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85/15

EXTRACT.

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

Original in File No. : P.F. 52, 267. V. 2. Serial: 89b. Receipt Date: 3.16.50.

Original from: B.I.A. Source report Under Ref.: 10, 855. Dated: 22.6.50.

Extracted on: 11.8.50. by: P.S. Section: R.A.

Extract from B.I.A. Source report re members of the World Peace Movement.  
Mentioning ROBESON.

It was learnt in conversation recently that Paul ROBESON, who attended the London Meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Peace Movement has now returned to the U.S.A. He is hoping to return in mid-July to attend the British Peace Congress on July 22nd-24th, but if this is not possible will certainly be coming in October when the World Peace Congress is to be held at Genoa.

.....

SECRET

*all*

*157a*

P.F.44990/B.i.b./WMD

19 June, 1950.

Dear General Palmer,

Thank you for your letter No. N.A.1324, Serial No. 57 dated 5 June, 1950 concerning Paul ROBESON.

ROBESON arrived in this country on 29 May by air from New York to attend the meeting of the Bureau of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress. He was travelling on Passport No.58303 issued in Washington on 8 May, 1947.

ROBESON, to whose arrival much publicity was given in the "Daily Worker", is reliably reported to have taken a prominent and even aggressive part in the deliberations of the World Peace Committee, which had as its task the reviewing of the "world peace movement" and the making of plans for the second World Peace Congress to be held in Genoa in October, 1950. We learn that ROBESON attacked the Yugoslav press representative and the American, John ROGGE, with some force, deeming both tools of Fascism. Later, at a mass meeting in Lincoln's Inn Fields held on 1 June, which was attended by more than 5000 persons of whom the great majority were communists, ROBESON spoke of the racial struggle and sang revolutionary songs.

ROBESON returned to the United States by air on 2 June, 1950.

Regarding the interesting cutting which you enclosed in your letter quoted above, we have no knowledge of a tour by ROBESON to Africa. We are certainly aware of considerable activity on the part of the communist-controlled Council of African Affairs, which as you know is active in the United States and of which ROBESON has for some time been the Chairman. This council has, we learn, formed an African Aid Committee, which may be the committee named in the article as the "Africa for Africans Committee".

We have so far not received any reports on the subject of ROBESON's contact with Africans during his recent visit to the United Kingdom, though we do know that he had meetings with members of the British Communist Party. Nor have we evidence that he has associated himself with the committee formed to support the claims of Seretse KHAMA.

Yours sincerely,

G. A. MITCHELL

for Sir Percy Sillitoe.

Major General R. J. Palmer, C.V.O., D.S.O.,  
Commissioner of South African Police,  
P. O. Box 449,  
Pretoria.

WMD/IT.

*SA 1314  
14*

Copy of card in

1572

HOME OFFICE TRAFFIC INDEX

(GREEN CARD SYSTEM)

To: BIB/MJEB

O Surname: ROBESON

Forenames: Paul

Date of Birth: 9.4.98

Nationality: American

Address in U.K.:

Imperial Hotel  
London

Arrived at:

from: ..... on: .....

Departed from: London Airport

for: N.Y.C. on: 2.6.50

File Ref: PF 44990

Date: 16.6.50. A. S. Carterill

Signature

PF 44990

PA 12/11/50  
22/11

588/9

\*Please advise C.A.A. as to whether the GREEN CARD in the Traffic Index may now be removed.

## EXTRACT.

1574

Extract for File No. P.F. 44, 990. Name: ROBESON.  
 Original in File No. S.P. 491/29/3. Vol 5. Serial: 1852. Receipt Date: 13.6.50.  
 Original from: B.I.A. Reports. Under Ref.: B.I.A./10616. Dated: 6.6.50.  
 O -  
 Extracted on: 27.6.50. by: PERE. Section: R.A.

Copy of B.I.A. Report on British Peace Committee press conference mentioning ROBESON.

B.I.A.

The Peace Committee gave a press conference at the Cora Hotel, Upper Woburn Place, on June 1st. SUDJIC caused quite a row by asking embarrassing questions, and by hotly arguing his points.

SUDJIC had received information that at the previous day's meeting, ROGGE brought up the question of Yugoslavia's re-admission, which was voted down by the meeting. SUDJIC asked a question about this, and ROGGE admitted that he had brought up this point and would bring it up again. This angered Paul ROBESON, who attacked ROGGE bitterly. ROBESON was the most ardent and violent member of the conference, and allowed himself to talk excitedly. He said he put Marshal TITO in the same category as Hitler, and also talked about Fascist American warmongers, etc. Image Reference

speaking, Mrs. GHOSH, who is Finnish, made the Finnish delegate speak, and so on.

There were about 70 or 80 journalists present. NIKITIN of Tass came, accompanied by Harry COUSINS and a new Russian member of the Agency. ZEMANEK was there and so was Bill TATE, who said he represented the Polish Press Agency. SUDJIC, LESSER, Press Counsellor SOKORAC and a woman represented the Yugoslavs. F. ROHAC, the Czech Press Counsellor, was there; also Alain VERNAY and his wife.

Mrs. ROSNER was present, representing the Greeks.

Joyce SMITH acted as translator from French into English, and did the job well. KORNEICHUK's Russian translator was appalling.

