

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

NY FILE NO. **100-56680**

ep

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/16/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/26; 3/6, 7/44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;">b7c</span>
TITLE <b>ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, aka. Mrs. Paul Leo Robeson, Essie Robeson</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject was graduated with B.S. degree from Columbia University June 2, 1920. Original application to Columbia was made on September 18, 1913. University records indicate Mrs. ROBESON attended high school in New York City, Columbia, Ohio, Urbana and Chicago, Illinois. She also attended Illinois State University. Mrs. ROBESON attempted unsuccessfully in 1918 to enter Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. She corresponded with Columbia University from Moscow, Russia in 1937. From April 20, 1917 to September 10, 1920 she was employed as a research worker, Presbyterian Hospital, New York City. Marriage records for the Borough of Manhattan, NYC, were checked with negative results. Subject not believed to be maintaining New York City residence at present time. Subject's name does appear on mailing list of New York Conference of Inalienable Rights.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at New Haven, Connecticut, December 18, 1943, and February 10, 1944. b7c

**DETAILS:**

The records of Columbia University, New York City, indicate that Mrs. ROBESON made application for admission to Columbia on September 18, 1913, under the name of **ESLANDA CARDOZO GOODE** and in this application stated she was born in Washington, D.C. in 1895. Her address at this time was 529 Lenox Avenue, New York City and she listed as the person to notify in case of emergency Mrs. E.C. GOODE at this same address. She indicated she had attended the following high schools:

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>E.E. Conroy</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
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COPIES OF THIS REPORT	ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE
5 - Bureau 4 - New Haven (1-MID, Boston) 2 - Springfield 2 - New York	100-12304-19 38 MAR 20 1944 CLASS. & EXT. BY SR RSG/UM REASON FCIM II 1-2.4.2 DATE OF REVIEW 11/28/90

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 100-12304-19

MAR 1 1944

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Wadleigh High School, New York City.  
East and North High School, Columbia, Ohio.  
Lucy Flower Technical High School, Chicago, Ill.  
Urbana High School, Urbana, Illinois.

She did not graduate from high school but was accepted at college on condition. This application also indicates that for an indefinite period Mrs. ROBESON did attend Illinois State University.

The major subjects taken while at Columbia by the subject were foods and cookery.

Also in the file on Mrs. ROBESON at Columbia University is a letter from the Hartford Seminary Foundation located at Hartford, Conn. under date November 19, 1943 asking for a transcript of Mrs. ROBESON's record at Columbia. This record also indicated that subject graduated from Columbia University June 2, 1920 and received a B.S. degree.

On January 8, 1943 subject wrote a letter to University stating in substance as follows:

"I am applying for admission to the Yale Graduate School and need a transcript of my record."

On March 30, 1937 a letter was addressed to the subject by Columbia at the National Hotel in Moscow, USSR. This letter concerned the kindergarden Teachers course at Columbia and went on to state "if the friends about whom you inquired are Russian we are also enclosing material concerning the non-quota immigrant student visa". This letter was written by Columbia University in answer to letter received from subject dated March 25, 1937 in which Mrs. ROBESON advised she had four young friends in Russia who were interested in taking this kindergarden course.

The only other information in the file indicates an attempt by the subject to enter the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University which attempt was unsuccessful because subject had a language and science deficiency.

The Presbyterian Hospital records at 628 West 168th Street, New York City reflected that subject was employed there as a research worker in the surgical and pathological laboratory from April 20, 1917 to September 10, 1920. She was given a very good rating and the records indicate she left her employment here to study medicine. At this time she stated her address was 7 West 131 Street and gave her birth place as Washington, D.C., her age as 21 years and described her marital status as single. She listed her nearest relative as Mrs. E.C. GOODE same address.

The marriage records for the Borough of Manhattan, New York were checked by Special Employee [redacted] and were negative for information concerning subject's marriage to PAUL ROBESON.

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b7c  
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[REDACTED] advised that subject's name did appear on mailing list of the New York Conference of Inalienable Rights. b7D

Discreet inquiry at 588 Edgecomb Avenue and of the New York telephone directories and address directories does not reflect that subject presently maintains a residence at this address. Confidential Informant [REDACTED] advised that subject's husband owns or has a long time lease on an apartment at this address but that he is not presently residing there. b1

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56680

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION:

AT CHAMPAIGN, ILL.:

Will check the records at the University of Illinois for information concerning subject's attendance at this university sometime prior to 1913.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
INFORMANTS

Agent [REDACTED] mentioned in report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at New York City dated March 16, 1944 is New York file: 100-12084.

b7D  
b7C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
INFORMANTS  
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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, New York

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Pennington	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
Files	.....

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FCZ:AJM  
100-25857

March 10, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: PAUL ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

*B.P.*

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the original and three copies of a two page log setting forth the results of a conference between [redacted] and [redacted] which took place on [redacted] according to Confidential Informant [redacted] b1

It is believed that PAUL, MAX, EARL and ROY mentioned in the log may be identified as PAUL ROBESON, DR. MAX YERGAN, EARL BROWDER and ROY HUDSON.

Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY, SAC

Encls. (4)

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080 YEA

MAY 14 1977

cc. NY 100-26603  
NY 100-26011

*Let SAC, New York  
3-21-44  
E.P. 11/20/90*

*100-12304-20*



CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 Rott/M  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11/20/90

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) [redacted]  
DATE [redacted]

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JMG:f

INCOMING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM: [REDACTED]  
TO: [REDACTED]

Helle [REDACTED] this is [REDACTED] you know that there is taking place in New York on April 16th a big birthday affair for PAUL, don't you?  
No, I do not.

You don't know that?  
No.

Well now isn't that terrible. Something is being prepared under the auspices of the Council on African Affairs. They have already rented the Armory because the Garden is not available, the Armory at 34th Street and Park Avenue, and they are already entering to the process of publicity and arrangements about entertainment, and so the thing has been going now for some two weeks. Now you know, remember that some long time ago I told you that we ought to do something like that?  
Yeah yeah.

Well I mentioned it to MAX and, EARL knows about the, so its really being done. But my point is this, that I think there ought to be some discussion of this thing between you and ROY and MAX, and possibly myself, for a number of reasons. First, a thing like that can't be successful without the support of, the active participation of all the forces whom we influence.  
OK.

And secondly I think that you people should know and should, because they need your help.  
OK, swell, well we're certainly going to cooperate to make that a success.

Yeah I know. Now look [REDACTED] there is a meeting her at MAX'S office Wednesday about 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon where we're going to take up one or two other things, I don't know how possible it is for you and ROY to come.  
Tomorrow at 3:00?

Yeah, I think you ought to come.  
Well will that be first?

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DATE OF REVIEW 11/20/90

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Yeah, we can make it first, yeah we'll make it first, so that you and ROY can get right away.  
OK.

All right?  
Yeah.

OK, bye bye.  
Hello. We have a meeting at 11:00, do we not?

We have a what?  
Do we not have a meeting at 11:00?

Yeah, I'm going now, I'm leaving.  
Oh you're leaving? I thought maybe you'd forgotten about it.

No, I've got a half an hour to get there. Yeah, are you going to be there?  
Yeah.

Swell. OK.

- END -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 21, 1944

EHW:PMC  
100-69266

100-12304-20

SAC, New York

RE: COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of March 10, 1944, entitled "Paul Robeson, Internal Security - C." It is noted that from the information supplied therein the subject organization will possibly sponsor a celebration in honor of Robeson's birthday April 16, 1944. It is desired that you follow this matter and if actual arrangements are made for such a celebration, it be appropriately covered by your Office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 9  
MAR 22 1944 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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*W. H. T. [Signature]*

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APR 4 - 1944

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
RECEIVED HEADINGS ROOM

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

FILE NO. **100-8032**

LH

<b>REPORT MADE AT</b> NEW HAVEN, CONN.	<b>DATE WHEN MADE</b> 4-6-44	<b>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</b> 3-31-44	<b>REPORT MADE BY</b> [REDACTED]
<b>TITLE</b> ESKANDA GOODE ROBESON, a.k.a. Mrs. Paul Leo Robeson, Essie Robeson			<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b> SECURITY MATTER - C

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject spoke on problem of discrimination against Negroes at Hartford YWCA on 3/15/44. Informants advise no known Communist activity on part of subject.

- 0 -

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 2/10/44 at New Haven. b7C

**DETAILS:**

On March 15, 1944 subject, Mrs. PAUL ROBESON, gave a talk at the YWCA, Hartford, Connecticut, during which she stated:-

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"We are on the move. This is not a threat but a statement of fact." She was referring to the problem of discrimination against the Negroes. Continuing she stated:-  
 "I think this subject is important and urgent, but you will have to solve it because you are the majority. It will be wise to do something now to consider the question of minorities. We are very mad about it and we have made up our minds people are not going to change toward us unless we make them change."

Informants [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were contacted for information regarding any Communist activity on the part of subject or for any knowledge of possible membership in the Communist Party. The result of the inquiries were negative. In view of this reported inactivity in Communist circles or affairs in Connecticut, this investigation is being closed. b1

<b>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</b> [Signature]	<b>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</b>	<b>C L O S E D</b>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES SE 5
<b>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</b> 5 - Bureau 1 - SID, Boston 1 - SID, Hartford 3 - New Haven		100-12304-21	RECORDED & INDEXED: 3
COPY IN FILE		CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5-RSG/ell REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 DATE OF REVIEW 11/20/90	

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

**New Haven, Connecticut**

FILE NO. **100-6742**

REPORT MADE AT <b>Springfield, Illinois</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4-7-44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3-23-44</b>	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE <b>ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, aka Mrs. Paul Lee Robeson, Essie Robeson</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Subject attended the University of Illinois from September, 1912, to June, 1916. Birthdate reflected as 12-15-95, and birthplace reflected as Washington, D. C.

- R U C -

**References:** Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York City, New York, dated 3-16-44. b7c

**Details:** [REDACTED] University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, advised that the records of that institution reflect that the subject attended the University of Illinois from September, 1912, to June, 1916, and received a degree of Liberal Arts and Sciences from the University of Illinois on June 20, 1914. The records further indicated that the subject was born December 15, 1895, at Washington, D. C. b7c/b7d

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8-18

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Frank Hallford</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">100-12304-22</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">31 APR 10 1944</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 6 Bureau 4 New Haven 3 Springfield 1 CN 100 D/P 2 W. (Grand) 5-16-44 (m.H.) COPY IN FILE	RECORDED EX-41

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SAC, New York City

April 19, 1944

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

PAUL ROBESON;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

Under date of November 28, 1942, Confidential Informant [redacted] of the Indianapolis Field Office furnished that Office with a report covering a conversation he had with [redacted] at that time.

[redacted] told the informant he is himself an active Communist Party member [redacted] and that Paul Robeson was a Communist Party member and that he had joined the Party after a professional tour in England. On this tour Robeson met a man by the name of Harry Pollet (phonetic), who was believed to have converted Robeson to the Party. [redacted] further claimed that upon Robeson's return to the United States he donated his entire earnings from this trip in the amount of \$300,000.00 to the Communist Party. [redacted] also told this informant that Robeson and Mother Elmor had later spent three months together in England and that he [redacted] had used Robeson with great success at the time he had been the [redacted]

The informant referred to above is a paid informant who is considered reliable by the Indianapolis Field Office.

It is desired that the foregoing information be incorporated in the next investigative report submitted by your Office.

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&  
INDEXED

EX-35

100-12304-23
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 21 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 6
APR 19 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Jones
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

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REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11/20/90

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b7c  
b7d

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by [signature]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Above Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
To protect material currently and properly classified.

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
Bureau file 100-12304-24 (pages 1 + 2)

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

HR:ZLN

[REDACTED] L

June 10, 1944

100-12304 NOT RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge  
New Haven, Connecticut

RE: SECURITY MATTER

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that a security index card has been prepared at the Bureau, captioned as follows:

ROBESON, ESIANDA GOODE  
with aliases

NATIVE BORN

COMMUNIST

Mrs. Paul Leroy Robeson  
Essie Robeson

"The Beeches"  
Thompsonville, Conn. (Res.)

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DATE 11/20/80 BY SP-5 RSG/clm

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080 YLR  
MAY 14 1977

The above caption should be checked immediately for accuracy against the information contained in your files, and the Bureau should be informed of any discrepancies. You will prepare without delay a 5" x 8" white card captioned as above and reflecting your investigative case file number for filing in your Confidential Security Index Card File. In the event the above caption is not correct, the card you prepare should be correctly captioned, and the Bureau should be informed of the correct caption.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

The caption of the card prepared and filed in your Office must be kept current at all times and the Bureau immediately advised of any changes made therein in that connection.

JUN 10 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Very truly yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

New York, New York

November 29, 1944

NY 100-26001

Director, FBI

Re:  INTERNAL SECURITY - R

b7c

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are two copies of a seven page log reflecting a conference which took place between  and PAUL . This conference took place on November 23, 1944, according to Confidential Informant . b7c

It is believed that some of the individuals referred to in the above log may be identified as follows:

- ALVIN - ALVIN , Education Director of the Council on African Affairs.
- BONNY - ROBERT  of the law firm of BROWN, RICH and ROCKWELL, 20 East 40th Street, New York City.
- DEAN - DEAN , Secretary to W. E. YERGAN.
- LOREN - LOREN  of San Francisco, California.
- YETTER - JACK  who plays the role of LEO in OTHELLO.



Very truly yours,

E. E. CROFT  
SIC

OFFICIAL

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MAY 14 1977

- Encs. 2
- cc NY file 100-47315
- " " 100-25057
- " " 100-19377
- " " 100-1612

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DEC 27 1944

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100-12304-25  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEC 6 1944  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE

ORIGINAL FILE

JLH:T

11/23/80  
1:35 PM

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

FROM: [Redacted]  
TO: PAUL BOBROW

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[Redacted] Hello PAUL.  
P: ... (ind.)

[Redacted] Oh. PAUL I couldn't get through last night and  
P: That was my fault, I ... (ind.)

[Redacted] Oh. How you feeling?  
P: Fine, I feel much better.

