

# American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa

Suite 700A, 15 East 40th Street, New York 17, N.Y./LE 2-1640-1

All communications to:  
Theodore E. Brown  
Director

October 4, 1962

CALL  
COMMITTEE

James Farmer  
Dorothy Height  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
A. Philip Randolph  
Roy Wilkins  
Whitney Young

Mr. Peter Weiss  
10 Columbus Circle  
New York, New York

Dear Peter:

I am attaching herewith the following:

1. A copy of the letter which recently went to the heads Negro organizations.
2. The initial Call in the sense that the final Call will carry all of the sponsoring organizations and the conference schedule.
3. The original press release.

I enjoyed chatting with you at lunch last week and have given some thought to our discussion, especially to the idea of some conference program on economic problems.

You promised to let me have some of your ideas on paper. I would like to get them and following receipt of them would like to have another chat with you.

With best regards, I am

Cordially yours,



Theodore E. Brown  
Director

TEB:e

Enclosures

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## CONFERENCE SPONSORS (partial list)

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC./AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA/AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AFRICAN CULTURE  
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS/CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY/DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.  
GHANDI SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS/IMPROVED BENEVOLENT PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE WORLD  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE/NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION/NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE/NEGRO AMERICAN LABOR COUNCIL  
OPERATION CROSSROADS AFRICA, INC./PHELPS-STOKES FUND/SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
STUDENT NON-VIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE/TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL/WESTERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

# American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa

TEMPORARY ADDRESS: Suite 200, 15 East 40th Street, New York 17, N.Y./MU 6-7263 or OR 9-9255

All communications to:  
Theodore E. Brown,  
Director

August 31, 1962

## CONFERENCE

### SPONSORS

(Partial list)

James Farmer,  
National Director, Congress of  
Racial Equality

Dorothy Height,  
President, National Council of  
Negro Women

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
President, Southern Christian  
Leadership Conference

A. Philip Randolph,  
President, Brotherhood of  
Sleeping Car Porters, AFL-CIO

Roy Wilkins,  
Executive Secretary,  
National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People

Whitney Young,  
Executive Director,  
National Urban League

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

John A. Davis  
James Farmer  
George Houser  
Clarence Jones  
David Jones  
Frank Montero  
John Morsell  
Guichard Parris  
A. Philip Randolph  
Hope R. Stevens

Herewith, we are extending an invitation to your organization to join in sponsoring a conference on Africa which is long overdue.

We believe the 19 million American Negro citizens must assume a greater responsibility for the formation of United States policy in sub-Saharan Africa. Negroes are of necessity deeply concerned with developments in Africa because of the moral issues involved and because the struggle here at home to achieve in our time equality without respect to race or color is made easier to the extent that equality and freedom are achieved everywhere. The advancement of individual freedom and human dignity in this key area demands affirmative action and help by our government through the normal channels of international diplomacy and in the councils of the United Nations.

We believe that a meeting of Negroes in positions of leadership in organizations that are active in, and a part of the Negro community would be fruitful in terms of supplying information, crystalizing opinion, developing a program to activate the masses of Negro citizens, and in providing a continuing channel through which our voices can be heard by our own government.

While the attendance will be relatively small because it will be a leadership conference, we expect participants from every section of the United States, representing religious, civil rights, labor, social service, civic, business, professional, educational, fraternal and sorority organizations that are active in and a part of the Negro community, and that are expressive of various phases of Negro opinion.

Since we expect to make this an historic conference we are making careful plans. You can appreciate that such a meeting will require funds for organizational costs. Even before the Call the sponsoring organizations herein listed have either

contributed or pledged a minimum of \$100.00 and are expected to contribute more. In addition to being a co-sponsor, we hope sincerely that you will at this time or as soon as possible contribute a minimum of \$100.00. The initial Conference Call is herewith attached.

The Arden House Campus of Columbia University will be the conference site. The conference will begin Friday evening, November 23, 1962 and terminate on the afternoon of November 25. Not only will all the meetings be held in this one place, but in addition, Arden House offers excellent board and lodging facilities.

In order that our plans may move ahead rapidly, won't you please let us hear from you as soon as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

A. Philip Kanis

Ray Wilkins

James Farmer

Lorothy J. Height

Whitney Young

Martin Luther King, Jr.