Of the Peace Delegates, Mme. COTTON and SERENI were not present.

Attached is some literature which was made at the meeting.

6th June 1950.

**WARNING**  
REFER TO APPROPRIATE  
OFFICER BEFORE USING

Copy to SIS on 13/6/50  
15/8 - ~~RTR~~ mmj 13.6.  
RZ JHm  
EWS  
(28)

8th June 1950.

For PF44990

BIB 14/6

Paul ROBESON.

In a long interview last week, ROBESON spoke "off the record" for about an hour.

Source had not seen him for about a year and in this period ROBESON has become theoretically a pure Communist, no longer thinking of the Negro question in terms of nationalist or emotional approach, but seeing the coloured people only as so many workers who may be won for Communism on the strength of their feelings on the racial question.

ROBESON seems quite sincere about this. He is an excellent speaker, he comments upon the immediate problems in an individual way, seldom quoting the Communist patter. He is quite outspoken about his attitude to the Soviet Union and the Peoples' Democracies, and is undoubtedly highly intelligent and an able leader, who is an upholder of Communism as an idealist.

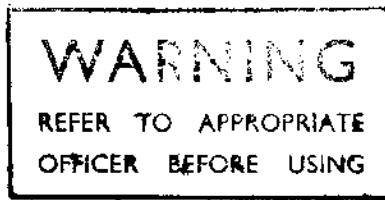
ROBESON criticised Henry WALLACE, though not maliciously, because WALLACE still held the opinion that the Truman Administration did not want war. ROBESON was firmly convinced that Truman and his supporters did in fact mean to begin a war at the most convenient moment. They were Fascists by nature, but conditions would never allow them to get America into quite such a state as the Germany of 1933.

ROBESON was not worried about the possibility of getting into trouble with the American authorities on charges of un-American activities, but he seemed to think it not unlikely that he might be "liquidated" by some gangster, in spite of the precautions taken by his body-

14/6/50

guard which on occasions numbers up to fifty men.

He would not let himself be drawn on the subject of the British Party or on anything outside America's progressive movement, but he did mention a row he had had with P. PIRATIN which caused a certain delay in the proceedings.



BIA/10690



156a 410  
S.A.P. 51 A.  
No. J.A.1324. 644/6

Telegraphic Address } "COMPOL".  
Telegramadres }

**SOUTH AFRICAN  
POLICE.**



**SUID-AFRIKAANSE  
POLISIE.**

**Headquarters.—Hoofkwartier.**

AIR MAIL.

P.O. Box } 449, PRETORIA  
Postbus }

SERIAL NUMBER 57.

5th June, 1950.

Sir,  
re : Paul ROBESON.

Join.

With reference to your minute OF./533/2/DS9. dated 4th April, 1935, I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information and any useful comments you wish to make, a cutting from the Johannesburg newspaper "Sunday Times" dated 4-6-1950.

Will you kindly advise this office timeously, should Robeson decide to come to South Africa.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

Chief-Inspector,  
THE COMMISSIONER OF THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE.

ENCLOSURE 1 page 3/6  
will you see refs?  
025/188/BIA  
REF 44990/BIB  
04/5

Sir Percy Sillitoe, K.B.E.,  
Box No. 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
LONDON. S.W.1.

411/9 cont of 336.



Sunday Times  
4/6/50

# Paul Robeson Upholds Seretse Khama's Claim As Chief

## AFRICA FOR AFRICANS MOVEMENT RE-FORMED

"SUNDAY TIMES" CORRESPONDENT

London, Saturday.

PLANS are being made to reconstitute the committee headed by a West Indian cricketer, Leary Constantine, which was started to uphold Seretse Khama's claim to the chieftaincy of the Bamangwato.

Two coloured men now prominently associated with this movement are Paul Robeson, paying a brief visit to London to speak and sing at a Communist-sponsored peace rally, and George Padmore, whose book on Africa was recently banned in several British African territories.

Before returning to America, Robeson had met Constantine, Padmore and several people associated with the Communist party, to discuss the formation of a new committee.

A number of prominent Englishmen have been approached, including Mr. Fenner Brockway, the Labour M.P. who played a leading part in the Seretse campaign.

### "FREEDOM AND PEACE"

Robeson, who, at the peace meeting, demanded "freedom and peace" for 150,000,000 Africans, is expected to return to Britain shortly.

He then plans to make a tour of Africa under the 'auspices of the new committee, which has not yet been named, but may be called the Africa for Africans Committee.

It is believed that the committee will work on lines similar to those used by the old League Against Imperialism, which was formed in Brussels in 1929 and was active in advocating Indian independence.

### NON-PARTY

It was a non-party body, but had definite links running through European capitals to Moscow and what was then the Comintern.

Prominent among those taking part in the peace rally was Gabriel d'Arboussier, the French-African leader, who has been identified with the spread of Communism in French-African territories.

OF 33/4

copy in OF 33/6

for OF 33/4

↑  
Robeson extract

Probably no. con. with Friends of Africa.  
I assume that this meeting is the Council on 26.6. (or African Affairs x new activities)

~~BIA~~  
~~BIA~~

Any further info on this committee would be very useful to the field.

Buller

533.  
8/6/50.

Copy in O.F 366

2/1/50  
16/6/50