[Redacted] Didn't you have a double billing today?  
P: No no, tomorrow.

[Redacted] Oh oh.  
P: But I feel very well.

[Redacted] Oh that's fine. We were thinking that you'd very likely have  
P: a notice but its tomorrow, the holiday, you have it.  
That's right, we have it tomorrow.

[Redacted] Yeah. PAUL, there were a few things I wanted to take up.  
P: First, Milwaukee is all clear now isn't it?  
Yeah.

[Redacted] We've notified them today that if they've had the idea that  
P: you were taking on something there that they're mistaken.  
As a matter of fact, I think that was a bit of what they  
thought was smart business, giving us the impression that  
you'd agreed so that we would more or less acquiesce in it  
you see, but all of us felt here that these things of that  
nature are no longer necessary because everybody knows your  
attitude, and knows what you stand for, and its become very  
largely an organizational matter with them.  
Yeah.

[Redacted] I'm going to see, I wanted to tell you about the trip out to  
P: the Coast. I'm going to see BOBBY. With regard to San  
Francisco, there'll be no difficulty whatever in our making the  
first night benefit. With regard to Los Angeles you view  
is that we should just let that go through in the regular way.  
Yeah ... (ind.)

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1-2: 2  
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100-12304-25  
ENCLOSURE

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Yeah. And that will certainly be followed, but we can do that, as a matter of fact everything is all set there for doing there what was done here and in Detroit.

P: Well I say, still might be able to use one of the performances

But the opening should be a normal thing.

P: Yeah I think so.

And take one of the performances a little later.

P: Yeah.

With regard to Seattle where you're due on Christmas.

P:

Christmas. I was wondering if inasmuch as we never had a meeting in Seattle if we could try to arrange something there. I would undertake it, you'll be there on a Sunday.

P: Well now the Sunday before is a little dangerous, how long are we there, two weeks?

You're there January, yeah to January 6th, December 25th to January 6.

P: Does that mean two weeks?

Yeah its two weeks.

P: Well it ought to be the Sunday after because I don't know where I'll be the Sunday before.

Yeah, it will be the Sunday that falls in the middle.

P: That's right.

We would do that however only on condition that I would go out or DIANE might go out beforehand, or that we'd get somebody up from San Francisco to really make a first-class thing of it, I won't undertake it under any other circumstances. Now with regard to San Francisco again, you're there six weeks.

P: Six weeks.

Yeah. When I got there I found the usual thing, that there were a dozen groups that were clamoring

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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P: San Francisco is definitely a place where I can start nothing because I could be so tired out in the six weeks that I'd never finish a tour.

Absolutely.

P: So I can't start anything there, because if I do one I'll have to do a billion, other than, very informal get-togethers but no public meetings, no nothing unless they're something to do specifically with the Council or something.

Yeah.

P: I just can't start it because I find that's the difficulty, once you do one thing then everybody expects you to do it, and if I'm there for six weeks it will be impossible.

PAUL, its that very point that I had in mind.

P: I might be there, and there might be something that we could have the opening night, or maybe the last week I'm there something could be fit in but I certainly won't start anything in the first week because I'd never finish the place.

No. I talked with our best friends out there and the thing that took shape, and it was at my insistence, was a big thing that would involve, in which you would have the important part but a short part, to which they'd have to bring people, some friends from Los Angeles perhaps, a few, the Mayor would have to sponsor it, it would be an overall inclusive thing. Now fortunately our friends out there agree fully, there's a slight difference because some have the idea that it should be primarily for political purposes while others feel that it should do both, it should serve the highest political and ... (interr.)

P: ... whole situation here, it should do both, certainly I should think

Certainly, and make some money also. It could easily do both, and I have, I stood for the latter, however its got to be ironed out, and I'll be in touch with BILL and HARRY and others in ironing out that so that you'll be free from all details except that one big thing. There's one reservation I had which I thought you would want to consider in some sort of personal way. LOUISE out there has been very unselfish in disregarding the needs of the Russian-American Institute,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

in disregarding the needs to the extent that they've had nothing and she's thrown herself and given a lot of money to other things. I felt that that could be an exception in the form of a small luncheon.

P: Well anything that I say is private ...(interr.) once I get there that could be done, that could be done. ...(ind.) the house of somebody.

Yeah. And PAUL, is it correct that, for instance the Joint-Anti-Fascist Committee and groups of that sort could call on ~~MEMBER~~ and make use of other members of the cast?

P: Surely.

I took the liberty of suggesting that.

P: Surely, they will be glad to.

And that's what I think they are doing, there's just one final thing. Now don't let this bother you at all if its going to take for any inconvenience. My being away so long and the absence too of the Treasurer in a way has sort of upset our financial arrangements. I think I can take care of this elsewhere but I'm not absolutely sure. If I cannot I'm wondering if, I don't want any lagging in payments of salaries and so forth to the other members of the staff, I'm wondering if you could arrange, if I have to ask you, now I'm not asking it yet because I think I can do it elsewhere, if you could arrange for about 700 or \$1,000.

P: Sure MAX, sure.

OK.

P: I'll do that anyhow ...(ind.) so I'll take care of that, I'll take care of that next week, I'll telegraph New York, sure, BOB will have that ...(ind.)

All right. It will relieve me of what may be an immediate embarrassment, simply because I've had to be away so long you see, and we've got a lot of projects on, I've got two extra people helping ALFRED now and we're printing, publishing a lot of things.

P: No I say definitely we must ...(ind.) because we're coming right into a period when its most important that we are functioning at full speed.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Yeah, and I want to go ahead in just that way.  
P: Yes, certainly I'll do that.

OK PAUL, will you get in touch with BOBBY?  
P: I'll get in touch with BOBBY, I'll send a telegram tomorrow.

OK. Now he will be concerned of course to do this in such a way as to obviate any great loss in tax and so forth, I suppose he will have to  
P: Well he can figure it out some way, can do it through another fund or something, he can do it.

OK, I think that takes care of all of the points I want to take up. PAUL is there anything that you want looked after?  
P: No, I would, I'll be, you've got my tour, have you got my hotels?

No we haven't got the hotels. I, could ARDY you think  
P: I'll have ARDY send them a telegram.

Have ARDY do that will you?  
P: ... (incl.) in touch with you its all right, I mean, no I'm all right, I feel fine and it happens that, well I just had to do one thing here and I had a good rest and I really feel fine.

That's in Cincinnati.  
P: And I was, it was the last three or four weeks since Detroit, Cleveland, the ROOSEVELT thing.

They worked you to death.  
P: They just murdered me the end, a couple of weeks ago.

I know it, and its the sort of thing that every other town, for instance today we must have had four telegrams from Minneapolis, you were there  
P: ... I refuse to do it, if I get there and they have some kind of a thing that I can drop in on OK, but I just can't do those things there. I'll be there for just a week and you just write everybody that I can't do it, its impossible.

That's just what we're doing.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

P: I feel now that I was terrifically strained in the, terrific strain during the weeks there you know before the election and in Detroit I must have been somewhere every five minutes.

[redacted] I know you were, we got reports ... (interr.)

P: ... since then and I just caught up the last couple, like today I didn't go out at all and I stayed in the hotel all day and I feel fine, the performance went beautifully and, they must understand at this particular time that the performance is of the essence now especially.

[redacted] Of course everybody here

P: And that its just too exhausting and any little thing I do is

[redacted] It takes that much out of you.

P: ... noon and go somewhere or 4:00 o'clock ... (interr.)

[redacted] One thing leads to another, one thing leads to another, everybody here says

P: ... do one thing, if you have four or five telegrams to do one thing why can't you do all of them, you know.

[redacted] That's it, everybody here recognizes that you're doing the, you're rendering the highest possible service ... (interr.)

P: ... if I feel like going one or two places then I can but it can't be. The Urban League (?) had some kind of meeting there and the Governor wrote me and

[redacted] That's in Milwaukee?

P: The Mayor and every other body in Minneapolis.

[redacted] Yeah. No you can't do it and

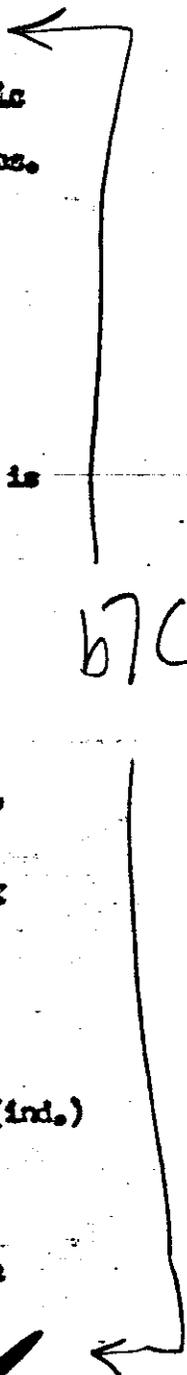
P: Of course it was worth it, you know, for the elections ... (ind.)

[redacted] Yeah. Well

P: Oh, you keep in touch with me and I'm all right.

[redacted] I'm hoping that I can get down to see PAULY in Philadelphia on Saturday.

P: Oh yeah, try to do that.



b7c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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[REDACTED] Gosh, the  
P: He's doing swell.

[REDACTED] Oh the boy's going great guns.  
P: Really fine.

[REDACTED] FREDIE is up on furlough on  
P: Oh fine, how's he?

[REDACTED] He's fine.  
P: Cool.

[REDACTED] He's got  
P: Real flyer by now huh?

[REDACTED] Oh yeah. He's going back for three more months of bombing  
training. He's been flying out over the Atlantic and the  
Gulf, but he's got three more months of special bombing  
training and then I think he'll be through. You going to get  
some turkey tomorrow?  
P: Oh yeah I'll get turkey. OK [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Right.  
P: Love to everybody.

[REDACTED] Right.  
P: My best to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All right PAUL.  
P: All right [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Goodbye.  
P: Goodbye.

- END -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

November 23, 1944  
1:50 AM

OUTGOING  
JIS:JFS

FROM: [REDACTED]  
TO: [REDACTED]

Hello?  
Hello [REDACTED] I'm sure I got you up.

No you didn't.  
I called you a little while ago. Well, it must have been an hour and a half ago.

Uh huh.  
I just talked with PAUL.

Yes.  
Yeah. I had a long talk with him.

How is he?  
He's in good shape. He didn't have the matinee today, it's tomorrow, but he said he stayed in the hotel all day today and didn't go out until the play tonight and he feels fine.

Oh good.  
I just want you to know that he's ever so glad that we did what we did with regard to Milwaukee.

Yes.  
Yeah. He had any number of letters from them and - but answered not a single one - certainly not no telegrams and he really did not want to do anything there. I made him see that our business is to say no to practically everything.

Uh huh.  
Even with regard to San Francisco.

Yes.  
Even though he's going to be there six weeks.

Uh huh.  
His principle is that if he does one thing, it just sort of obliterates him to do a hundred other things.

Yeah, that's right.

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100-12304-115

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And he will be in agreement only with one big inclusive thing and that's the sort of thing that I discussed there with him, and PAUL agrees with me that a few of our friends out there ought to see that used primarily for political purposes.

Yeah.

PAUL says it can be used for that and it must make some money also.

Uh huh.

It's only in that way that it makes sense.

That's right.

He is in perfect agreement with anything that we might contemplate for Seattle.

Uh huh.

As a matter of fact, he urges it because nothing has been done there.

Yeah, he did the last time.

Yeah.

When you were out there.

Yeah, yeah, but it should be that Sunday after Christmas, you see.

Yeah.

And I think we ought to get on to that right away. One thing, one of my main reasons for calling you, he wanted to know if you had a telegram today from some friend of his in Washington.

No.

Somebody in Washington was to wire or write about some matter that PAUL had wired down there about. You didn't get it?

No.

I told him that I didn't think you did get it.

No.

OK. I told him if you did get it, I'd ask you to get him tomorrow.

Uh huh.

But if it hasn't come yet, he says it will not come.

Oh.

But if it had come, he wanted me to call him back tonight.

No, he hasn't had any.

b7c

1096

All right. Well be s nt his best and said that he'd get plenty turkey tomorrow.

Oh good.  
All right.

All right?  
Right.

Very good.  
I'll get you tomorrow.

Very good. Right eh.  
Good-b-.

Good-by.

-END-

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DATE 11-26-80 BY SP5 RIG/ldm

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, 7, New York

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

JJS:CC  
100-25857

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF DATE 12/28/44

December 28, 1944

Director, FBI

RE: PAUL ROBESON;  
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

Dear Sir:

On December 4, 1944, Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that MAX YERGAN, Executive Director of the COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS conferred with ROBERT ROCKMORE, Attorney for PAUL ROBESON, concerning contributions made to the COUNCIL by ROBESON. b7D

YERGAN was advised by ROCKMORE, according to Informant, that ROBESON contributed in 1941, \$1,000 to the COUNCIL. In addition to this contribution, ROCKMORE advised YERGAN that ROBESON had contributed in 1941, \$500 to the NEGRO YOUTH CONGRESS indirectly through a Mrs. BOURD (phonetic).

ROCKMORE further advised YERGAN that these two contributions were taken by ROBESON as a deduction on his 1941 Income Tax Return. The deduction was allowed by the New York Office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, but ROCKMORE advised YERGAN that he had been informed confidentially that the deduction was not going to be allowed in Washington, and that in all probability it would cost PAUL ROBESON a \$1,000 in taxes and penalties.

ROCKMORE said he had been advised unofficially of the fact that the deduction would not be allowed. He further advised YERGAN that he wanted to fight the decision which would be handed down by the Collector of Internal Revenue at Washington, but that he did not desire to fight this decision if it would embarrass the COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

YERGAN advised ROCKMORE that he did not believe that ROBESON would be entitled to a deduction for the contribution made to the NEGRO YOUTH CONGRESS inasmuch as it was not a religious nor educational organization. YERGAN further advised ROCKMORE that the COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS had a letter from the Collector of Internal Revenue which stated that the income of the COUNCIL was exempt from taxation.

