

# African National Congress

(TRANSVAAL PROVINCE)

All Communications to be  
addressed to the Secretary

Rosenberg Arcade,  
58 Market Street.  
JOHANNESBURG.

18th. July.....194....7

The President-General,  
African National Congress,  
104, End Street,  
Doornfontein,  
JOHANNESBURG.

A.N.C.  
(Col.)

Dear Sir,

RE : ORGANISATION.

Further to my letter of the 18th. March 1947, in which my Committee submitted suggestions as to the most effective methods of organising Congress in the Transvaal, I deem it essential that the suggestions of my Committee be reviewed, particularly that we have to intensify the CAMPAIGN for the boycott resolution and put to the people the programme issued by you on behalf of the African National Congress including the collection of fighting fund.

I am convinced that one Organiser will scarcely be in a position to cope with the task that is ahead of us, whereas if more hands were utilised, in a voluntary capacity, which entail payment of their travelling expenses, we can do much work to comb the entire Transvaal area and successfully be able to convey our MESSAGE to the people generally.

There are many volunteers in this Province who are prepared to throw in their weight, but are handicapped by the fact that we hardly are in a position to pay their mere travelling expenses.

It is most essential that we arrange a series of meetings covering all important areas, in order to explain to the electoral committees and Advisory Boards the significance of the implementation of the boycott resolution, and this can be effective only if funds are made available to cover travelling expenses of the speakers appointed to address meetings at various places.

I shall, therefore, be pleased if you seriously consider

the advisability-----

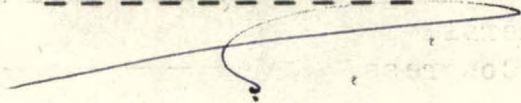


the advisability of making available sufficient funds to enable us to put the men in the field immediately

Thanking you before hand.

Yours in the national struggle.

*L. S. Rawhance*  
**PREST DENT**





Atx. 4707186

AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Labour - Trade Unions*

15 Progress Buildings,  
156 Commissioner Street,  
JOHANNESBURG.

18th July, 1947.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ABOVE COMMITTEE:

A meeting of the above Committee will be held on Tuesday 22nd July at 3 p.m. at 12 Progress Buildings, 156 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg.

E.S. SACHS

Secretary

AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman
2. Reply from S.A. Trades and Labour Council
3. Amendments to the Constitution
4. Election of Executive Committee and Officers
5. Report of the following sub-committees :-

- (a) Education
- (b) Finance
- (c) Organising

6. General.

P.S. The President of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council and the members of the N.E.C. of the Council have been invited to attend the meeting and to take part in the deliberations.

/MKD



ABX. 470719  
A.N.C.

WEST RAND ADVISORY BOARD.

P.O. Box 198,

RANDFONTEIN.

19th July, 1947.

To the Secretary,  
Transvaal African National Congress,  
Rosenberg Arcade,  
51, Market Street,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

Resolution: Re Boycott of Elections under the  
Representation Act of 1936.

At a special meeting of the abovementioned Boards, i.e., Roodepoort, Lewisham, Krugersdorp, and Randfontein, that met in Krugersdorp on the 19th July, 1947, resolved to endorse fully the adjournment of the Native Representative Council which action prompted the African National Congress of the Transvaal to advise all bodies to boycott the elections under the Representation Act of 1936, and, also calling upon all Advisory Boards to adjourn, since die, in sympathy with the Representative Councils.

We, The West Rand Advisory Boards, while in sympathy with the resolution of the Transvaal African National Congress, passed at a Conference held on the 8th June, 1947, in the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, resolved to place humbly before the Executive Committee of the Transvaal African National Congress the following points for its profound and sincerest consideration, as we regard them as important and necessary preliminaries before any attempt is made to carry out the boycott.

That action be deferred until:-

- (a) Smuts has given a detailed statement of the application of his tentative proposals, also the Fagan Commission report is made public.
- (b) All members of the Native Representative Council have discussed Smuts detailed statement and compared it with his Fagan Commission Report and have made their opinion public on same.
- (c) The Native Representative Councillors have visited their constituencies (Advisory Boards, Electoral Committees) in the same manner and vigour as they do before elections and receive mandates and pledges.
- (d) Finally, the Locations Advisory Boards Congress of South Africa - which is a supreme body in the Urban Areas - has been approached and ensure its support.

*[Handwritten signatures]*



ABX. 4707200  
Race Relations

20/7/1947

FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 1947

REPORT - DR. NNAMDI AZIKIWE'S VISIT TO AMERICA.

BY: Miss Elaine R. Hanley,  
Administrative Secretary  
African Academy of Arts & Research

DR. NNAMDI AZIKIWE PROMINENT AFRICAN LEADER HAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, African educator, statesman, editor and publisher from Nigeria, West Africa was hailed by citizens of New York and other cities with magnificent splendor during his brief stay in the States. Wherever he visited, he received a most rousing welcome from American officials, statesmen, African and American students, businessmen, educators, ministers, laymen, artists, organizations and the press.

The extent of the nation's welcome of Dr. Azikiwe could be gauged by the statement of Bill Chase, columnist of the Amsterdam News, when he wrote in the June 21st. issue: "Few people have caused the stir that Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe has created since he has been in our midst. This fabulous publisher and legislative leader from Nigeria seems possessed of a dynamic personality and a profound intelligence which will no doubt soon stamp him as one of the world's great personalities."