TEB:fg  
Att.

# CALL

(initial)

by AMERICAN NEGRO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON AFRICA

To All Negro Organizations

To A Conference On

**"THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN NEGRO COMMUNITY IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA"**

on the  
Arden House Campus of Columbia University  
located at  
Harriman, New York

Friday evening, November 23rd to Sunday afternoon, November 25, 1962

*\*Sponsored by:*

American Committee on Africa

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

American Society of African Culture

National Council of Negro Women

Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

National Urban League

Congress of Racial Equality

Negro American Labor Council

Ghandi Society for Human Rights

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

*Other Co-Sponsors:*

Religious, Civil Rights, Fraternal, Sorority, Business, Professional, Educational, Labor and Social Organizations.

*\*Partial Listing*

Temporary Office:

Suite 200, 15 East 40th Street

New York 16, New York

Telephone: ORegon 9-9255 or MUrrayhill 6-7263

Theodore E. Brown, Director

## A CONFERENCE ON "THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN NEGRO COMMUNITY IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA"

The struggle for freedom, independence and equality is world-wide. It has reached a critical stage south of Africa's Mason-Dixon Line below the Congo. In Angola, a full-scale revolt is being waged in which thousands have been killed and wounded. Almost 200,000 refugees have fled from villages destroyed by Portuguese bombs. This revolt against Portuguese forced labor, denial of political rights and economic exploitation will continue until freedom is won.

In South Africa, the possibility of wholesale violence seems all the more imminent. Organizations of Africans have been banned, leaders have been imprisoned, freedom of movement has been almost completely curtailed, the white supremacist government has built up its military power to smash any possible revolt, an atmosphere of bitterness, fear and frustration is over the whole country. Not until freedom and equality have been won can a new spirit prevail.

The United Nations has spoken on these pressing questions. The repression of the Portuguese and the South African regimes has been condemned by the General Assembly and the Security Council. But these resolutions have not been implemented by substantive action.

The United States has a crucial responsibility in any implementation of UN action. First, because the U.S. is the greatest power in the world and can be of central importance in giving effect to any concerted international action. Second, the U.S. has close economic ties with both South Africa and Portugal. Third, the U.S. is joined with Portugal in NATO, and South Africa considers herself part of the "free world" in its defense of liberty. The U.S. has joined in a general disapproval of the South African and Portuguese injustices, but has done very little to follow this up with vigorous action.

The American Negro community in the U.S. has a special responsibility to urge a dynamic policy on our own country. Although we have a serious civil rights problem which exhausts much of our energy, we cannot separate this struggle at home from that abroad. If the U.S. cannot take vigorous action to help win freedom in Africa's troubled zones, how can we expect to maintain the trust, the friendship of the newly independent and soon-to-be independent peoples of Africa and Asia?

Further, the American Negro community has a responsibility in simple terms of historical continuity. Since the turn of the century Negro leaders and scholars have expressed the concern of Negro Americans for the elimination of colonialism and all its evils. While our conference will not initiate a new interest on the part of American Negroes, it will launch a more aggressive determination to make our influence felt on the policies of our government in the critical areas of that vast continent, especially south of the Sahara.

EDITORIAL

# The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1962 PAGE A12

## *African Policy Conference*

The announcement of a three-day conference, to be held at the Arden House campus of Columbia University in November, is indicative of the American Negro community's growing interest in United States policies toward the newly independent nations of sub-Sahara Africa.

Interest by American Negroes in African affairs can be traced back to the first Pan-African conference organized by W. E. B. Du Bois in 1919. The 1919 meeting and subsequent meetings in the 1920s were largely directed toward the establishment of cultural links. The forthcoming conference on "The Role of the Negro Community in United States Policy Toward Africa" will be devoted to an analysis of the Government's African policies and the ways in which they can be influenced by the Negro community.

The conference will coincide with the discussions of Angola and South West Africa which are scheduled to be held in the General Assembly of the United Nations, and judging by the list of prominent sponsoring organizations, it holds forth the promise of making a worth-while contribution to better understanding between the United States and the emerging African nations.

# WASHINGTON AFRO AMERICAN

4

SEPTEMBER 8, 1962

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## OUR Conference on Africa

November 23, 1962 may well be one of the most important days in the history of the colored American's relationships with Africa.