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DATE 11-26-80 BY SP5 RIG/ldm

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NY 100-25857

December 28, 1944

~~SECRET~~ letter to Director  
RE: PAUL ROBESON

YERGAN further advised that the letter had been construed by the Accountants for the COUNCIL that contributions for the COUNCIL were also deductible, but that the matter was now pending and they were expecting an opinion from the lawyers for the COUNCIL. YERGAN went on to advise ROCKMORE that many people had made contributions to the COUNCIL and were deducting these contributions on their Income Tax returns.

ROCKMORE stated that while deductions were not allowable for contributions to organizations engaged for political or propaganda work, that he would contest the decision in an effort to help the cause of the COUNCIL. He further stated that he was fearful that the deduction was disallowed because the people in Washington had their own dossier on the organization.

YERGAN promised ROCKMORE he would send him a copy of the letter which the COUNCIL had received from the Revenue Department in order that he could use it as a basis for his contest in the matter.

On the same date, the Informant advised that MAX YERGAN conferred with his Secretary, DIANNE SOMMERS and requested her to send a copy of the letter which he had discussed with ROCKMORE. DIANNE advised YERGAN that she had not heard from the lawyer employed by the COUNCIL and that the copy of the letter was in his possession. She said that she would obtain the copy and forward it to ROCKMORE immediately.

The foregoing information is being forwarded to the Bureau and it is suggested that the information be transmitted to the Office of the Collector of Internal Revenue in connection with the PAUL ROBESON matter and also in connection with the situation which now exists with respect to the deductions allowed for contributions to the COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

The Bureau is also requested to forward to the New York Field Division any information which may be in the possession of the Bureau concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY  
SAC

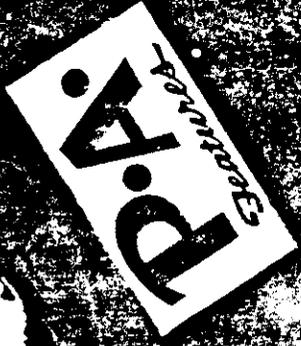
cc - NY files 100-26011  
100-19377

# Paul Robeson

This biographical sketch of Paul Robeson appeared in the April issue of the New York Worker celebrating the 46th anniversary of this great people's artist who appears this week in *Yankee*.



By NAT LOW



THE scene is universal. Whether in Prague or London, Vichy or Moscow, New York or Madrid, Dublin or Oslo—it is the same. The great throng of people are enthralled by a man who captivates them, inspiring them with a magical charm and a richness of spirit that defies description.

This man is Paul Robeson, as he is known. Lately he was covering a symbol of human freedom as he has ever trod the earth.

Who is this man, Robeson, whose 46th birthday we so joyously celebrate today? Where does his greatness spring from? What were the elements which brought into being this genius who has enraptured the entire world?

Let us pick up the thread of the story by going back some eighty decades.

It is the historic year of 1860. A giant tall man named Abraham Lincoln has been elected President of the United States.

A 15-year-old slave, whose father had been brought from Africa in chains, has just escaped from a plantation in March County, North Carolina. He has taken upon himself the name of his former master William Driver Robeson.

In the year 1878 William Driver Robeson married Maria Louisa Buttill in Philadelphia. Louisa Robeson bore her husband eight children, the last of whom was Paul Robeson.

Paul Robeson was born in Philadelphia on Nov. 8, 1898. This woman, the mother of Paul Robeson, whom you may remember at the fact that his 100-year-old son Paul has broken the eight-hundred record for the high jump with a leap of 6 feet 8 inches, has breaks cut into his happy life, including a "Yessir, yesir, best of you, Anassa, ah!" And that's how the last all-arounder of the











# The Worker

Magazine  
Section

## The Story of Paul Robeson

By **NAT LOW**

**T**HE scene is universal. Whether in Prague or London, Vienna or Moscow, New York or Madrid, Dublin or Oslo—it is the same. The great throng of people sits enthralled by a man who captivates them, inspiring them with a magical charm and a loftiness of spirit that defies description.

The man is Paul Robeson, as towering a symbol of human freedom as has ever trod the earth. Who is this man, Robeson, whose 46th birthday we so joyously celebrate today?

Where does his greatness spring from? What were the elements which brought into being this genius who has embraced the entire world?

Let us pick up the thread of the story by going back some eight decades.

It is the historic year of 1860. A count tall



his client. Union... to see more than... the living... before...

4. 1860-1865 of the United States.

A 15-year-old slave, whose father had been brought from Africa in chains, had just escaped from a plantation in Martin County, North Carolina. He has taken upon himself the name of his former master, William Drew Robeson, and now begins the grim, terrible trek to the north with the aid of the Underground Railroad. After long bitter weeks of travel by night, he arrives in Pennsylvania where he sets to work on a farm, a free man. In subsequent years he returns to his former plantation three times, on each occasion defying immediate death, to bring to his deeply beloved mother money which he has earned as a free man. Each time he again escapes via the Underground Railroad.

The years pass swiftly and this ex-slave enters and graduates from Lincoln University near Philadelphia. Now the boy has grown into a powerfully-built man with an awe-inspiring voice and a dream of freedom for all his people. Towards the end of the 19th century he becomes the minister of the Witherspoon, Presbyterian Church which still stands today in Princeton, New Jersey.

This man is the father of Paul Robeson.

The genesis of Paul Robeson goes not back of American history. . . . But let us pick up the thread once again.

General George Washington's army is huddled around small camp-fires in the unrelenting cold. Men are hungry and weary, yearning desperately for home. But then, from out of the darkness, comes a cheerful, friendly voice: "Come up boys, come and get it." They gather 'round a Negro baker who hands them hot bread, imparting with each slice gracious words of hope and cheer to the "Winter Soldiers."

This man, Cyrus Bustill, was born a slave in New Jersey but had been allowed to purchase his freedom. Later he was taught the trade of

(Continued on Page 2)

## THE WORKER

APRIL 15, 1944

# The Story of Paul Robeson

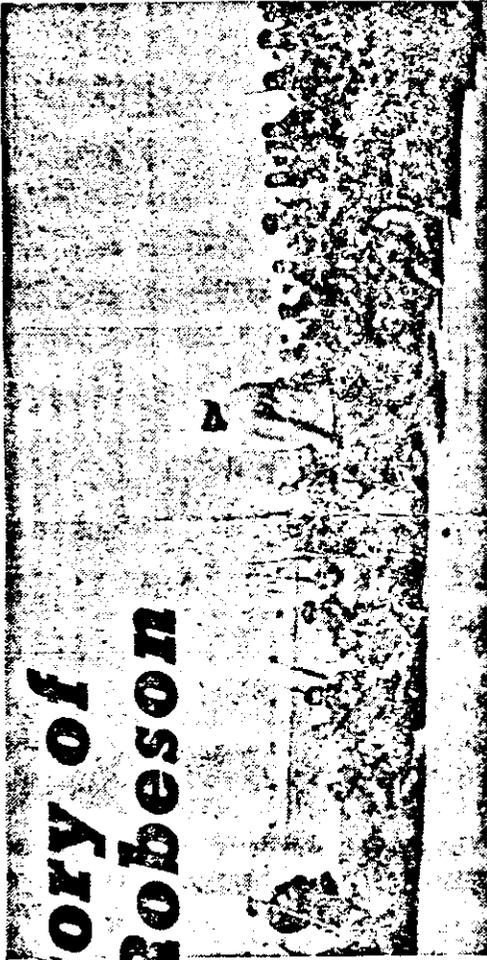
(Continued from Page 1)

a baker. He became one of the leaders of the Negro people in the North and in 1907 helped found the "Free Africa Society" which was the first beneficial society organized by Negroes in America. Cypus Bustill, who traced his ancestry directly to a powerful Indian tribe, was a man of great intellect and leadership ability and is mentioned by name in the autobiography of Benjamin Franklin. From this man came many distinguished and highly cultured school teachers and scholars, one of whom was a great-granddaughter named Maria Louise Bustill who was born in Philadelphia on Nov. 8, 1853. This woman is the mother of Paul Robeson.

In the year 1878 William Drew Robeson married Maria Louise Bustill in Philadelphia. Louise Robeson bore her husband eight children, the last coming in Princeton, N. J., on April 9, 1898 when she was 40 and her husband 55 years of age. The child was a boy and was named Paul Bustill Robeson. Thus, then, is how Paul Robeson came to be.

Paul Robeson is a tremendously busy man, engaged in innumerable activities besides playing the lead in "Othello," which has already broken every record for Shakespearean plays in our country. So when you finally catch him long enough for an interview you hang on his every word, his every gesture.

This illustration is estimated



Robeson singing to soldiers of the Spanish Republic at Madrid barracks in 1938.



VICE-PRESIDENT WALLACE (left) and Sidney Hill, man share the platform with Mr. Robeson at Chicago's United Nations Day meeting last September.

has gained the greatest and most deserved fame since his graduation.

Besides his football play he was center of the basketball team, catcher of the baseball team and heaved the shot-put for the track team.

Strangely enough, he never sang on the college glee club for it wasn't until years later that he discovered he possessed a voice which was destined to thrill millions of people on three continents.

Despite his phenomenal success in college, it did not come without harsh and bitter setbacks. At one stage of the game he was ready to call it quits; but his father strengthened his confidence and he returned to school after an attempt to make the varsity football team had resulted in a dislocated shoulder, a broken nose, bruises and welts all over his body.

Paul rectified the situation quickly. It was sports, though, that most interested Robeson at the time. The gangling boy was now standing well over six feet and weighing close to 200 pounds. He was swift, strong and agile and his high school athletic and scholastic record was such that he received a state scholarship to Rutgers University in 1915. He became the third Negro ever to enter that school.

His first great fame was achieved here. To this very day his feats remain unequalled. He was a 12-letter man, winning 4 R's in football, 3 in baseball, 3 in basketball and 2 in track. In 1918 he became the first Negro ever to be named to Walter Camp's All-America football team. Camp declaring, "There never was a more serviceable end, both on attack and defense, than Robeson, the 200-pound giant of Rutgers."

His feats on the gridiron are truly legendary and to this very day...

Upon graduation from Rutgers, Robeson entered Columbia Law School and it was there that he met and married a Spanish-Negro...

about himself. He knows his strength and talent and is keenly aware of his social obligations, his responsibility to his people. He is extremely modest and his modesty stems from his very being. It is no theatrical affectation. Indeed, there are times when his humility is so great he becomes embarrassingly bashful.

Entering his 47th year he is at the height of his creative powers and is in magnificent health, although his physician attempts in vain to limit his tremendous activity to a minimum, a minimum which is a maximum for most men.

How can one explain Paul Robeson's talents? It is impossible to do so simply because one cannot EXPLAIN genius. Mankind joyfully and gratefully accepts it. . . . But it can and should be recorded, for all men to see.

The child Robeson was a well-adjusted, happy youngster who immediately became the favorite of the family as well as his father's congregation. He romped along the streets of Princeton, his father preaching the gospel of human brotherhood.

The Reverend Robeson poured all his great love into this young cat child and there sprang up between father and son a union and common understanding which lasted to the very day of the death of the elder Robeson in 1918. This affinity between them became even greater following the sudden, tragic death of Louise Robeson in 1904 — an accident which to this day is fresh in the mind of Paul Robeson and which so accented his consciousness that he has never been able to remember anything prior to that tragedy.

For some years his mother had been an invalid, rapidly going blind. On the fatal morning of Jan. 19, 1904, with her customary

clean room. Unable to see more than a few inches before her, she bent too close to the stove, her apron catching fire. In a few terrible seconds Louise Robeson was a fiery torch, her body enveloped in flames. Her screams brought all the children to the room—including the horror-stricken Paul. But it was too late.

Thus, she passed away, leaving a family of seven children with the exception of Paul, who was only six.

As a growing boy Paul worked on the farm and around Princeton, growing rapidly into a sturdy oak of a man. Under the loving guidance of his father he began the adventure into the world of ideas and thoughts. Public speaking and reading became a ritual in the Robeson household and from his father Paul developed the wonderful diction and delivery which today is unequalled on the stage.

"My father had the greatest speaking voice I have ever heard," Robeson says today. "It was a wonderful voice, as was his whole way. When I was four he was already preparing me for public speaking. It was he who instilled in me the desire to seek the truth, to search and fight for human equality and freedom. It is to this wonderful man that I owe everything."

It didn't take long for the young Robeson to establish himself as a scholar. With the reassuring hand of his father upon his shoulder he learned to grasp the essence of problems, tackling them with vigor and completely solving them.

His father was a stickler for perfection. One day Paul came home from high school with a report card showing seven A's and one B. "Son, what's that B doing here?" queried his dad.

est of all ends, Robeson. But busy as he was with athletics—he went all through the year playing one sport after another—Robeson did not neglect his studies. He was captain of the debating team, was elected Phi Beta Kappa and received among the highest marks ever achieved by a student at the school. He was the idol of the campus and was known far and wide as "Robeson of Rutgers."

Of him, the director of athletics at the University writes: "Paul Robeson is regarded as the greatest living All-American football player. In the opinion of most people, he is of all All-Americans."

who to this very day is a source of great inspiration to him. There followed a brief career as a lawyer but Robeson knew that a Negro member of the bar was severely limited, and so he quit.

The theatre came next and it was a logical choice. Possessing a fine physique, a wonderful speaking voice, tremendous emotional intensity and an impelling personality, Robeson joined New York's Providence Players and later became fast friends with such men as Heywood Brown, Eugene O'Neill, Alexander Wood-

Joseph Curran, National Maritime Union president, presents Mr. Robeson with a seaman's union membership book at the union's 1941 convention.



JOSEPH CURRAN, National Maritime Union president, presents Mr. Robeson with a seaman's union membership book at the union's 1941 convention.

**PAUL ROBESON**

BASS-BARITONE

and

**LAWRENCE BROWN**

IN A PROGRAM OF NEGRO MUSIC

**GREENWICH VILLAGE THEATRE**

Sunday Evening

APRIL 19th, 1925

ROBESON'S FIRST CONCERT was, on April 19, 1925.  
This is the program cover.

