in English 14.15, 22.4.49). On arriving in Oslo, Robeson told the Press that this was his last tour as a pure artist. From now on, he wanted to entertain the workers of the world, by both singing and speaking, and to take any opportunity to express the political opinion he represented. (Oslo 13.20, 23.4.49)

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M. Paul Robeson

9th April, 1949

27 APR 1949

The concert given yesterday by Paul ROBESON at the Polish Embassy was attended by the following diplomats of the other satellite countries:

U.S.S.R.

G.N.ZARUBIN, Ambassador.
V.N.KRAMELASHVILI, First Secretary
Mikhail SHISHKIN, Second Secretary
and various Military, Air and Naval Attaches.

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Bulgaria

Boyan ATHANASSOV, Charge d'Affaires
Bogumil TODOROFF, Third Secretary
Boris TEMKOV, Press Attache

Czechoslovakia

Dr. Bohuslav KRATOCHVIL, Ambassador
Dr. Eduard GOLDSTUCKER, Counsellor
Dr. Pavel KAVAN, Press Counsellor

WARNING
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Hungary:

Janos EROS, Minister
Gabor PULAY, Counsellor
Pal IGNOTUS, Press Attache

Roumania:

Mihail MACAVEI, Minister
George MACOVESCU, First Counsellor
Dr. Paul CORNEA, Press Counsellor

No member attended from the Jugoslav Embassy.

Also present were:

D.N.FRITT M.P., PIRATIN, M.P., K.ZILLIACUS M.P.,
L.J.SOLLEY M.P., Julius JACOBS (Secretary of London
Trades Council), Gordon SCHAFFER (Reynolds News),
John ALEXANDER (The New Central European Observer).

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S.S. 49.

BIA/B49.

In conversation Paul ROBESON said that he will be going to Scandinavia on a short concert tour and will then be returning to America. In the autumn, or possibly earlier, he will visit Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Roumania and the U.S.S.R. He then proposes to return to the U.K. to play Shakespeare's "Othello".

ROBESON was accompanied by four other Negroes, Lawrence BROWN, his accompanist; Desmond BUCKLE, his secretary, who lives at 57, Charlwood St., S.E.1.; a distant cousin, who comes from Barbados; and a Nigerian, wearing his national costume, who has been studying here for the last 3 years. This last is in close touch with the Nigerian National Liberation Council and is probably its representative here. He said that they would shortly be publishing a pamphlet - which will probably contain his name and address. BUCKLE also spoke of the National Liberation Movement in Africa.

WARNING

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RF 44990 C

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Danish Press Summary. 26.4.49.

~~MR. DAVID~~
~~ROBESON~~

informed the Students' Association last night that he
accepted the invitation to talk to the Association on 28th
inst. on racial problems in USA. (Politiken)

EXTRACT.

94 B

for File No.: PF. 44990. Name: PAUL ROBESON.

in File No.: SF. 464/22(2) Serial: 11A. Receipt Date: 25.4.49.

Original from: Special Branch. Under Ref.: 301/MP/5398A. Dated: 21.4.49.

Extracted on: 9.5.49. by: AS. Section: BIB.

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The Communist election campaign in Stepney also included a large meeting on 31st. March, 1949 at Mile End Baths, where the speakers included Phil PIRATTIN, M.P. and Paul ROBESON, the negro singer, to whom the three Communist candidates were introduced.

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18/5/49
WJH

tract from Swedish Press Summary No. 93, Friday 22nd April 1949.

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OB. DW

The Negro singer Paul Robeson's concert in Konserthuset last night ended in a scandal. As an encore he sang a patriotic Russian song and the audience started booing, shouting and stamping. Many of them left. When Mr. Robeson finally could make himself heard he condemned the attitude of the audience and said they had no business to be at his concert.

At a press conference afterwards Mr. Robeson said that America had become a Fascist country as horrible as Germany was and that, though conditions in Sweden are better, he preferred the Russian democracy to the Swedish.

"Ny Dag" has a two-column picture of Mr. Robeson on its front page. The paper says his concert was a brilliant success and a strong declaration of peace.

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FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

my - Express

Date..... 22 47

**Listeners shout
at Robeson**

STOCKHOLM, Thursday. — Whistles and shouts almost drowned Paul Robeson's voice when he sang the Russian anthem in Stockholm tonight. Some of the audience walked out.

Robeson said he could no longer draw a line between his art and his political convictions. This summer he will tour Russia, where his son is engaged on atomic research.—A.P.

P.

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THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
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PAUL ROBESON CASTLE HOTEL STOCKHOLM

LEASE CONFIRM BOOKINGS BRITISH SOVIET SOCIETY MAY 20TH
OVENTRY 21ST BIRMINGHAM REPLY WAINWRIGHT BRITISH SOVIET
OCIETY 15 DEVONSHIRE-ST LONDON W1 AR

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Pa. in PF 44990
ROBESON

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19 MAR 1949 He did
Temple Bar 2151. (Communist Party Headquarters) attend.
(on 23 5 49)

Incoming. 16.5.49.