On that day, the informal infrastructure of colored leadership will come together at Columbia University's Arden House to discuss the "Role of the American Negro in U.S. Policy Toward Africa."

This historic conference will be jointly sponsored by the NAACP, CORE, the National Urban League, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, AFL-CIO, and the National Council of Negro Women.

Expected to participate will be a cross-section of the colored community's civic, political, religious, fraternal, labor, and business leaders.

The conference sponsors have laid a foundation for great success in their selection of Theodore E. Brown as director.

For years, the State Department has peddled around the "great myth" that friction between colored Americans and Africans precluded any type of continuing relationship.

This same myth was used to exclude colored Americans from top positions in the State Department as well as attempt to widen this artificially creased gulf. Invaluable assistance in this direction was extended by various writers and newspapermen such as Russel Howe, Harold

Isaacs, Smith Hempstone, Robert Ruark, and others.

Well, now we have finally begun to examine the real truth.

The most important fact to remember about African-American relationships is the existence in the United States of 18,000,000 people of African descent. Only one country in Africa has more people of African descent — Nigeria with 33,000,000 people.

Few can gainsay the enormous impact Africa's successful freedom drive has had on the colored American's efforts.

This emotional inter-relationship has been articulated by Senegal president, Leopold Senghor, as "la negritude."

Whatever the substance of this mystique as a political force, the American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa will be rendering a great service to the entire spectrum of American foreign policy as it attempts to discover the answer to such questions as:

1. Does America have an ethnic and political orientation to Europe that prevents more economic and political involvement in Africa?

2. Is America prepared to sacrifice good will in Africa for a shopworn military policy of heavy military commitments to Europe and parts of Asia?

3. To what extent do Southerners

in key positions in Congressional foreign affairs committees (former Sen. Tom Connally of Texas and now Sen. Fulbright of Ark.) influence a veiled hostility to Africa?

4. Is there an unofficial "African lobby" which uses innocent appearing private foundations and businesses to operate as a secret arm of U.S. government policy toward that continent?

5. Where in the State Department is the greatest impetus for the policy of fighting the appointment of colored ambassadors?

These are just a few of the multifarious questions the conference can examine to shed light on a policy which in reality has been no policy.

The Washington AFRO wishes the conferees much success and specifically congratulates James Farmer, Miss Dorothy Height, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young for cooperatively assuming the leadership in such a vital undertaking.

PRESS RELEASE

AMERICAN NEGRO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON AFRICA

Suite 200, 15 East 40th Street, New York 17, New York/MU6-7263 or OR9-9255

TO: ALL PRESS MEDIA

All communications to:  
Theodore E. Brown,  
Conference Director

FOR RELEASE: A.M. PAPERS WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH

Six distinguished Negro civil rights leaders - Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary, NAACP; A. Philip Randolph, President, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, AFL-CIO; Whitney Young, Executive Director, National Urban League; James Farmer, National Director, Congress of Racial Equality and Dorothy Height, President, National Council of Negro Women, have issued a CALL to more than seventy-five of the nation's top Negro organization leaders to a weekend conference on "The Role of the American Negro Community in U.S. Policy Toward Africa."

Negro Leaders will seek to increase the interest and activize the political influence of America's 19 million Negro citizens on their government's role in the councils of the United Nations and other diplomatic channels on the critical areas of Sub-Sahara Africa.

The Congo, South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Central Africa Federation, Southwest Africa and the High Commission Territories will be the principle areas of interest for the conference.

The Arden House campus of Columbia University will be the site of the weekend get-together beginning November 23, 1962.

The American Committee on Africa, American Society of African Culture, Ghandi Society for Human Rights and Negro American Labor Council are joint sponsors of the conference with the organizations listed above. Further, Negro organizations from religious, civil rights, fraternal, sorority, business, professional, educational, labor and social groups will be sponsors and represented at the conference.

Distinguished American scholars are currently being organized to prepare position papers in advance as part of the conference working material.

Informed African leaders on the areas of concern will also have a place in the conference program. Many of these leaders will be in the United States, inasmuch as the United Nations General Assembly will be meeting in the fall.

The conference is being financed by the sponsoring organizations. United States and United Nations officials will not be invited to play an official part in the conference.

Theodore E. Brown is the conference director with headquarters in Suite 200 at 15 East 40th Street, New York City.