# The Story of Paul Robeson

(Continued from Page 2)

coat and others. Rapid appearances in "All God's Children Have Wings" and a revival of "Emperor Jones" were smash hits. But after a while the limited supply of vehicles for a Negro actor was used up and Robeson fell upon hard days.

It was then that he discovered he could sing. This came in 1925 when he was 27 years old. The

man, known Robeson most intimately.

He became the favorite of the British Royal Family. His fame was such that no royal party was considered a success if it did not list Robeson as the guest of honor. He sang innumerable concerts for the Prince of Wales, Winston Churchill, Lord Beaverbrook and others, but it is for one particular concert that he had a special

realized that I had found what I had been seeking all my life. It was a new phase—a new oscillation. It filled me with such happiness as I have never before known in my life.

Inspired by what he saw there, Robeson determined to help bring about such complete equality and human happiness everywhere in the world.

And then Spain! The struggle of the Spanish people for a free and decent life moved Robeson to his very core. He left Russia to go to Spain in 1938. Using his great songs, he urged, exhorted, inspired the Republicans to resist, to fight fascism. Once, outside imperilled Madrid, a loud speaker system was set up and Robeson sang his songs to the listened fighting lines. They throats and jumps in their by the great New York, inspired held off the fascists.

sharp focus. Robeson clearly sees his purpose in life. He lives with one idea, "Defend democracy, fight fascism." He becomes a singer of democracy, bringing a message of courage and hope to the peoples of Europe. In 1939 he visits the Scandinavian countries and in Oslo, Copenhagen and Stockholm he receives tumultuous, unprecedented receptions which became anti-fascist demonstrations. In Oslo, after a concert in which 19,000 people were outside of the hall, the Nordic patriots laid their hands and knees, kissing his hands.

No fight for democracy, no matter how small and seemingly insignificant, fails to get his support in money, songs or speeches. And he says: "I cannot believe in art for art's sake. My art must be a weapon to fight for freedom. I must remain true to my conscience and my people. I must never betray them!"

Paul Robeson's two all-consumming loves right now are Othello and 18-year-old Paul, Jr., who carries a simply



**MOST RECENT of his many honors was on April 2 when Mr. Robeson received this award for his contributions to national racial unity from George Marshall, chairman of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties.**

land. He goes to Springfield Tech. in Mass. . . . Paul is the center of the basketball team, plays baseball, and has already broken three records in track. He is an amazing scholar, speaks five languages, and has received his license as a pilot.

Robeson has the same kind of affinity with his son as he had with his father and will love you if you will only sit and listen to him speak of Paul's feats.

Robeson has a remarkable memory for music, names and faces but is at a loss when dealing with workaday details. He will absent-mindedly wear two different socks or wear a blue jacket to a black pair of trousers, never matching them. He is always for-

week. When he walks down the street with an armload of packages, harassed Diane will say, "Paul's passed a bookshop again." He is a noted linguist, speaking nine languages, including the rare African tongue of Swahili. Currently he is studying Yiddish—by way of a schoolboy's primer. He teaches himself, having devised an ingenious method whereby he breaks down a language into something like basic English. He "broke the back of Chinese in three months."

He is glad he doesn't have to make train trips because in all his many travels in many countries he has never been able to find a berth large enough for him, with the result that he rarely ever has

before on a concert stage. He had never dreamed of becoming a concert singer. For one thing he couldn't even read music and then again he didn't have a repertoire of songs.

But he did know hundreds of Negro folk songs and spirituals and, as it later turned out, that was more than enough. His first public concert took place on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village on April 19, 1923. It was a tremendous success and thus launched one of the most remarkable careers in the history of the concert stage.

It was in the folk song and message of solidarity for all people. It became a weapon which he brandished as a means of bringing people together, of fighting inequality and reaction. Success followed success and in the late twenties he made the first of many trips to England, during the course of which he was to become one of the most beloved artists in the history of the concert stage.

His songs, although sung in many languages, were understood by the people of the Isles. To them he brought a new form of international people's solidarity.

The British people fell head over heels in love with him and his fame was established on a rock-solid foundation. He not only sang; he played his first Othello in London and was the star of many dramatic productions as well as motion pictures.

With him all this time, in fact from his very first concert, was his beloved and inseparable friend and accompanist, Lawrence Brown who, perhaps more than any other living

APRIL 16, 1944

Present were Lord Beaverbrook, Churchill, various lords and their ladies and all in all about a billion dollars worth of royalty including King Alphonse of Spain who had an American blonde with him that night. The music had begun and Robeson was about to sing when he heard Alphonse talking to the blondes in the rear of the hall. He stopped and stared at the King. An uneasy silence followed, punctuated only by the King's inane chatter, when suddenly, the Prince of Wales, in a fury, strode over, pushed him and made him sit up front where he could be watched. Robeson looked on and saw, he says now, with his broad smile, "King or no King, I just wasn't going to sing until he got quiet."

It is 1934 now. Fascism has already taken Germany in its cancerous grip. The threat of war and reaction hangs grimly over Europe and the world. Robeson, now internationally famous, is nevertheless troubled, and seeks an answer to his questions.

Then, at a meeting of African princes and princesses in London, he meets a Negro worker who tells him to go to the masses. He tells Paul of the new experiment in Russia and Robeson says, "Russia, yes, I've heard of it. I'll be there shortly." Six days later he is in the Soviet Union.

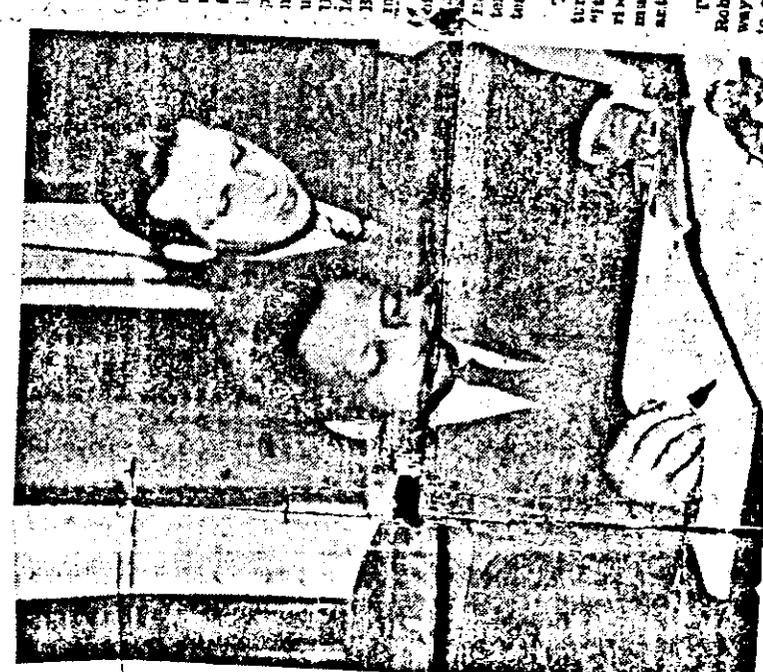
"How can I describe my feelings upon crossing the Soviet border?" he says. "All I can say is that the moment I came there I

getting to carry along money and will approach Diane Summers, his secretary at the Council for African Affairs, with a sheepish grin, saying: "Diane, I need some money, the cabbie is waiting outside." With a boyish smile he will accept Diane's admonition to be careful.

He is a prodigious reader, going through six and seven books a

He lives Othello and breathes Othello. To him it means everything, at once both great art and a mighty social weapon.

His son Paul will enter Dartmouth this fall. Standing 6 feet tall and weighing 185 pounds, he has been labeled one of the greatest high school football players ever developed in New Eng-



MAYOR MURICE TOBIN of Boston looks on while Mr. Robeson signs the historic visitors' book in City Hall. The signing took place after Mayor Tobin presented Mr. Robeson with the keys of the city.

avid chess player but admits a constant defeat at the hands of his son Paul. His one real weakness is ice cream which he devours by the quart.

He intends taking Othello on tour next season. "We must go to Detroit and St. Louis and Chicago with our message. And we'll play Washington and Baltimore in the public parks, if necessary." Robeson owns the only theater contract in stage history which allows him to walk out on a performance if there has been "any discrimination against, or segregation of, Negroes in the audience."

... He wants badly to dispel any fears people may have about his voice being injured by the strain of playing Othello. "I intend to renew my concert tours after we finish with Othello and my voice is better than it has been in the past ten years." He is an honorary member of a great trade union, the National Maritime Union, the State, County and Municipal Workers and Harry Bridges International Longshoreman and Warehousemen Union.

Also a full-fledged member of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

He is the only brother, brother-in-law, and a school teacher, pre alive.

To Robeson, Teheran is the turning point of world history. "It shows the way to a new period of human happiness, but we must still fight in order to guarantee it."

This, in small part, is the man Robeson. There can be no better way to bring this short biography to a close than to quote the end of the fiery, impassioned speech he made three weeks ago at the dinner of the Federation of Constitutional Liberals.

... hate Fascism with all my being and would murder it as it would murder me."

# It'll Get You Invasion News

By FRANK LESSER

At a Royal Signal Dept. barracks in England

JUST as soon as our invasion forces have established themselves in a beachhead on the Continent, a tank-landing craft will ride in to the beach and from it will roll off a small command-er's utility car, followed by two long vans and two standard three-wheeled army trucks towing trailers. The roads are usable, this convoy will be able to reach a spot near General Montgomery's Army Group headquarters previously designated.

Within four hours of the convoy reaching the destination, Allied Command headquarters in Britain will be receiving wireless code reports of the progress of our soldiers.

For the convoy which I have described is a Golden Arrow—a mobile wireless station capable of handling the transmission of a small, commercial, high-speed transmitting and receiving station which would take many months to erect.

In the next stages of the invasion battles, it will be stations like these—for the Germans will destroy all the permanent radio installations—which will carry back to General Eisenhower

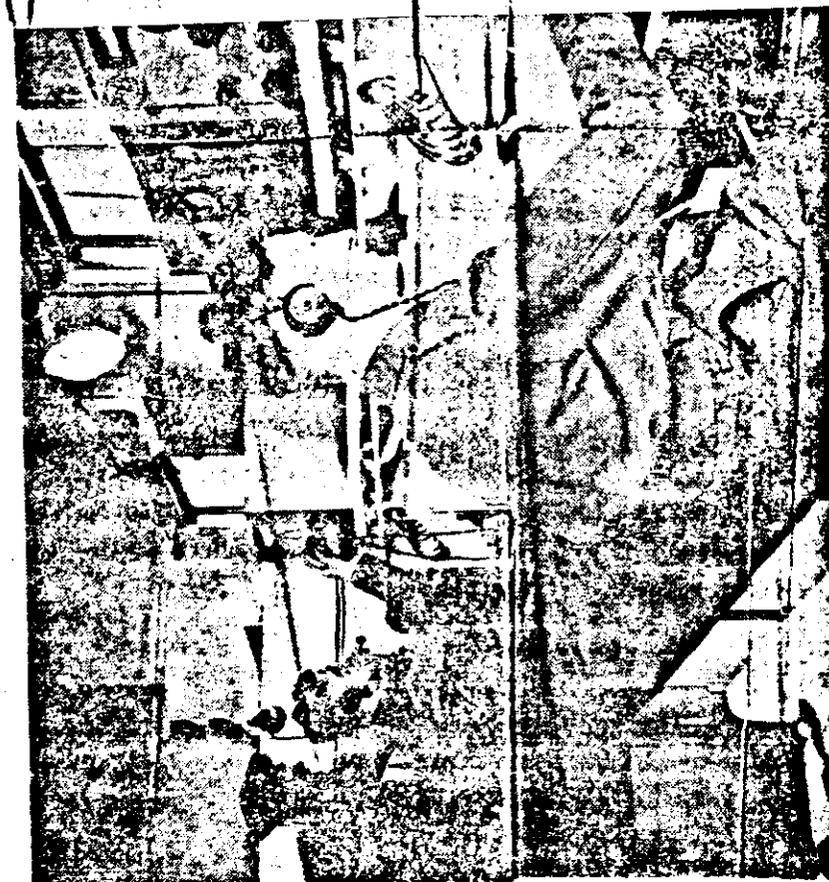
information and the requirements of the troops in the field. They will also transmit to the people of this country the reports of the newspaper correspondents on the fighting front.

Here, in a big open field, a Golden Arrow is at work. The standard 72-foot aerial poles are erected, and the connections made with the transmitting van. Some 700 yards away stands the receiving and sending van. It is in this latter section that most of the highly-skilled crew of the Golden Arrow work. They

are members of the Royal Corps of Signals. The whole unit is powered by a 100-horsepower generator in reserve. These were the two mysterious-looking covered trailers which we saw coming off the landing

craft. While the automatic equipment of this wireless station can send and receive messages in Morse code at a top speed of 250 words a minute—90 to 100 is the average—the signalman must be ready in an emergency to operate the hand-key at top speeds.

The men who operate these stations have a proud record. From Bengal to Italy, they have always started on or before scheduled time. In special cases, they have dealt with 300,000 words daily instead of the usual 200,000.



GOLDEN ARROW is the name given this new mobile wireless station, the largest new wireless station in the world. Picture shows an interior of a Golden Arrow.

# America's Good Earth

Top-flight novelist Pearl Buck says America will grow in the rich experience of learning about other peoples. She doesn't hold

By MARGARET MARKHAM

PEARL BUCK bent only on winning a hoe instead of a pen, hesitated to ask if she intended even writing another book.

"Goodness!" she exclaimed, "Why I intend to keep on writing until I die, I'm already working on my next novel, which will deal with the problems arising from the new relationship between men and women. The scene will be laid in China, but the story will have a general application."

"Somehow I rather wish I had grown in my own country instead of in China. I'd like to have had my roots in America! It seems to me that the United States is today a sort of testing ground for the solution of all the real problems that one finds in countries throughout the world. Here I can see at close range a cross-section of racial, class and group problems. In America, I can get so to speak, a glimpse of the future that awaits all other countries. After all, everything goes back to human relationships and to the plain every-day necessity of earning one's bread and butter. Here in this country, I have the middle of working out such problems."