[PF607997]

FRANK HAXELL for GEORGE ALLISON. He said that he had received a phone call from WALTER and it appeared that there was the possibility of PAUL ROBESON being free to attend their conference, in the middle of the conference. They thought that it would be a very good thing if he did. They wanted to know what GEORGE approved, and if so what steps they should take. GEORGE promised to let FRANK FOLKES know later on to day.

Electrical T. U.

~~FRANK FOLKES
PROLETU.
13.46.~~

2/6/48 lb
9/6/48

B.1.a. Mr. Gee

B.1.a. deposed.

*see copy 9.3a
22/4*

You might be interested in the attached translation of an article which appeared in the official organ of the Communist controlled Polish United Workers Party.

B.4.c./FCD
19.4.49.

F. C. Derbyshire
F.C. Derbyshire.

9. 11

Translated from "Trybuna Ludu" 24.3.49.

London Letter,

Paul ROBESON has left America

The great singer cannot appear on the concert-platform in his own country.

March 1949.

Paul ROBESON has arrived here, but he has not by any means come as an import forming part of the MARSHALL plan. ROBESON who is, I suppose, the greatest singer of our day, has come to England and to Europe for a long time. The immediate reason for his coming is the fact all the 86 concerts which he had booked for the coming concert season have been cancelled. ROBESON was, therefore, left without an opportunity to appear on a concert-platform in America.

A great artist - a progressive activist.

The reason for this is obviously to be found in the political views of this great artist. He belongs to the extreme left wing. He is fighting for the right of his people, which is the Negro people; in the recent electoral campaign he actively supported WALLACE, singing gratis to great crowds in New York and in the provinces.

This, of course, ROBESON's enemies could not endure, and they took advantage of the anti-communist hysteria prevalent in the United States to make his further career impossible. Hence ROBESON decided to leave for Europe. He will be in England for the next six

weeks. He is to sing in a different town every second day, and all the tickets for his concerts have been sold in advance. When he concludes this tour he will sing to the great masses of the workers free of charge. That is the sort of man ROBEESON is.

This man has always been on the right side of the barricade. During the Spanish war he supported the republican cause. I remember that he was in Paris at that time and he gave a concert at the Opera. The seats had been sold several weeks in advance, the prices were very high.

There was no question of a poor student being able to get into a concert like that. That same evening there was a mass meeting in support of aid for the Spanish republicans, held in a hall in Paris. There were speeches and a send-off to delegates from all parts of the world, who were on their way to Spain. The atmosphere was solemn, the mass meeting lasted until midnight. When those present were just making ready to leave the chairman suddenly asked for silence and announced Paul ROBEESON, Robeson had finished his concert at the Opera and had decided to come to the meeting and to sing for all those who held the same views as he did, but could not afford to pay for tickets. He sang for an hour.

On his way to the U.S.S.R. and the democratic countries.

When ROBEESON concludes his English tour he will go to the Soviet Union, and then to Roumania, Hungary and, I hope, Poland. When I

asked him if he would go to you he said with embarrassment that he had not yet taken any steps in that direction, as he had not yet had time to prepare a Polish repertory. It is Paul ROBESON's principle to sing in the language of the country he is singing in. But even that is not enough for him - he learns the language. He speaks Russian, Spanish and Italian fluently, and without a trace of a foreign accent. He sings excellently in Yiddish, Hebrew, German and French. He says that he has not yet begun to learn the Polish language.

He talked to me for a long time about African matters. That continent is completely in the power of American and English imperialism. The whole of Africa is mercilessly exploited by those two countries. Labour is cheap, raw materials are plentiful.

Africa - a country where there is wrong and exploitation.

Africa is to be the great base for the imperialist attack. At the present moment the English and Americans are developing great propagandist activities there against the Soviet Union, and simultaneously they are exploiting the raw material for their purposes. This is being done so quietly and skilfully that even progressive opinion in the world takes no notice of it.

ROBESON shouts at the top of his voice (and what a voice it is!) that people who care about peace should look at Africa, for it would be one of the greatest possible tragedies if the Negro people, oppress-

ed and browbeaten by the white imperialists from the West, was made use of to fight against the powers of progress, which alone can bring the Negroes liberty such as they never knew before.

And so turn your attention to Africa. Look upon the terrible things which are happening in South Africa in the twentieth century, under the government of Mr. SMUTS. Interest yourselves in the conditions prevailing in the diamond mines there. Look upon what is happening on the Gold Coast, in the Belgian Congo, and give the Polish reader something to read which will not only stir his conscience but will awaken in him a sense of the danger threatening the cause of liberty.

Jan K.

RS 24 44990

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Cutting from Daily Worker, 19th April 1949.

ROBESON'S TRIBUTE TO 3 FRIENDS

AT his second concert at Harringay last night, Mr. Paul Robeson told his 10,000-strong audience: "I want to sing a song to three good friends I shall not meet again—Bill Rust, Jimmie Shields, and Mrs. Papworth."

To honour the memory of these three British Communists, he sang a Negro melody, "Give Me Your Hand."

At the end of the concert he said goodbye to his British audiences with the words: "This has been the happiest, most wonderful tour of my whole career."

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