

Toward Freedom

THE Negro question is not on the agenda of the San Francisco World Security Conference; it probably will not even be discussed, and certainly no decisions will be reached about it. Yet an early solution of this problem is absolutely dependent upon attainment of the big goal of this conference.

We need to explain to our friends and associates, over and over again, just what is and what is not the purpose of the San Francisco conference. Widespread confusion about its aims is now being exploited by cynics and reactionaries to weaken the Negro's enthusiasm and support for the conference.



This is not a "peace conference" in the usual sense of the term. Its purpose (at least, thus far) is not to fix boundaries, dispose of conquered territories, settle the colonial question, and hosts of similar problems which victory in the war will thrust forward. Rather, the San Francisco conference is called to set up flexible but sound organizational machinery to deal with these questions as they arise.

by Doxey A. Wilkerson

Thus, when the editors of the (N. Y.) Amsterdam News get anxious about helping "the Negro escape his present plight . . . NOW," before the San Francisco conference proceeds "to freeze the nations of the world in a position of status quo for the next 500 years," they are talking sheer nonsense—and helping to confuse their readers.

The San Francisco conference proposes to create an international organization with both the will and the power to establish and keep a just peace. The general outline of this world security organization was agreed upon by United Nations representatives at Dumbarton Oaks, and further refined by Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin at Crimea. It calls for a General Assembly of all the United Nations, a Security Council of 11 nations, an International Court, and a Social Council to study and make recommendations "with respect to international economic, social and other humanitarian matters."

WHAT has all this to do with the democratic rights of the Negro people in the United States? This:

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First, the wartime gains of the Negro people can be extended and consolidated in the peace only if our nation escapes the perils of mass postwar unemployment through an economic program that will keep our great industries running full speed after the war is over.

Second, full postwar employment for America is possible only if we enormously increase our foreign trade to find markets to replace those provided by the demands of war.

Third, a vastly expanded American foreign trade is possible only in a postwar world of enduring peace and cooperative international relations.

Fourth, such a stable world political situation can be achieved only by some such world security organization as was planned at Dumbarton Oaks and Crimea, and which the San Francisco conference is called to establish.

IT SHOULD be obvious that the Negro people have deep stakes in the success of the world security conference at San Francisco. Indeed, only in the kind of postwar world which that conference seeks to organize is it possible for the Negro people to continue their wartime march toward freedom.