"Through Pearl Buck had lived in China since she was some six months old, she had always had a deep interest in economic and social developments in both countries. She had often linked the fate of the American Negro to that of the Chinese peasant. In 1932, addressing a meeting of Negroes in Harlem, she deplored the fact that 13,000,000 Negroes in the United States were still unable to take full part in the social, economic and cultural life of the nation.

In her speech, Miss Buck was but carrying on the tradition of her West Virginia forebears of whom she had written, "Neither whom she had written, although they are of my grandfathers."

were linded man, and men of some wealth and position, was ever willing to pay or sell human beings. In India, my paternal grandfather was 47 times to have been considerably persecuted because he made it a principle that he hired men irrespective of whether or not they were colored or white, and he paid them equal wages for equal work."

A particularly rich experience still lies ahead for most Americans. Miss Buck contends, in learning to understand other peoples. Pouring to a stack of books from the library shelves, she explained, "I am sending these to some of our boys stationed in China. Others and unskilled men both beg for any reading matter that will help them to understand the Chinese people."

"I can imagine," she continued with a smile, "the confusion that must exist where you find lively young Americans from the Midwest thrown right in among the practical, non-sense peasants of raw China. Why, our boys back here would not in ten days know what to do with them and their appetites!"

"Fortunately, the Chinese people have the characteristic of being able to go outside of themselves and their background to try to understand other people. Besides that, the understanding of our men is constantly growing, so that I dare say they will manage to get by alright."

American on the homefront, as well as servicemen, are getting a closer view of and a closer feeling for their people, according to Pearl Buck. This inference, she said, is quick to direct attention to the significant being made to that understanding by foreign-born writers.

"For me it is an encouraging sign," she mused, "that the barriers which formerly existed between the Chinese people and the intellectuals, even those who come from humble backgrounds, are breaking down. It means, too, that they have stopped imitating the plays that were the style in European and American cities."

"The same thing is happening in Colombia," she went on. "There is a new theatre movement which is for the first time discovering its own people. Its plays deal with the struggles and the daily lives of peasants and fighters. I received news recently of a prize contest held in Chungking which was won by the famous writer, Lao-sha."

"I hope there will be more of that sort of thing in the world to come. I hope that the plans made at Teheran really come off and that the Chinese people, among others, will be given perfect freedom to work out their own problems."

Meanwhile Pearl Buck is not waiting for that new world before doing her share. In addition to keeping a regular conversation with her typewriter and her publisher, to whom she is married, this energetic American farmer intends to keep right on planting her roots deeper and deeper in American soil.

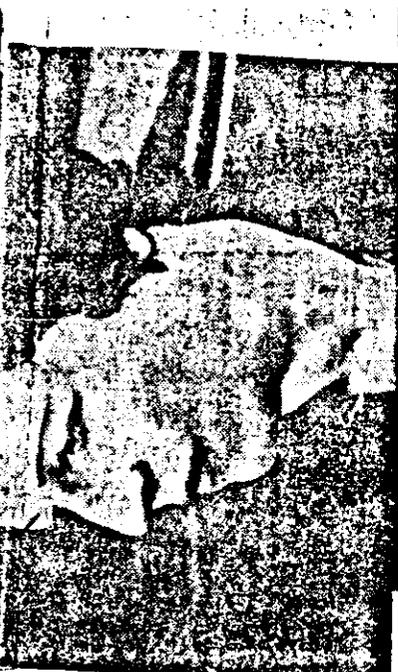
Miss Buck, however, the fact, however, that the same tendency is not developing more rapidly in her own country. As a Pennsylvania farmer, she has come to realize how remote many American writers are from the lives of people outside the large cities.

"I don't consider myself an intellectual and I certainly don't hold for any lower towers," she said. "I don't see that an amalgamation of talents and experiences of all kinds of people must keep in close touch with the people."

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THE WORKER



Writers like Louis Adamic, with his personal knowledge of the Yugoslav people, are certainly better able to comprehend the people of other countries.

Writers who come back from Spain did a fine job, too. Miss Buck reminded. They certainly focused attention on the Spanish war and helped give a much sharper and clearer picture of it, than you usually get.

Yes, the same thing is happening in Colombia, she went on. There is a new theatre movement which is for the first time discovering its own people. Its plays deal with the struggles and the daily lives of peasants and fighters. I received news recently of a prize contest held in Chungking which was won by the famous writer, Lao-sha.

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PCZ:ETS  
100-4931

New York, N. Y.  
June 9, 1945

Director, FBI

Re: COMMUNIST POLITICAL ASSOCIATION;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the original and three copies of a six page log setting forth the results of a conference between [redacted] and [redacted] of the [redacted] COMMUNIST POLITICAL ASSOCIATION, which conference took place [June 3, 1945] according to Confidential Informant [redacted] b7c

It is believed that PAUL, HARRY, FOSTER and EARL mentioned in the log may be identified as PAUL ROBESON, HARRY BRIDGES, WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, and EARL BROWDER.

This log contains a discussion of EARL BROWDER in connection with the National Board resolution of June 2, 1945.

A summary of this log was furnished the Bureau by teletype dated June 4, 1945.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) [redacted]  
DATE [redacted]

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy,  
SAC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Encls. 4  
cc: NY 100-23825  
NY 100-9292

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080 YER  
11/20/80  
CLASS. & EXT. BY SR5 RJC/CWO  
REASON FOR EXT. 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11/20/90

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JUL 7 1945  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
128

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6/3/45

[REDACTED]

FROM: BEN DAVIS  
TO: [REDACTED]

←  
b2  
←

B: Hello man.  
Hello BEN.

B: How are you?  
OK.

B: You got any different ideas?  
No. Why?

B: See if I can help.  
So, what's on your mind?

B: Well I don't know, I was thinking about the points you raised, you know, one about the division in the ... (ind.) and the other one which seems to be to the effect that you don't feel that there was sufficient application of the policy we had. Aren't those the two?  
Part of it.

b7c

B: Huh?  
Part of it BEN.

B: Well I don't know, maybe, I'd like to get together with you and talk, talk something about this business. Can't do it tonight but some other time.  
OK, be glad to.

B: Huh?  
OK, be glad to.

B: How you feel, OK?  
Sure. Why shouldn't I?

B: Well I feel terrible.  
Well I feel we have a very serious situation, we have a very serious situation but

B: Yeah look, I saw PAUL, I had a talk with him last night and then I had a more extended talk with him today. He sees it immediately  
Yeah?

CLASS. & EXT. BY SRS REGAUM  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11/20/90

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B: And he was just telling me how, you know, he didn't think much about our past policies, as he said he never dreamed that we went so far, you see? He figured that at some later time it will be necessary for us to regroup ourselves in the old party, and that this whole business was the change from CP to CPA. He figured this was purely something tactical you see, and he accepted it as such and didn't think much more about it, so he's read DUCLOS' article and while we were together this afternoon we went over parts of it and it's really amazing, he says that it's obvious that we went too far, that's the way he sees it, and he was just giving me some of his experiences you see, on the Coast he met with some of the Chambers of Commerce out there in Portland and in San Francisco, and he was just saying that well by George it's clear that these guys are already getting very different orientation, and he was talking about HARRY. He says that well he himself, he and HARRY had some slight disagreement because HARRY was busy telling him how these guys were OK you see, and he was talking to them about the negro question, especially about the problem of about 40,000 negroes out there who are going to be laid off and who don't have anywhere to live, won't have any jobs in this whole period between now and reconversion, and he says these guys are prepared to do nothing, these Chamber of Commerce guys, and he mentioned that this is, that these people are more definitely allied in their views with ERIC JOHNSTON who is considered progressive than they are with anybody else, and he says he put the question to him very flat, "Well now what are you going to do with these 40,000 negroes?" He says, "You can't let them starve, you got to give them some place to live", and so forth and so on. He says oh well they figure that oh well they'll get along, something will happen. So he made some proposal to them about it, well he says just nothing against nothing. So he was talking to HARRY about it and HARRY said that, "Well you know I think you underestimate these people and I tell you I really think their heart's in the right place", and so forth and so on, but he himself had no proposal about the same thing, and that he seemed to place a lot more confidence in them than PAUL'S experience with them showed them to deserve. Well he cited a couple of other instances and of course the main thing he had to say, well it's very obvious that whatever you say of our position in the past, it's very obvious now that this perspective is just impossible insofar as he sees it in his personal experience, but he had never thought that the policies that we had were such as to preclude our foreseeing this. Then we went over this

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thing, this DUCLOS article and talked about it a little and he, well his opinion is its obvious that FOSTER is right because FOSTER foresaw these things, and to read FOSTER now, at least these excerpts, gives the, certainly gives the impression that FOSTER saw what was going to happen and that the policies we had, BROWDER didn't see it. So I mean he really just, he saw this thing very very clearly. Anyway I was very much happy over it, he's going to try to get in touch with EARL and you know talk to EARL and see what EARL thinks and see what EARL would say to him and then he would say to EARL what he thinks and so forth, see if it would have any effect. Well anyway that's, I thought you'd be interested in knowing that.

It will be very very good if he sees EARL.

B: Yeah. So I'm, I think he's going to try to see EARL tomorrow. Be very good if he does.

B: Yeah yeah.  
Should speak his mind frankly.

B: Yeah yeah. OK old man.  
See that's a problem, you guys have got some problems with me but they're not of a basic character.

B: Yeah I know.  
Not of a basic character. When I said I was prepared to vote for it that meant I have no basic disagreements with it, and when I abstained that wasn't a sign of basic disagreement, you got, you guys, well that's beside the point, but the real problem is EARL, if we can straighten him out.

B: That's right.  
If we can straighten him out.

B: That's right, that's right.  
If he can't be straightened out, well

B: Its too bad.  
Then that's another thing.

B: Yeah.  
But the responsibility for that happening should be placed upon him, upon him.

b7c

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B: Well look, I don't quite figure him out [redacted] you see he's no fool, he's got a tremendous mind and I'm a son of a gun, I read this thing and read it, and after I have these discussions I go over it again and I just compare it with our, with MARXISM as I understand it and compare it also to some extent with what's happening now and what we said say a year ago. Well it just seems so clear to me, I remember the first time I spoke I had a certain, well I have a kind of a modesty, a feeling of humility about these things because, well you know what we all think of EARL. Well, but J.... C..... the damn thing looks elementary, just looks elementary to me and its not that simple to everybody.

B: Well all right its, maybe its not simple but No, I say to everybody.

B: Yeah well you're no fool either [redacted] I hope not.

B: Well you got a good head on you too. I don't know what the hell it is. But as I say, I can't figure EARL out, I just can't figure him out. The only way I can figure it is that its such a terrific shattering blow. So that might be.

B: Well I don't know how to reach him. That might be, then another factor too.

B: What? That it might be.

B: Well? See, that, well its just a matter of judgment, its not decisive but it wasn't, I don't think, I think there was too much of a tendency to force the issue too quick. That aroused all of his stubbornness and bullheadedness and everything else, that might be one thing.

B: May be something in that, may be something in that. But its just, its inconceivable to me that the article could be wrong, just inconceivable, I think that's beyond any question, so that if its any factor at all its the subjective factor, that's the only way I can see it. And for EARL to react properly on this thing now would just make him a thousand times bigger. Sure.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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B: I don't know how to, I can't imagine how to reach him, cause that's the only thing that bothers me, I'm not in the slightest disturbed about the conclusion in my mind about the correctness, I'm worried about EARL, that's the only thing that bothers me.

So that's a very important thing to worry about, its not only a question of the individual.

B: I know it.

But that individual, such in him belongs to us and when we lose him we lose that. Well we will still be strong and even stronger, but we have an investment.

B: That's true, but look

And we should try and save that investment if possible.

B: But look there's only one question now. The first thing to do is to get a correct policy, that's the first thing to do, there just can't be any bringing these two things together, has to be a correct policy first.

So what are you arguing with me for, I'm not standing for that.

B: Well I'm saying there has to be a correct policy first, and then on the basis of that then to move in every conceivable way, warn, human, personal, political, anything else.

Its not a question of personal because this has to be placed purely upon a political basis.

B: I know, I know but as I say, once we get the correct line then Yeah, see, but sometimes we can have a correct line and fight for it in such a manner as not to carry everybody with us, that's one of the big problems that you got with our own membership now. You can fight for that correct line in such a God damn manner that instead of promoting unity you'll have the opposite effect.

B: Yeah, but at least there has to be first a correct line. That's correct.

B: OK. That's correct.

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B: All right, well now naturally be imperfections in the way in which we fight for it because any group as we are who made such a basic error as that there must be plenty of imperfections in everything we do, must be. So I'm not so worried about that. Well anyhow, if you think of any ways you think that we might possibly help EARL I hope you can stop to utilize it. There's not much, I think its a good idea to have PAUL speak to him.

B: Well he will.  
I wouldn't have too many, but people like that.

B: Yeah he will, he thinks a lot of PAUL.  
People like that, and, well general atmosphere too will help him.

B: Yeah. Do you think it would help if I did?  
Well you got to use your own judgment. I don't think it would hurt, I don't think it would hurt. The main thing, at least for the present, is that people shouldn't treat EARL as if he's already considered an enemy.

B: That's right.  
And that note was beginning to be injected.

B: Yeah.  
That' isn't going to help.

B: Yeah that's right.  
Maybe we'll have to treat EARL as an enemy but that, the discussion hasn't revealed that necessity yet.

B: Yeah, I don't agree with that.  
See?

B: I don't agree with that. Well OK.  
Listen, during the week, I can't suggest the time now, but during the week I'll see you.

B: All right.  
Thanks for calling BEN.

B: OK.  
R: OK.

- END -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : S. J. DRAYTON, SAC, Chicago  
SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

DATE: July 6, 1945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A brief summary of PAUL ROBESON's activities in Chicago during April, May, and June of this year is being forwarded for the information of the Bureau and the New York Field Division.

