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### WALLACE RECEIVES AFRICAN AWARD



With his forthright efforts to bring about better racial understanding in America, Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace last week became the first recipient of the Willkie Award presented by the African Academy of Arts and Research. Making the presenta-

tion, a solid, hand-carved mahogany table supported by a mahogany elephant, was Prince Akike Nyabonga of Uganda. An authentic program of African dances and music was staged by the academy at the ceremony.

## Wallace Gets First Willkie Award From Africans

By VENICE T. SPRAGGS  
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON. — Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace was presented last week with the first Wendell Willkie Award of the African Academy of Arts and Research of New York City for outstanding leadership in international affairs.

The award, presented to Mr. Wallace in recognition of his contribution to international leadership and international association based upon the principle of equal justice for all, was a hand-carved mahogany table supported by an elephant sculptured in classic African style.

The occasion was made brilliant by traditional ceremonial dances, performed by Asadata Dafora, a native African, followed by special recordings of African music played on the phonograph. Norman Coker rounded out the program with his rendition of varying African tempos on his leather-covered drum.

A delegation from the academy headed by Kingsley Ozuomba Mbadiwe, president, made the presentation. Speaking warmly of Mr. Wallace's contributions, he said, "This silent, deep, lovable creature of the earth is great because he would stand and fight for those things that he believes are right. This is the person that the African people have signified to honor and that is why we are here."

Prince Akike Nyabonga, a teacher at Alabama State Teachers college, made a formal African gesture as part of the ceremony. Around his waist he wore a deep purple sash and in his fez was a flashing golden star. This was in sharp contrast to Dafora's dark red fez and flowing vari-colored robe of black, white, yellow and green.

In response, Secretary Wallace said that the occasion was "moving because it speaks from the heart, of the unity of the world which transcends national boundaries." Referring to Mr. Willkie's "One World" philosophy, Wallace said, "Last night our Secretary of State, a man of another party paraphrased that by saying there must be one world or we will have no world."

He paid tribute to the inspiration received from Dr. George Washington Carver when as a boy, he was praised by the eminent scientist for having accomplished considerable in plant study.

"I tried," said the secretary, "to live up to his boasting of me, and I owe a greater debt of gratitude to the colored people as a result of that boasting than I can ever pay."

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, president of the National Council of Negro Women, presented the guests. Among them were Rep. William L. Dawson, (D., Ill.); Dr. Alain Locke, professor of philosophy, Howard university; and Judge Louis Goldstein of Kings County Court, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Hailing Secretary Wallace as the logical person to whom Wendell Willkie's mantle should fall, Judge Goldstein, who served as executive director of the award, said Wallace won the award unanimously over seven other candidates. He, moreover, pointed out that only last April, President Roosevelt sent a message to the academy through Mrs. Roosevelt emphasizing the need for stronger cultural and economic relations between Africa and America.