

NEGRO CONGRESS APPEALS TO U. N.

Detroit Gathering Asks It to Halt Oppression of the Race in This Country

By **GEORGE STREATOR**

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DETROIT, June 1—The National Negro Congress today asked the United Nations to bring "relief from oppression" to 13,000,000 members of the race in the United States.

A petition addressed to Mr. Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations read:

"It is with an expression of profound regret that we, a section of the Negro people, having failed to find relief from oppression through constitutional appeal, find ourselves forced to bring this vital issue, which we have sought, for almost a century since emancipation, to solve within the boundary of our country to the attention of this historic body and to request you, as Secretary General, place it for consideration before the Economic and Social Council, or to that body which, in your understanding it may belong."

[In New York, according to The Associated Press, a spokesman for Secretary General Lie issued the following statement: "No such communication has yet come to Mr. Lie's attention. If such a communication is received it will, of course, be acknowledged and studied to determine what consideration, if any, the United Nations may appropriately give to it under provisions of the Charter."]

Plea of the Petition

The petition, signed by Dr. Max Yergan, president, and Revels Cayton, executive secretary of the congress, requested that the United Nations take the following steps:

1. Make such studies as it may deem necessary of "political, economic and social discrimination" against Negroes;
2. Make such recommendations and take such other actions as it may deem proper with respect to the facts stated, to the end that higher standards in the field of human rights may be achieved in the United States and discrimination and other abuses on the grounds of race and color may be checked and eliminated;
3. To take such other and further steps as may seem just and proper to end the oppression of the American Negro.

Letter to the President

The congress sent a letter to President Truman, apprising him of the petition to the United Nations, and also saying in part:

"The Negro people had hoped that out of the war there would come an extension of democratic rights and liberties so heroically fought for by all oppressed peoples.

"Your Administration, however, has reversed the democratic program of the Roosevelt Government, both internally, and in relation to foreign policy. Great burdens have been forced upon the shoulders of the Negro people.

"Negro citizens find the present conditions intolerable, and are therefore, presenting their appeal to the highest court of mankind, the United Nations."

Six and one-half pages of what were called facts relating to oppression of the American Negro, as compiled by Dr. Herbert Aptheker, were appended to the letters to Secretary General Lie and the President.

Some speakers referred to President Truman as making "another Missouri compromise" and as an enemy of labor. A resolution introduced by Oliver Boutte of the International Longshoremen's Union called upon the President to end his "strike-breaking activities" against seven maritime bodies.