ROBESON began an engagement of his play "Othello" on April 9, 1945 at the Erlanger Theater and closed a six-weeks engagement on May 19, 1945. His return to Chicago in June was for the purpose of fulfilling a commitment made for an affair on June 17, 1945 which was sponsored by Du Sable Lodge 751, International Workers Order.

The information contained in this letter was reported by Confidential Informants [redacted] unless specifically attributed to another source.

The confidential informants advised agents of this office that throughout the subject's stay in Chicago during April and May, WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, Assistant Director, Abraham Lincoln School, and Alternate Member, National Committee, Communist Political Association, handled all the subject's engagements which had any social or political significance. The influence and interest of the CPA was evident in numerous activities in which the subject participated and according to informants ROBESON's appearances were scheduled with the view in mind of enhancing the prestige of the Abraham Lincoln School, and were usually scheduled for the financial benefit of communist front organizations or for groups known to contain members or sympathizers of the CPA.

Preliminary arrangements for appearances of the subject at major affairs were made by MAX YERGAN of New York, Director, National Council of African Affairs.

[redacted] that prior to ROBESON's coming to Chicago he had warned RAY HANSBROUGH, Member of the National Committee, CPA, and Second Vice-President, District No. 8, CPA, that the association should not be brought too far to the front in a big affair planned for the benefit of the Abraham Lincoln School.

A number of party functionaries of District No. 8, CPA, including MORRIS CHILDS, President, and PHIL BART, Secretary, contacted PATTERSON on a number of occasions regarding affairs being planned for ROBESON. BART was reported very interested in original plans for a birthday celebration the School promoted on May 13, 1945. On April 11, 1945 informants, including [redacted] reported that PATTERSON was contacted by a representative of the Hearst-owned "Herald-American" newspaper asking that ROBESON

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EX-25

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Director, FBI  
July 6, 1945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: PAUL ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Speak at the Monroe Doctrine Oratorical Contest on April 12, 1945 sponsored by the "Herald-American". According to informants, PATTERSON refused to accept the responsibility of making a decision regarding this appearance and requested the opinion of officials at CPA headquarters. Informants advised that PATTERSON and CPA officials debated the propriety of ROBESON appearing on what they termed an enemy platform, but after discussing the matter thoroughly with MORRIS CHILDS, OTTO WANGERIN, Daily Worker Representative, DAVID ENGLESTEIN, Educational Director, District No. 8, CPA, AND PHIL BART, PATTERSON advised ROBESON to accept the invitation. Informants state that because PATTERSON was pressed for time he attempted to persuade one of the CPA officials at headquarters to write ROBESON'S talk. PATTERSON indicated to one of the informants, however, that he was left with the responsibility of obtaining someone to write the speech and ENGLESTEIN offered to review it and make suggestions following the preparation.

The Abraham Lincoln School, alleged communist front organization, capitalized on the subject's Chicago engagement to benefit the School's treasury by several thousand dollars. A \$100-per-couple dinner was held on April 15, 1945 at the Standard Club under the auspices of the School and netted a profit of \$5,000. The dinner was attended by one hundred ten persons, the majority of whom are reliably reported to be members of the CPA or sympathizers with that organization. According to informants, ROBESON in his talk on this occasion praised BROWDER and the CPA for its stand on the Negro and anti-Semitic questions. According to PATTERSON, the same material used in this talk was also to be used in ROBESON'S talks before audiences in two large Jewish temples, merely omitting specific mention of the CPA or identifying the philosophy of the CPA by name.

Informants advised that ROBESON maintained a rigorous schedule during his stay in Chicago during April and May, sometimes making two or three appearances in addition to his performances in "Othello". It was also reported by informants that PATTERSON was besieged with requests for the subject's appearance and many of the requests were made by representatives of alleged communist front groups which desired to capitalize on ROBESON'S popularity to increase the financial success of events. Several union officials, most of whom are reportedly members or functionaries of the CPA and associates of PATTERSON, also sought and obtained ROBESON'S presence at affairs. The largest union-sponsored affair was the United Nations Day, under the auspices of United Packinghouse Workers of America-CIO, which was attended by approximately five thousand members, half of whom were white and half Negro. Arrangements for ROBESON'S appearance on this occasion were made with PATTERSON by HERBERT MARCH, reportedly a prominent member of the CPA and District Director of UPWA.

According to [REDACTED] ROBESON also attended a membership meeting of United Automobile Workers of America-CIO, Local 453, on May 13, b1

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Director, FBI  
July 6, 1945

CONFIDENTIAL X  
RE: PAUL ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

1945 and was made an Honorary Member of that local on the motion of SAVI MARIANI, Member of the Executive Committee, District No. 8, CPA.

According to informants, subject's talks were reported to center about the broad topic of the San Francisco Conference. He sang and spoke at a meeting sponsored by six campus organizations, including American Youth for Democracy, at the University of Chicago on May 15, 1945 and it was noted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who attended the meeting, that ROBESON in calling for racial equality praised highly the examples set by Russia in which country he stated he and his family spent several years. In his talk ROBESON also condemned the Fascists, both at home and abroad, and predicted that FRANCO in Spain would soon suffer the same end as befell MUSSOLINI. b7c

Immediately preceding ROBESON's departure from Chicago on May 20, 1945 he spoke on the subject, "San Francisco and the Negro" at a large affair sponsored by the newly organized Chicago Council on African affairs. This event was arranged by MAX YERGAN of New York, WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, and ISHMAEL P. FLORY, Secretary, Negro People's Assembly, and reportedly a member of the Executive Committee, District No. 8, CPA. Because of uncertainty connected with the subject's scheduled appearance overseas, a luncheon benefit for the Abraham Lincoln School scheduled for June 18, 1945 was cancelled. It was learned through informants that MARSHALL FIELD, Publisher of the "Chicago Sun", had agreed to sponsor the luncheon for the LaSalle Street Businessmen in honor of ROBESON. The subject did return to Chicago, however, on June 17, 1945, to keep a commitment to appear on that date before a large affair held under the auspices of DuSable Lodge 751, International Workers Order. The Du Sable Lodge, with an all-Negro membership, claims over two thousand members which makes it the largest lodge in the IWO.

It was also learned through [REDACTED] and local newspapers that ROBESON remained in Chicago to appear at the 15th Anniversary Dinner of the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee, an alleged communist dominated organization, on June 19, 1945. According to an article in the "Daily News" for June 6, 1945, the dinner was sponsored by MARSHALL FIELD and PAUL ROBESON and it was subsequently learned through an informant that the Committee received commitments amounting to \$25,000 on the occasion of the dinner. b7D

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cc - New York

CONFIDENTIAL X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 100-25357 CTC

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/25/45</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/23, 24, 25; 6/23, 25/1, 2, 23/45</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>CHANGED: PAUL ROBESON, wa John Thomas</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject continues to be active in Council on African Affairs and is working for Communist front organizations. Subject is reported to be a member of the CPA under name of JOHN THOMAS by informant of this office.

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*12-29-45 (C) b1*

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York, 12/8/42.

DETAILS:

Subject is carried as a Key Figure in the New York Field office.

The title of this case is being changed in order to reflect the additional alias of the subject, JOHN THOMAS, inasmuch as Confidential Informant [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised Special Agent [REDACTED] on April 27, 1944, that subject's CPA name was JOHN THOMAS.

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, reported that PAUL ROBESON, on February 28, 1941, spoke at a memorial dinner for the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade at Manhattan Center, New York City. Informant advised that subject said the present war was an imperialistic conflict and was harmful to the people from every point of view. The subject is reported as having said that only in a world where the people's government existed, such as in one-sixth of the world, could there be real peace and democracy. Informant further pointed out that the subject was made an honorary

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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  - 2 - New Haven
  - 2 - New York

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DATE OF REVIEW 11/20/90

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member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and stated when given the pin of membership "It is the proudest moment of my life and I'll always wear the pin".

On January 9, 1943, Confidential Informant [redacted] whose reliability is not questioned, advised that VICTOR WEINARTEN of the National Maritime Union, requested GEORGE MORRIS of the Daily Worker, to run a story concerning the Captain HUGH MULZAC dinner being sponsored by the NMU and at which PAUL ROBESON, ZERO MOSTEL, a comic, and Mrs. ANNA M. ROSENBERG, of the War Manpower Commission, would speak. It is noted that in the January 12, 1943 issue of the Daily Worker, on page 3, column 4, there is reported a story to the effect that subject sang at a dinner given at the Hotel Commodore, New York City, for Captain HUGH MULZAC, negro skipper of the SS Booker T. Washington. This dinner took place on January 12, 1943. b7D

On January 19, 1943, Confidential Informant [redacted] whose reliability is not questioned, advised that AL ROTHBART of the CPA Waterfront Section of New York City, conferred with BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, Jr. of the Harlem Section of the CPA, and ROTHBART told DAVIS that he, ROTHBART, had talked with JOSH (JOSHUA LAURENCE) who thinks that PAUL ROBESON should be invited to a meeting on January 30, 1943. ROTHBART informed DAVIS that PAUL ROBESON was a member of the NMU, not of the Communist Party, and BENJAMIN DAVIS pointed out that PAUL ROBESON was interested in seamen regardless of any politics. Consequently, DAVIS said he would invite ROBESON on the same day. Then Informant reported that AL ROTHBART told ARTHUR SHIELDS of the Daily Worker not to use PAUL ROBESON's name in the story about the Waterfront Section Banquet because it was not to be an open meeting and "not the thing to do". b7D

In the issue of the PEOPLES VOICE, Harlem newspaper, for January 23, 1943, there is an advertisement to free Professor MORRIS U. SCHAPPES, an alleged Communist of City College, New York City, who was imprisoned for perjury by the State of New York. The subject is quoted as saying "I want to be identified in every way with this movement.....to free MORRIS SCHAPPES ...This responsibility is the first charge upon all of us to fight Fascism for freedom.....".

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that the April 6, 1943 pamphlet of the National Council of American and Soviet Friendship, Inc., listed PAUL ROBESON as a sponsor. In this communication it is noted that on November 8, 1943, the subject appeared on a program of the second American Soviet Friendship Congress at Madison Square Garden, New York City. b1

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On May 2, 1943, Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised at a Unity for Victory Rally which was held at the Yankee Stadium, New York City, subject appeared on the program which had as its presiding officer JOSEPH CURRAN of the National Maritime Union and the subject sang several workers' songs such as "The People's Army" and "The Ballad of America". b1

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that JOSEPH CURRAN of the NMU conferred on May 14, 1943 with an individual called MACKENZIE and said that PAUL ROBESON should be secured for the launching of the SS Frederick Douglas at Baltimore, Maryland on May 22, 1943 because "of the negro situation there", since about 20,000 shipyard workers would want PAUL. Informant [redacted] advised on the 17th of May, 1943, that a Mr. DRURY conferred with FERDINAND SMITH of NMU about the launching of the SS Frederick Douglas at Baltimore and DRURY informed SMITH that it was important that PAUL ROBESON be present at the launching activities since the ship was to have a negro captain. Informant [redacted] further advised on May 27, 1943 that FERDINAND SMITH of the NMU and MAX YERGAN of the Council on African Affairs discussed the possibility of having PAUL ROBESON contact Mrs. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT if HAROLD ICKES or WENDELL WILKIE could be secured as speakers for the meeting of June 7, 1943 of the Negro Labor Victory Committee to be held in New York City. On June 1, 1943, Confidential Informant [redacted] whose reliability is not questioned, informed that JAMES FORD, PAUL ROBESON and DOROTHY K. FUNN would re-write the script for the Negro Labor Victory Committee meeting which would be held at Madison Square Garden, New York City on June 7, 1943. (u)

The Daily Worker of July 4, 1943, on page 1, column 3, shows subject in a picture with Lt. Col. ITZIK JEFFER and Moscow City Councilman Professor SOLOMON NICHOLS, whom he welcomed to New York City at a reception held at the Soviet Consulate, New York City. The Daily Worker on July 8, 1943, had an advertisement on page 5, column 6, for a mass meeting to be held at the Polo Grounds, New York City on that day for the visiting Russians and the subject is listed as a singer on the program.

On August 5, 1943, the Los Angeles Field Division reported that PAUL ROBESON accompanied FELIX MUSMAN, National Organizer of the Joint anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, from the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, California to the Philharmonic Auditorium, where they attended a freedom rally sponsored by this committee. Further on August 10, 1943, the San Francisco Field Division reported that PAUL ROBESON attended a party at the home of LOUISE BRANSTEN, 2626 Green Street, San Francisco, California, at which HARRY

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~~BRIDGES~~, CIO Labor leader, ~~HERBERT RESNER~~, a CPA attorney, and ~~REVELS CLAYTON~~ Vice President of the CIO of California and Communist Party member were in attendance. It is noted that ~~PAUL ROBESON~~ has, in the past, been very friendly with ~~LOUISE BRANSTEN~~, who has received intimate letters from ~~PAUL ROBESON~~.

The Daily Worker issue of August 28, 1943, reports on page 8, column 3, that the subject spoke on August 3, 1943 at San Francisco, California, at the Minority Committee of the CIO Council, urging unity in America and that there be no racial discrimination.

On November 8, 1943, the New Haven Field Division reported that ~~PAUL ROBESON~~, with his wife and son, would be entertained at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C. on the same day.

