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NEWS RELEASE from

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COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS, Inc.

33 WEST 26 STREET . NEW YORK 10, M, Y, . MURRAY HILL 3-4209

PAUL ROBESON

W. E. B. Du BOIS
Vice Chairman

ESTELLE M. OSBORNE

W. A. HUNTON

AUGUST 25, 1950

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE DEPARTMENT CANCELLATION OF ROBESON'S PASSFORT CHALLENGED

Representatives of the Passport Division of the State Department have told Paul Robeson, whose passport was revoked August 4 on the eve of his departure for meetings and concerts abroad, that Mr. Robeson's condemnation of the treatment of American Regross should be confined to the American scene as this was a "family affair" and should not be sired abroad.

This was one of the highlights of the 2-hour discussion which took place in Washington at the Passport Division office on August 23 at a conference held at the request of Mr. Robeson's counsel to find out the basis for the State Department's arbitrary action.

Participating in the conference with Paul Robeson were his attorney, Nathan Witt, Judge James A. Cobb, formerly on the Municipal Court bench of Washington, D. C., Dean George Parker of the Terrell Lew School, Attorney George Hayes, member of Washington, D.C. School Board, and William L. Patterson, Executive Secretary of the Civil Rights Congress. Representing the Passport Division were H.A. Nicholas and Willis H. Young.

Mathen Witt accused the Department of arbitrarily violating the privileges, inmunities, and rights of Paul Robeson in the revocation of his pessport. He asked the Department for a definitive statement of the ressons for its action, which it had based simply on the assertion that Robeson's travel abroad would be "detrimental to the interests of the United States Government".

The State Department spokesman intimated that unless Rabesan would agree to refrein from criticizing the treatment of Nagra Americans and the American government's foreign policy during his travels abroad, the State Department would stond put on its cancellation of his passport. Mr. Nicholas asked for a statement that Mr. Robeson would not speak if he went abroad.

Paul Robeson expressed his deep and abiding loyalty to America, his country, and also his intention to continue to criticize those acts emenating from foreign and domestic policy which in any way curtoiled the constitutional rights of the American people generally, or specifically violated the constitutional liberties and human rights of the Negro people. He contended that this was in keeping with his duty as a loyal American citizen and consistent with his constitutional rights.

He was supported in this stand by Judge Cobb, who said that the curtailment of freedom of travel was an arbitrary exercise of power by the State Department in violation of the fifth Amendment protecting property rights.

Attorney Hayes edded that he regarded this matter as further attack upon the rights and privileges of 15 million Negroes who were already denied their citizenship rights without effort on the part of the Government to protect same.

The conference ended with the State Department refusing to reconsider its action unless Mr. Robeson would sign a statement that he would not speak if he went abroad. The atterneys present with Mr. Robeson in the conference unanimously declared that this matter was of such fundamental character that it must be taken inmediately to the U.S. Supreme Court.

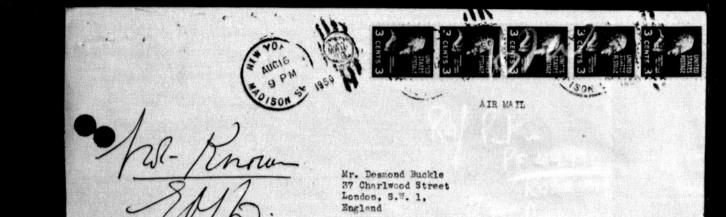
The Council on African Affairs, of which Mr. Robeson is Chairman, has received copies of mimorous letters and cables from individuals and organizations in the U.S. Catalogued intelletical Coordinated Catalogued Intelletical Coordinated Catalogued Intelletical Catalogued

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EXTRACT.

	Name: ROBESON. Africa V.10. Serial: 458c Receipt Date: 6.9.50.
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	mple Par 2151, C.P.H. Ա.
Prop. Dept., London Dis	trict, obtains some addresses from Maud (ROGERSON).
Paul ROBESON, c/	o the Council for African Affairs, 23, West 26th Street, New York, 10.
Gabbiel d'ARBOUSSIER,	Maud tells her to ask the British Peace Cttee or write to him care of the French Party, or the Chamber of Nationalities, she thinks to it is called.
AZIKIWE,	Post Office Box 573, Lagos, Nigeria, British West Africa.
Sam KAHN.	Maud has no address for him and does not know how they could get into communication with him. The official addresses they have are no longer any use. The places are all closed.
Mrs. RENNER (sp)	Maud asks if that is Mrs. Hankole RENNER. Caller says she is the one from the Gold Coast or West Coast of Africand Says it is c/o Accra Evening News, FO Box 821, Accra, Gold Coast.

Caller asks if there is no way of setting in touch with A-MM via the Guardian. They are holding a meeting on kept. Sist on Africa and the fight for peace, and they want messages. Head says to leave its to her for a couple of days. The does not like to surpest anything that would cousit the Guardian in any way, but she will sake the bouth African complete. One of them is due in tomorrow morning. The will find out if anyone has a private course for him.



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