

DR. W.E.B. DUBOIS and wife, SHIRLEY GRAHAM

In a speech written by Dr. DuBois for delivery at the All-African People's Conference (AAPC) at Accra, Ghana in December, 1958, and read by his wife, Shirley Graham, in his absence, he stated among other things:

"... Which way shall Africa go? First, I would emphasize the fact that today Africa has no choice between private Capitalism and Socialism. The whole world, including capitalist countries, is moving toward socialism, inevitably, inexorably. You can choose between blocs of military alliance, you can choose between groups of political union, you cannot choose between Socialism and Private Capitalism because Private Capitalism is doomed.

"But what is Socialism? It is disciplined economy and political organization in which the first duty of a citizen is to serve the state; and the state is not a selected aristocracy, or a group of self-seeking oligarchs who have seized wealth and power. No! The mass of workers with hand and brain are the ones whose collective destiny is the chief object of all effort. Gradually, every state is coming to this concept of its aim. The great Communist states like the Soviet Union and China have surrendered completely to this idea. The Scandinavian states have yielded partially; Britain has yielded in some respects, France in part and even the United States adopted the New Deal which was largely socialism! though today further American socialism is held at bay by sixty great groups of corporations who control individual capitalists and the Trade Union leaders. . . .

"For four hundred years Europe and North America have built their civilization and comfort on theft of colored labor and the land and materials which rightly belong to these colonial peoples. They are still today determined to make most of the world's people work for the comfort of the few: this is today true in London, Paris and New York. . . .

"The capital offered you at high price by the colonial powers like France, Britain, Holland, Belgium and the United States, will prolong fatal colonial imperialism, from which you have suffered slavery, serfdom and colonialism. . . . You can starve a while longer rather than sell your great heritage for a mess of western capitalistic pottage. . . at last today you can compare their offers with those of socialist countries like the Soviet Union and China, which with infinite sacrifice and pouring out of blood and tears, are at last able to offer weak nations needed capital on better terms than the west. . . . It certainly does not involve slavery and colonial control which is the price which the west has demanded and still demands. . . ."

In an article in The Worker, the following statements were made, among others, concerning the AAPC at Accra, Ghana:

"Attempts were made to seize on Nkrumah's phrase '. . .that colonialism and imperialism may come to us in a different guise, not necessarily from Europe,' as a swipe against the Soviet Union, or China, or Cairo, or all of them together.

"If that were the intention it was well and truly answered in the stirring message from Dr. DuBois, father and founder of the Pan-African movement, to whom Nkrumah, Kenyatta, and many other African leaders are deeply indebted.

"Amid great applause Mrs. DuBois read these words:

'Your nearest friends and neighbours are the coloured peoples of China and India, the rest of Asia, and the Middle East. . . . Your bond is not mere colour of skin but a deeper experience of slavery and contempt.

'Your bond with the white world is closest to those who support and defend China and help India, not those who exploit the Middle East and South America. . . .'"

(The Worker, New York, January 18, 1959)

William DuBois, 91 year old Negro editor from Brooklyn, in an article in Pravda again praised the Soviet Union and declared himself surprised for having received the \$35,000 Lenin Peace Prize because of the continued "U. S. preparation for war."

(Radio Moscow, May 4, 1959)

At the Stockholm conference in May 1959 of the World Peace Council of which he is a member he made the following statement:

". . .The one nation on earth whose dominant rulers evidently want war is the USA. They want war and they prepare for war, because they believe that peace will interfere with their way of life. They therefore oppose all roads to peace and frantically prepare for war on a scale which frightens the world. The WPC's clear duty--as well as that of Americans who love their native land--is to make the fact clear that no matter how bad the evil is which they fear, war is not the answer. It is their duty to insist that Communism is not a threat but a promise. Mr. DuBois denounced anti-Communist propaganda. He said that the development of the USSR is phenomenal. People's China is going through the same experience and making a gigantic leap in its development. On the other hand, if the United States is spending more for war preparations than for social needs, it is hardly possible to convince anyone of the peaceableness of that state.

"The slavery of labor is the crime of our days. . . . We must continue the struggle (in the USA) against the preparation of war. . . . We must explain that Communism is not a menace but a hope, that it is a way out. Peace is inseparable from Communism and Communism is inseparable from peace. This must constantly be explained to plain Americans. . . ."

(Radio Moscow, May 10, 1959)

Speaking at a meeting of students and professors at Peking University, he said among other things:

". . . (since liberation) China can take the insults of the U. S. and still hold her head high. . . ."

He warned against U. S. promise of freedom to the African people -- "Beware, Africa, America bargains for your souls; America would have you believe that they freed your grandchildren; that Afro-Americans are free Americans, treated like equals, paid fair wages as workers, promoted for merit, and free to learn and earn and travel. . . . This is not true. Some are near freedom, some approach equality with whites, some have achieved education but the price for this has been too often slavery of mind, distortion of truth and oppression of our own people. Of 18 million Afro-Americans, 12 million are still second class citizens of the U.S., serfs in farming, low-paid laborers in industry and repressed members of union labor. . . . The Soviet Union is surpassing the world in popular and higher education. . . ."

Speaking of Africa he says: "For this America is tempting your leaders, bribing your young scholars, arming your soldiers. . . . Know America, Britain and France to your sorrow! But now know the Soviet Union and its allied nations, but particularly know China. . . ."

(New China News Agency, Peking, February 23, 1959)