On November 15, 1943, Confidential Informant [redacted] reported that the subject's name appeared on a list of sponsors of the Citizens Non-Partisan Committee for the election of ~~BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, Jr.~~, the Communist Political Association candidate for the New York City Council and in this connection, the Daily Worker of October 7, 1943, on page 3, column 2, indicates that the subject supported ~~BENJAMIN DAVIS~~ on the Communist Party ticket for New York Councilman at the ~~DAVIS for Victory~~ show, which was held on October 24, 1943 at the Golden Gate Ballroom in Harlem, New York City. b1

Confidential Informant [redacted] furnished this office with a telegram the subject sent by Postal Telegram from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the Pythian Temple, 135 West 70 Street, New York City, where a party for ~~BEDACHT~~ of the ~~INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ORDER~~ was being held on October 12, 1943. This telegram said "Terribly sorry I am not there like rest of brothers and sisters in the IWO". Informant said that this telegram was read to the guests. b7D

On December 10, 1943, Confidential Informant [redacted] whose reliability is not questioned, reported that ~~CAROL KING~~ of the ILD, conferred with ~~EARL BROWDER~~ and that ~~EARL~~ requested a copy of the letter which ~~PAUL ROBESON~~ sent to President Roosevelt about the cancellation of Mrs. ~~BROWDER's~~ deportation order. On January 26, 1944, Confidential Informant [redacted] a highly confidential and reliable source, revealed that under date of December 8, 1943, the subject wrote a letter to President Roosevelt concerning the deportation of Mrs. ~~BROWDER~~ and this letter said in part "I was shocked when I saw in this morning's paper that the Board of Immigration Appeals had refused to set aside the deportation order on ~~RAISA BROWDER~~. The attempt of the Government to separate a wife and mother from her family would be dreadful at any time, but it is b7D

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particularly so now, when the Iran Conference has emphasized the need for decent treatment for citizens of all the United Nations.....As far as I can make out Mrs. BROWDER's 'evasiveness' consisted in her refusal to attack the Soviet Government under which she had lived for many years and to defame her husband and the American Communist Party of which he is General Secretary. In these days of close cooperation with the Soviet Union, many Americans had come to feel that the Government would no longer resort to persecuting individuals who refused to malign our gallant ally and the Communist Party in this country....."

On December 1, 1943, Confidential Informant [redacted] reported that LOUIS OGUL of the NMU mentioned to WAVERLY ROOT, a newspaper man, that PAUL ROBESON was being considered as Chairman of the Reichstag Fire meeting for DIMITROFF at Carnegie Hall, New York City on December 22, 1943. Further, this informant advised on December 2, 1943 that LOUIS OGUL conferred with an unidentified woman about having PAUL ROBESON as the Chairman of the sponsors of the tenth anniversary meeting of the Reichstag Fire Trial at Carnegie Hall on December 22, 1943. Also these individuals were reported to have discussed sending wires to Vice President HENRY WALLACE, United States Congressman SOL BLOOM, Helen Keller and Senator CLAUDE PEPPER for their greetings to the meeting. b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose reliability is not questioned, advised that PAUL ROBESON, along with FREDERICK MYERS, Vice President of the National Maritime Union and acting chairman of the Reichstag Fire Trial Anniversary Committee, 55 West 42 Street, New York City, sent a cable to GEORGE DIMITROFF, Moscow, which said: b7D

"HISTORIC REICHSTAG FIRE TRIAL IN WHICH YOU PROVIDING WORLDS FIRST MAJOR VICTORIES OVER FASCISM WILL BE OBSERVED DECEMBER TWENTYSECOND AT GREAT TENTH ANNIVERSARY RALLY CARNEGIE HALL NEW YORK STOP TRIBUTE WILL BE PAID TO VETERANS OF THAT AND SUBSEQUENT ANTIFASCIST STRUGGLES BY NOTED PERSONALITIES INCLUDING LILLIAN HELLMAN COMMA ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS COMMA CHANNING TOBIAS OF YMCA NATIONAL BOARD COMMA LOUIS ADAMIC COMMA PHILIP VANGELDER COMMA EARL BROWDER STOP HOWARD FAST AUTHOR CITIZEN TOM PAINE HAS WRITTEN SPECIAL DRAMATIZATION FOR OCCASION STOP PURPOSE OF RALLY TO FURTHER UNITY FOR VICTORY STOP AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD EAGERLY WELCOME MESSAGE TO BE READ AT MEETING FORM YOU AS HERO OF REICHSTAG FIRE TRIAL AND FOREMOST CHAMPION WORLD ANNIVERSARY AGAINST FASCISM."

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised this office that a letter had been written by the subject to various people in New York City, over the subject's signature to the effect that on December 22, at Carnegie Hall, b7D

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there would be held a meeting to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Reichstag Fire Trial. This letter states "Undoubtedly you will recall how the Nazis fired the Reichstag in a conspiracy to destroy democracy within Germany as a prelude to launching their program for world conquest. You may remember, too, the heroic GEORGE DIMITROFF who fearlessly exposed this conspiracy within the very walls of the Nazi courtroom - and the splendid way in which liberal opinion throughout the world rallied to his defense". The letter continued by asking the receiver indicate whether or not he would be willing to attend this celebration.

On January 19, 1944, Confidential Informant [redacted] whose reliability is not questioned, indicated that SI GIBSON of the New York State Headquarters of the Communist Party and SI PORTER, had talked about the formation of a new book club which would have an editorial board composed of PAUL ROBESON, ROCKWELL KENT and NORMAN SOHIN. On the tenth of February, 1944, Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that SI PORTER talked with M. HEDLEY STONE, Vice President of National Maritime Union, about the formation of a new book club for NMU members, operating like the Book of the Month Club and in competition with the Book Find Club. These individuals indicated that the subject, along with others previously mentioned by Confidential Informant [redacted] would act as the editorial board, which would put out books at a saving for the members of the NMU. On the 17th of February, 1944, Informant [redacted] further indicated that SI PORTER talked with ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG about the formation of a new book club for the NMU members and PORTER mentioned that the editorial board would be "a window dressing" with the actual decisions as to publications being decided otherwise.

On February 3, 1944, Special Agent [redacted] ascertained that the subject had moved from 565 Edgecomb Avenue, New York, New York to 132 East 38th Street, New York City. It is further noted that Bureau letter dated December 7, 1943 to the New Haven Field Division indicated that the subject was also living at Enfield, Connecticut.

On March 17, 1944, the Daily Worker reported a speech PAUL ROBESON delivered at a Sun Yat-Son Tribute meeting held March 12, at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. In this speech he pointed out the parallel between China and Africa inasmuch as both lands had a glorious and ancient culture. Also the subject indicated in this speech that there were serious frictions in America today which might undermine the national war effort. He further indicated that the negro people were the worst sufferers of the foes of democracy and that in the Armed Forces, as well as in industry,

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the tradition of discrimination and white supremacy is kept alive by domestic enemies. Further, in this speech, he said "The picture of China's internal conflict as the Kowmintang vs. the Chinese Communists is as false as Martin Dies' picture of his committee defending Congress and the Government against the American Communists". The subject said that China was fighting Fascism with one arm tied inasmuch as the Communist-led Eighth Route and New Fourth Armies were not being allowed to cooperate with the regular Chinese Army. He stated further that the three years blockade against the Chinese guerrilla force must be lifted. The entire might and strength of China's 400 millions must be united under the leadership of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, for the earliest possible victory over Japan. In conclusion he stated "The democratic principles of Dr. Sun Yat-sen must be realized for China and for the world".

On March 28, 1944, the Daily Worker indicated that a banquet was held in subject's honor at the Hotel Brevoort in New York City, at which banquet it was announced that New York University in New York City would receive a \$200 a year endowment for 20 years from the CIO State County and Municipal workers for a scholarship in subject's name for negro students in the Public Administrative Graduate School.

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose reliability is not questioned, reported that BENJAMIN DAVIS, Jr. and GIL GREEN conferred on March 10, 1944 about the PAUL ROBESON birthday celebration to be held April 16, 1944 under the auspices of the Council on African Affairs at the Armory at 34 Street and Park Avenue, New York City. DAVIS suggested that GIL GREEN talk to ROY HUDSON and MAX YERGAN about the celebration since "a thing like that can't be successful without the support of and the active participation of all forces whom we influence". b7D

The April 5th issue of the Daily Worker contains an announcement that tickets for the birthday party of the subject to be held on April 16, 1944, would be on sale at the CPA Bookshop and the Council on African Affairs at 23 West 26 Street, New York City for the sum of \$1.00 to \$3.00. On the 13th of April, 1944, the by-line written by LOUISE MITCHELL in the Daily Worker indicated that at an interview with subject, he stated that his birthday party on April 16, 1944 at the 17th Regiment Armory in New York City, was really a Council on African Affairs party. He is quoted as saying that the post war peace and prosperity rest on the constructive solution of the problems of oppressed people everywhere. In this article, the subject also is reported to have said that just as the United States and Great Britain have realized that Mexico and South America want to be free, so too they will have to realize that 160 million Africans want equality.

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On the 15th of April, 1944, the Daily Worker reported that WILLIAM GAILMORE, an alleged Communist Party member, news analyst would interview the subject at 1:45 pm on April 16, 1944 over Station WHN in connection with his birthday party on the same day.

In the issue of the New York Herald Tribune of April 15, 1944, reference is made to the conference held on the 14th of April on African problems at the Institute for International Democracy, 23 West 26 Street (Council for African Affairs). This article indicates that the conference was held by PAUL ROBESON who said that he has asked President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull to take the lead in developing an agreement between the United Nations on a program to raise the living standards of Africans and other dependent peoples and prepare them for self-government within scheduled time limits.

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, reported on April 17, 1944 that the birthday party of PAUL ROBESON's on April 16, 1944 at the 34th Street Armory, the subject spoke and said that he had "Traveled all over the world and has learned that not only negroes were suffering, but that refugees whom he had met, had proved to his satisfaction that all races were suffering in one part of the world or another". Further the subject is reported to have said that freedom could not be obtained in this country while people were oppressed in other countries. The subject further said that the liberated people of the Soviet Union were enjoying the rights and privileges of freedom. In this connection, Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that ROBESON asserted that a comparatively limited few persons controlled the destinies of the people and that the 150 million people in Africa could not be held down. The subject is reported to have pointed out that history showed cases of people who were oppressed and who, in desperation, revolted and overthrew the oppressors. In addition, Informant advised that among the many notables attending the affair, there were Dr. MAX YERGAN of the Council on African Affairs, VICENETE LOMBARDO TOLEDANO, President of the Latin American Confederation of Workers, MARY McLEOD BETHUNE, JOSEPH CURRAN, BENJAMIN DAVIS and EARL BROWDER.

*See above*  
N.Y. *low* In the Daily Worker of April 16, 1944, in the article written by SAMUEL PUTNAM, there appears a story concerning the subject's life and progress and it quoted ROBESON as saying about his first visit to the USSR "How can I describe my feelings upon crossing the Soviet border. All I can say is that the moment I came there I realized that I had found what I had been seeking all my life. It was a new planet—a new constellation. It filled me with such happiness as I have never before known in my life."

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Later in this article ROBESON is quoted as saying "I cannot believe in art for art's sake. My art must be a weapon to fight for freedom. I must remain true to my conscience and my people. I must never betray them". In this connection it is noted that in Who's Who for 1938, Volume 20, subject is listed as having been in Russia in 1938.

On April 19, 1944, the New York Field Division received word from the Bureau to the effect that Confidential Informant [redacted] of the Indianapolis Field Division had furnished information on November 28, 1942 covering a conversation he had with [redacted]

[redacted] is reported to have related that he was an active Communist Party member in [redacted] and had joined the party after a professional tour in England. [redacted] stated that on this tour, ROBESON met a man by the name of HARRY POLLET (phonetic) who was believed to have converted ROBESON to the Party. In addition [redacted] claimed that upon ROBESON's return to the United States he donated his entire earnings from this trip in the amount of \$300,000.00 to the Communist Party. Finally, [redacted] reported to this informant that ROBESON and MOTHER BLOOR had later spent three months together in England and that he, [redacted] had used ROBESON with great success at the time [redacted]

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In this connection, on April 27, 1944, Special Agent [redacted] ascertained from Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, that subject was a Communist Party member under the name of JOHN THOMAS.

let to [redacted]  
Date [redacted]  
[redacted]

On April 20, 1944, Confidential Informant [redacted] reported that over the signature of PAUL ROBESON, whose address was given as the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, 8505 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, California, there was being sent a communication to various individuals concerning the solicitation of funds for a proposed room in a hospital in Mexico City for "The first fighters against Fascism who fought for the Loyalist Army in Spain". This communication mentioned that all artists of America were being solicited for funds.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised on April 25, 1944 that subject was invited to attend the annual banquet of the Waterfront Club of Seaman at 111 Second Avenue, New York City, which would be held on April 27, 1944. Informant further advised that the subject's secretary, DIANNE SUMMERS, declined for the subject, due to his having two shows on the night of the 27th of April.

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Confidential Informant [redacted] advised on July 17, 1944 that BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, Jr., Communist Party Councilman in New York City, talked with BILL LAWRENCE of the Daily Worker about securing WENDELL WILKIE on the committee to end Jim Crowism in baseball, of which committee PAUL ROBESON was to be the chairman. DAVIS is reported to have said that he was having dinner with PAUL, who was to arrange an appointment with WILKIE at which time BILL LAWRENCE and other newspaper men would "accidentally" turn up when PAUL ROBESON asked WILKIE to serve on the committee to end Jim Crowism. Also, Informant advised that DAVIS and LAWRENCE discussed inviting others to serve on the committee at PAUL's invitation and when these persons invited to serve on the committee said yes, a statement could then be issued in their name and PAUL "wouldn't have to do anything". Informant [redacted] further advised on July 17, 1944 that BENJAMIN J. DAVIS conferred with GIL GREEN and mentioned that PAUL ROBESON was endeavoring to make an appointment with BRANCH RICKY of the Brooklyn Dodgers "on the baseball question". It is noted that in the Daily Worker of December 2, 1943 on page 1, column 2, there is a statement that Jim Crowism in baseball suffered a bad blow when Judge K. M. Landis, Commissioner of Baseball, invited PAUL ROBESON to discuss the question of negro participation in the game on December 3, 1943 at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City.

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On November 3, 1944, Special Agent [redacted] advised that in a pamphlet entitled "Equal Justice and Democracy in the Service of Victory" published in September, 1944, by the International Labor Defense in tribute to ANNA DAMON, former secretary of the International Labor Defense, there appeared a list of individuals who were listed as officers and members of the National Committee of the IID. On the National Committee was listed the name of PAUL ROBESON.

