

# U. N. GETS CHARGES OF WIDE BIAS IN U. S.

## 3 Centuries of Discrimination Against Negroes Cited in NAACP Plea for 'Justice'

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The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a national civil rights organization, of 20 West Fortieth Street, New York, today filed with the United Nations formal charges of widespread discrimination against Negroes of the United States in social and economic affairs.

The charges were included in a document of 155 mimeographed pages deposited in the offices of Henri Laugier, Assistant Secretary General for Social Affairs.

They were a summary of the history of the African Negro slave and his emancipation and of the laws and violations of law that have entered into his history, with special attention to alleged discrimination in social and civil affairs and in education.

The presentation was made by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, one of the founders of the thirty-eight-year-old organization for civil rights. Mr. DuBois was introduced to M. Laugier by Walter F. White, executive secretary of the Association.

Mr. White expressed regret over the limitation on the number of persons who could be admitted to a ceremony that was "in recognition of the fact that two-thirds of the people of the earth are black, brown or yellow of skin and have been denied economic opportunity and justice for that reason."

Mr. White alluded to the prominence in Negro life of the organization, which has 1,509 branches with 580,000 members in all the principal areas of the United States where Negroes reside. He added that churches, labor unions, educational and civic organizations had expressed a desire to attend the ceremonies, and that "the same awareness appears to exist among the United Nations delegations."

### Many Nations Seek Copies

He said the many delegations that had sought copies of the petition included the United Kingdom, Russia, the Union of South Africa, India, Argentina, Denmark, Mexico, Poland, Pakistan, Egypt, Haiti and Liberia.

Dr. Du Bois declared that he spoke for "14,000,000 citizens of the United States, or twice as many persons as there are in the Kingdom of Greece," who are "approaching you not as aliens to this, our native land, nor as a group unmindful of the deep difficulties of these troubled times." He asserted that "nothing that the United States is, was or shall be is without the help of our toil, our feelings, our thought."

He said the petition, "which is open and articulate and not designed for confidential conceal-

ment in your archives, is a frank and earnest appeal to all the world for elemental justice against the treatment which the United States has visited upon us for three centuries."

While Negroes "are an integral part of this land, and ever as loyal as any other group of citizens," he declared, they believe that "if the United Nations today face contradictions and frustrations in their great effort to build the inter-nation, no small cause of this is that democracy on earth is too often falsifying its own foundation principles, and for that reason can not honestly build or cooperate in a just world state."

He said the document had been prepared with great care to help the United Nations "to prepare this nation to be just to its own people." Dr. DuBois added that he was presenting the petition with the feeling that the race problem in the United States was "as much your concern as ours."

### Absence of Sanctions Cited

The petition charged that "American constitutional jurisprudence does not provide for effective sanctions between the doctrinal idealism of constitutional guarantees and the practical realization of constitutional protection."

"And in no phase of American life is this paradox more patently illustrated than in the status of the American Negroes," it added.

Congress was condemned for not passing measures to declare the poll tax illegal, to make lynchings subject to Federal law and to make discrimination in private employment in interstate commerce a crime. The denial of civil rights in the District of Columbia, the existence of segregated schools and racially restrictive real estate covenants also were attacked.

A table of lynchings, compiled for the years since 1882, charged that as many as 235 persons had been lynched in one year, seven Negroes being killed by mobs last year.

In public school education in eleven Southern states, two to seven times as much money had been spent for whites as for Negroes, the statement added.

John P. Humphrey, director of the United Nations Division of Human Rights, Social Affairs Department, said that under the workings of the Commission on Human Rights at the present time, "it has no power to take any action in regard to any complaints concerning human rights."

"You might ask, then," he said, "why such communications should be forwarded to the Commission on Human Rights, in view of the present limited scope of its powers."

The answer is, he explained, that the Commission is now in the process of formulating an International Bill of Rights and is drawing up for the United Nations clearer definitions of what is meant in the charter by references to "human rights and fundamental freedoms."

He asked the Association to continue its efforts for human justice, being mindful of the coming meeting of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, beginning Dec. 1. The subcommission on the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities will meet for the first time on Nov. 24.