

DuBois Due Back In U. S. From Pan-African Confab

NEW YORK—Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, internationally-known educator, author and Chicago Defender columnist, was scheduled to arrive by plane here Monday morning.

Dr. DuBois has been in London as a delegate to the fifth Pan-African Congress, which this year named him as its honorary president.

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON—Colonial representatives in London joined to entertain Dr. W. E. B. DuBois at a farewell dinner on the eve of the noted educator's departure from here last week. The dinner, held at Leyon's Chinese restaurant in Soho,

was organized by the United Committee of Colored Liberation Nationalist Organizations.

This correspondent acted as toastmaster to introduce the famous man of letters and reviewed his political and cultural activities. During the testimonial, Dr. DuBois was described as the "father" of Pan-Africanism and a stalwart fighter not only in behalf of Afro-Americans, but also oppressed humanity in general. He was cited for having always used his great intellectual gifts to fight for unpopular causes needing assistance and for never having flinched but used his mighty pen and eloquence to advance downtrodden races all over the world.

For this reason, Indians, Africans, Ceylonese, Burmese, Javanese and West Indians were more than hap-

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py to honor the distinguished Afro-American whose life has been an inspiration to millions of young colonial intellectuals fighting in the vanguard of struggles to liberate their countries from imperialism.

Called Inspiration to Youth

Among the speakers who paid tribute to Dr. DuBois were Iqbal Singh, representing the Indian National Congress; Wallace Johnson, on behalf of West African labor and nationalist movements; Stanley DeSouza, representing Ceylon, Burma and Java nationalists; T. E. Seally, co-ordinating editor of the Jamaica Gleaner, speaking for West Indian Progressive organizations and Peter Abrahams, young Johannesburg novelist.

Abrahams told how in South Africa, where millions of black youths are denied even elementary education, Afro-Americans like DuBois, Paul Robeson, Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Alain Locke, Marian Anderson, Roland Hayes and others were inspiration to progressive Africans, firing them with ambition to rise above their environment.

The youthful author related how, as a little barefoot boy in Johannesburg, a Jew loaned him a copy of DuBois' book, "The Souls of Black Folk," and how reading the book inspired him to become a writer. Abrahams went on to say that after years of cultural hunger, he, like so many others, found a new hope and finally succeeded in leaving South Africa by getting a job as a fireman on a Norwegian ship and working his way to England.

Since then, Abrahams has succeeded in getting three works published, the latest one, "Song of a City," dealing with race relations between English Boers and natives. Abrahams, whom literary critics here describe as the "African Richard Wright" concluded his speech by saying:

"Young Africans look to Afro-Americans to help natives organize trade unions, co-operatives and cultural organizations as instruments in the struggle for freedom."

Dark Races Peace Hope

Mary Kaye, an English woman, brought a greeting to Dr. DuBois on behalf of British anti-imperialists. Miss Kaye expressed hope that colored races, once they secured their independence, will demonstrate to the white world how humanity can re-organize its social and economic life to live in peace and security, free from wars and the threat of atomic destruction.

The war having projected Africa and the entire colonial world into the very forefront on international power politics, the Pan-African Congress has charged Dr. DuBois with the responsibility of presenting African demands before the white world in general, and American public opinion in particular.

When I called upon Dr. DuBois recently completed at the home of Dr. C. Belfield Clarke, noted West Indian surgeon, articles for the British and European press reviewing the work of the Pan-African Congress and putting over Africa's claim for recognition in terms of autonomy as enunciated in the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms.

When the doctor is not busy dictating articles for newspapers, he has been making personal contact with leading British public men in order to acquaint them at first hand with the feelings and aspirations of progressive African opinion, which will no longer be satisfied with piecemeal reforms while the system of imperialism continues to exist.

Dr. DuBois has already had long conversations with Professor Harold Laski, the chairman of the British Labor party, and one of the "brains" behind the party in office; H. G. Wells, leading British publicist, writer and lecturer, and other influential moulders of public opinion.

Dr. DuBois has also addressed several public meetings and held a special press conference for British and foreign journalists at which he reviewed the history of Pan-Africanism and outlined the program of the Pan-African Congress, which intends to become the spearhead of the African liberation movement; uniting all kinds of organizations representing workers, peasants and progressive intellectuals throughout the darker world.

Addressing a mass meeting organized by the Federation of In-

dian Organizations in Great Britain to protest against the use of Indian troops to suppress the struggles of the natives of Java and Indo-China, Dr. DuBois appealed to solidarity between all colored races and progressive white people, especially the organized working class movements of Europe and America as the most effective way to end imperialism. He told of the fight of 13,000,000 colored Americans to become first class citizens and of the ever increasing interests among them in matters affecting the hundreds of millions of darker peoples throughout Asia and Africa.

Following the testimonials, Dr. DuBois replied, thanking colonials for their hospitality, and assured them that upon his return to America, he will do all in his power to mobilize support for Asiatic and African people.

The brilliant author-educator and Chicago Defender columnist left by American Airlines from Victoria station and was accompanied to the airport by Dr. Belfield Clarke, Ashie Nikol, leader of the West African cocoa farmers' delegation to the colonial office and this correspondent. DuBois took with him the best wishes of all colored groups in Britain, among whom he has established warm affection and the highest esteem as a great representative of America's 13,000,000 people of African descent.