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Confidential Informant [redacted] reported on November 23, 1944 that PAUL ROBESON informed MAX YERGAN of the Council on African Affairs that he, PAUL, could accept no more engagements of a political nature and do "Othello" on a road trip through the country since he was tired out by pre-election work in Detroit and Cleveland. However, Informant said that YERGAN asked ROBESON to get in touch with LOUISE (BRANSTEN) at San Francisco since LOUISE has been "unselfish in disregarding the needs of the Russian-American Institute and has thrown herself and her money to other things". In addition, Informant

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advised that YERGAN asked ROBESON to make arrangements to give the Council on African Affairs from \$750 to \$1,000 so as to avoid any financial embarrassments while the subject or YERGAN was away from New York City.

Confidential Informant [redacted], whose reliability is not questioned, advised that MAX YERGAN of the Council on African Affairs conferred with LOUISE BRANSTEN at San Francisco, California concerning the handling of tickets for the benefit performance of "Othello" in Los Angeles. In this connection, LOUISE BRANSTEN informed YERGAN that the subject should refuse an invitation of the San Francisco Council of American and Soviet Friendship and YERGAN agreed. b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose reliability is not questioned, advised that ROBERT ROCKMORE, Attorney for the subject at 10 East 40 Street, New York City, conferred with MAX YERGAN and told the latter that the subject had given the Council on African Affairs \$1,000 in 1941 and \$500 to the Negro Youth Congress indirectly, but that although the Internal Revenue approved these contributions in New York City, Washington might not allow the deduction on the Income Tax and thereby cost ROBESON \$1,000 taxes in penalty. ROCKMORE is reported to have said that he wished to fight the Internal Revenue Collector's decision, but would not do so inasmuch as a fight would embarrass the Council on African Affairs. At this time, YERGAN said that the Council on African Affairs' income had been considered as exempt from taxes but he was undecided as to whether the contributors to the Council on African Affairs could make a claim for deduction on gifts to that organization. b7D

In the issue of the Daily Worker of February 13, 1945, there appears an article under date line of Los Angeles, on a meeting of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee held at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California. This meeting reportedly raised \$17,000 for the committee, and among the guest speakers was the subject, who is quoted as having said "We are standing at the crossroads of history. Something is wrong when such Fascists as Hearst are allowed to mislead and misinform the American people. The American people do not entirely understand that we can have Fascism here, unless we learn how to use our productive resources for the benefit of all the people. We can't wait for Fascism to die out—and the oppressed peoples of the world will not wait. We must understand that we have already entered a changed world. We must have those 60 million jobs that Wallace speaks of. We must clean out our own fascists."

In the March 12, 1945 issue of the Daily Worker there appears an article under date line of San Francisco, March 11, which stated that PAUL ROBESON has urged President Roosevelt to end the deportation case against

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CIO regional director, HARRY BRIDGES. This article quotes subject as saying "HARRY BRIDGES has stood steadfastly against discrimination, steadfastly for equal treatment, and all this without regard to his own personal fortunes." In addition this article indicated that the Harry Bridges Victory Committee had released the complete text of Mr. ROBESON'S letter to the President in which he says "I realize the responsibilities that fall upon your great office. I realize that in the performance of that great office you are required to be dependent upon the advice of others. However, I also believe that in the matter of the Harry Bridges case, the advice has been unfortunate. As a Negro, I am conscious of the fact that Harry Bridges has stood steadfastly against discrimination, steadfastly for equal treatment". In conclusion, this article on the statement of subject's letter to the President concerning HARRY BRIDGES, he is reported to have said that the ending of the HARRY BRIDGES case would prove a great contribution towards the shortening the war and winning the peace.

Confidential Informant [redacted] reported on March 15, 1945 that PAUL ROBESON spoke with MAX YERGAN and YERGAN told ROBESON that he, YERGAN, would talk with MacLEISH of the State Department about ROBESON'S going to Europe with the play "Othello" and showing it to the troops. Also this Informant reported that YERGAN informed ROBESON that he, YERGAN, was going to see ARCHIBALD MacLEISH in Washington about the San Francisco affair (possibly meaning taking a Council on African Affairs representative to the Peace Conference).

On the 29th of March, 1945, Confidential Informant [redacted] reported that MAX YERGAN conferred with NORMAN CORWIN of the Columbia Broadcasting System about the world wide broadcast over CBS on April 24, 1945 with negro personages in Africa and the United States participating on the action of the United Conference in San Francisco. Informant advised that these individuals discussed the possibilities of securing PAUL ROBESON on the broadcast, with an interruption of his play "Othello", which would then be in Chicago, to say a few words on the program. YERGAN stated at this time, according to Informant, that the subject would be playing in Chicago from April 10 on, and YERGAN told CORWIN the subject could be reached for his approval of the radio program by calling the Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco, California, where subject would be until March 31, 1945.

Confidential Informant [redacted] reported on April 11, 1945 that DIANNE SUMMERS, Secretary of PAUL ROBESON, told NAT LOW of the Daily Worker that PAUL would be in Chicago, Illinois for five or six weeks and would return to New York City sometime in June. On the following day, Confidential Informant [redacted] reported that ROBERT ROCKMORE, Attorney for PAUL ROBESON,

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informed DIANNE SUMMERS, that he, ROCKMORE, had just returned from visiting subject in Chicago, where "Othello" was being played and that ROBESON planned on returned to New York not later than June 1, 1945, if the subject did not get permission to go to Europe with his play.

In the Daily Worker, issue of April 17, 1945, appears a column to the effect that the Council on African Affairs, headed by PAUL ROBESON, had submitted a memorandum to the delegates of the United Nations Conference in San Francisco calling for the establishment of an International Colonial Commission in the proposed world organization. This article indicated that this proposed Colonial Commission would establish social, economic and political standards of colonial administration and would set a time for the people of each dependent territory to achieve political self-determination.

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose reliability is not questioned, advised that the Post Office at 221 East 34 Street, which covers the subject's address of 132 East 38 Street, New York City, had on file as of September 19, 1944, a removal card to 140 East 37 Street, New York City. This Informant further advised that he did not believe the subject lived at this address. However, he stated that sometimes mail did come to 140 East 37 Street, New York City. It was the Informant's opinion that the subject stayed at hotels when he was in New York City, but of this fact, Informant could not be certain.

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW HAVEN FIELD DIVISION

AT ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Will discreetly ascertain whether or not subject resides with family at Enfield, Connecticut.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will follow and report the activities of the subject.

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [redacted], dated July 25, 1945 at New York, New York are identified as follows:

b7c

[redacted]  
[redacted]

b7D

[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

[redacted] who requested his identity to remain confidential.

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[redacted]

[redacted] as reflected by Bureau letter to New York, March 8, 1944.

[redacted]

[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

Office of Postal Censorship

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (CONT'D)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

whose identity is known to the Bureau.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

whose identity is known to the Bureau.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

whose identity is known to the Bureau.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Post Office employee at 221 East 34 Street, who requested his identity be kept confidential.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

N HW

FILE NO. 100-8602 pk

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW HAVEN, CONN.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9-21-45</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/25, 29/45</b>	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] <b>b7c</b>
TITLE <b>PAUL ROBESON, with alias</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY (C)</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject's family resides at Enfield, Connecticut, and the subject apparently divides time between New York City and his home in Enfield. Wife is an elector in Enfield but subject is not.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 7-25-45 at New York City **b7c**

DETAILS:

[REDACTED] Enfield, Connecticut, searched the list of electors for the town of Enfield and ascertained that the subject's wife, ESLANDA was made a voter on August 24, 1944, and that she was born December 15, 1899 at Washington, D. C. Her own home address was 1221 Enfield Street. He stated that there was no record of the subject's ever having become an elector in the town of Enfield. He further stated he was acquainted with the subject and his family and stated that the subject's children had attended the high school at Enfield and that the subject apparently divides his time between New York City and his home in Enfield.

[REDACTED] advised he is acquainted with the subject and his family, and that the subject has a home at 1221 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut, and stated

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *Roger J. Gleason* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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  - 2 New York
  - 2 New Haven

COPY IN FILE

CLASS. & EXT. BY *SP-5 RSL/MLM*  
REASON: FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11/20/90

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*CC DP*  
DEC 7 1945

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100-9602

that his children were educated in the local schools. [REDACTED] advised that the subject is seen quite frequently in and about the town of Enfield but it was always his understanding that he spent most of his time in New York City where he conducts his business affairs. [REDACTED] stated he believed the subject considered New York as his residence but maintains a country home for his wife and family in Enfield, Connecticut.

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REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF  
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S:AS-  
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# Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

DATE: September 27, 1945

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON, wa;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Enclosed is one photograph of subject and his wife, ESLANDA  
GOODE ROBESON, for inclusion in the Communist Key Figure File of the Bureau.

Enclosure (1)

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ENCLOSURE

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ENCLOSURE - Bureau (1)  
NY 100-25857  
Photograph of subject and his wife.

100-12314-33



# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

EHW:LVO

TO : MR. LADD

FROM : MR. J. C. STRICKLAND

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

DATE: 11-6-45

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Beahm	
Miss Gandy	

The captioned person, a Negro singer, recently returned from Europe, having made a USO tour there. Shortly after Robeson's return to the United States the New York Office learned from ██████████ that Max Yergan, a close friend of Robeson, and a Negro Communist functionary, conferred with a person identified only as Sol Lasky. The conference pertained to an attempt to get a number of wealthy persons together for the purpose of raising money. This money (\$10,000 was mentioned) would then be used to broadcast radio speeches by Robeson in which he would state his "convictions" which he obtained during his USO tour.

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According to Yergan the convictions which have been formed by Robeson as a result of his tour to Europe are:

1. The continued existence of Nazi spirit and leadership.
2. That the colonial people in Africa and in the Far East are being subjected to a "new squeeze" by the Imperialists."

Robeson, as you know, has publicly expressed his sympathies for the Soviet Union and he is known to have provided his services to a large number of Communist front groups from time to time. While his Communist Party membership book number is not known, his actions, connections and statements definitely classify him as a Communist.

ACTION: None. The foregoing is submitted for record purposes in the file on Paul Robeson.

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# Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: November 2, 1945

TO : Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON

Attached are two photostatic copies of a clipping taken from The Pittsburgh Courier on October 27, 1945, concerning the award of the Spingarn Medal. The Spingarn Medal is the annual award given by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to the Negro making the outstanding achievements during the year.

In accepting this medal, according to the article, Robeson stated, "Full employment in Russia is a fact, and not a myth, and discrimination is non-existent... The Soviet Union can't help it as a nation and people if it is in the main stream of change."

ACTION: It is suggested that the attached articles be placed in the main file on Robeson.

Attachments

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DATE 1/12/80 BY SP-5 RSK/MLM

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Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Tele. Room  
Miss Gandy

*Carson*

# Speech Shocks Notables

## Robeson Lauds Russia at Spingarn Medal Banquet

NEW YORK—Thirtieth recipient of the Spingarn Medal, annual award for outstanding achievement, presented by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, actor-Singer Paul Robeson, in his acceptance speech Thursday at the Biltmore Hotel, shocked all several hundred listeners by voicing frank and pronounced preferences for Soviet principles—economic, political and social.

In pointing out that the Russians have shown what backward peoples can accomplish in one generation of endeavor, Robeson said: "Full employment in Russia is a fact and not a myth and

added: "The Soviet Union has helped an oppressed people of color in the United States to demand the right to work against the conditioning of American society. It has shown that and seen the results of their action in collaboration with the United States will change the basis of the democracy they demand."

**URGED CONCERN FOR THE NEW WORLD**

He urged the creation of a world white people rather white attack and to "bring back the peace and harmony and where progress was the work of the good of all for the advancement of mankind."

Mr. Robeson also pointed out that the strong desire of the people in the struggle for the new world.

He concluded with a plea for Mr. Robeson to be "distinguished at all moments in his lifetime and in the future as well as in the active struggle for the rights of the common man of every race of civilization and nationality."

International Field Editor and publisher, made the presentation to Robeson in the presence of other recipients of the award, which calls attention to achievement of distinguished Americans and serves as a tribute to the achievements of colored youth.

**TRIBUTES TO OTHERS**

Robeson also paid tribute to Henry T. Clifton, James W.eldon Johnson, Dr. L. L. Wright, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Richard B. Harrison, Walter White, Marian Anderson and the award with the statement: "I am proud to be part of the group they represent."

He concluded by saying that the world will live in peace and brotherhood only if we add our efforts to the fight for the rights of the common man of every race of civilization and nationality.

In making the presentation Mr. Field stated that the difficulty of white men in appreciating the magnitude of the accomplishment of our American Negroes is a little wonder that the Negroes who have accompanied what he symbolized by the Spingarn Medal have had such a hard time in their life histories. He said they have endured "the same old white Americans can imagine, and even

people can accomplish in one generation of endeavor," Robeson said: "Full employment in Russia is a fact and not a myth and

(Continued on page 4, Column 1)

lower have never experienced," he said.

**NOTABLES PRESENT**

The dinner was attended by several hundred notable persons, among whom were:

Mr. and Mrs. W. Lewis, Mrs. Robert L. Fennell and Mrs. Roy Perkins, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Martin Luther King, Norman Stanley, Wm. K. Battle, Jones, Councilman Benjamin S. Davis Jr., C. M. Powell, Bishop Wall, the Rev. R. G. Dawson, Hon. and Mrs. Hubert J. Delany, Mrs. Edith Alexander, Susan Bennett Knight and Herbert J. Goldhamer.

At the speaker's table were Harry Burleigh, Miss Gandhi, Marc Kennelly, Islands, Claude Robeson, Dr. Louis T. Wright, Mrs. Marshall Field, Mrs. Robert S. White, Marshall Field, Martin Anderson, Arthur Spingarn, Mrs. Walter White, Mrs. Amy Spingarn and J. C. Singh. Among the women seated at the table were Mrs. Robeson, Mrs. Spingarn, Mrs. White was toastmaster.

*Memorandum to [unclear] 11/11/45 [unclear]*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/21/60 BY SP5 RSG/PLM

100-10304-35  
Shipping from:  
THE PITTSBURGH COURIER  
ENCLOSURE 10/27/45