In the same vein, Mr. Wendell Malliet, foreign editor of the Amsterdam News wrote in the June 7th issue: "Nnamdi Azikiwe, the great African newspaper publisher, reformer and statesman from Nigeria, arrived in the United States last Saturday. Few leaders of a great people, white, black, yellow or brown, could be more welcome to these shores. The United States should and must share a great deal of the pride which comes with the brilliant achievements of any man who received his higher education in its institutions. Azikiwe is a graduate of Lincoln University, which to its credit, conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in absentia on him in 1946. Black men in the United States are happy to receive him, and to discuss the problems of his country with him, but of far greater importance is Azikiwe's mission to the United Kingdom than his mission to the United States, where he came to deliver the Commencement Address at Storer College, Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, and to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature. The 'Nehru' of West Africa, as Azikiwe is called, is the spokesman of more people, except Gandhi, Nehru and Jimma in India, the leaders of Indonesia and the Labor Government of Britain, than any other politician. Whatever additional exceptions that may exist are so few and doubtful that we need not consider them."

The groundwork for Dr. Azikiwe's reception in the States was laid by the African Academy of Arts and Research two weeks before his actual arrival in America. In absence of any advanced itinerary from the doctor, except of course the knowledge that he would deliver the commencement address at Storer College, the African Academy took upon itself preparations for a tentative schedule for him. It was designed to enable him to acquaint America with his program and his subsequent mission to London, England.

The board of directors of the Academy in an emergency meeting upon learn-



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ing of his impending visit, unanimously resolved, to leave no stone unturned to accord him the widest welcome possible, thereby <sup>setting</sup> the tempo of his visit for the nation. Acting on this directive, important organizations, leading citizens and influential newspapers were notified that Dr. Azikiwe was due to arrive here.

Immediately, communications began to move from the office. Each contained:- a full biographical sketch of Dr. Azikiwe, his accomplishments and his aims. Speakers were sent to important organizations in an effort to bring them first hand what constituted the contributions of Dr. Azikiwe to the political, economic, and social advancement of his people. Personal telephone calls were made to newspapers that followed the activities of the Academy, as a medium of reminding them that the long expected "Zik" was due to arrive.

Following the directives of the board of the Academy, all of its material and moral resources were mobilized and its entire news service placed at the disposal of Dr. Azikiwe, one of Africa's greatest sons.

One week before his actual arrival in America, the news of his impending visit was carried in many daily and weekly newspapers. The attention of the nation was focused on Zik. Never in the history of the United States was an African so enthusiastically received. Few dignitaries visiting the States from other countries have received the ovation accorded this towering son of Africa.

Dr. Azikiwe arrived in New York City on Saturday, May 31, at 7:30 A.M. He was welcomed at the Grand Central Station by representatives of the board of directors of the Academy, members and friends. The welcoming party consisted of about twenty-five persons. Among them were: Mrs. James S. Watson, wife of the Judge of the Municipal Court; Dr. A. George Daly, vice-president of the Academy; Dr. George D. Cannon, patron of the Academy and president of Lincoln University Alumni Club and Dr. Ruth Foster. Over six newspapermen and photographers were at hand.

As Dr. Azikiwe alighted from the train, and was embraced by Mr. K. Ozuomba Mbadiwe, president of the Academy and Mr. Abdul Disu, who were awaiting him anxiously at the platform, while members and friends waited at the train station. It was later disclosed that Dr. Azikiwe nearly fell down from the emotional embrace of Disu and Mbadiwe.

Dr. Akiki K. Nyabongo, educational director of the Academy, had previously left New York to meet Zik in Montreal, Canada, where he arrived by plane. There Dr. Okechukwu Ikejiani, a medical student in Toronto accompanied Dr. Nyabongo to meet the plane. It was later disclosed that Ikejiani, who is popularly known as "Okay" wept for joy upon seeing Zik. When asked why he was weeping, he answered: "I cannot believe that this is our Zik. I am so happy that I little realized that I was crying." Zik, tired and weary from his plane travel had the task of getting Dr. Ikejiani to cease weeping in the presence of the many passengers and their relatives who filled the airport.

At Grand Central Station in New York, Dr. Azikiwe greeted each person who was at hand to welcome him. After the welcoming ceremony, the party left for the Governor Clinton Hotel, where temporary accommodations had been secured for



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him.

Later, with the help of the Mayor of the City of New York, the Academy secured the Hotel Pennsylvania for his accommodation, one of the most fashionable hotels in the city.

At 3:00 P.M. that afternoon, a private luncheon was tendered Dr. Azikiwe by the members of the Academy, with K. Ozuomba Mbadiwe serving as host. Dr. Azikiwe thanked the members for their interest in Africa and for all they had done to blaze the trail for the old country in America. He told of his impending mission to the United Kingdom and of current news from Africa. Following the luncheon at the hotel, several newsmen were granted interviews. During the course of the evening, TIME Magazine, who had applied for a 15 minute interview four days before Dr. Azikiwe arrived, held an interview with him. This interview scheduled for 15 minutes, lasted for over one hour. From this point up to his departure, Zik's schedule was exceedingly top heavy.

The telephones of the African Academy hummed from early morning until late evening. Local and long-distance calls came from every section of the country, seeking information on his whereabouts. Requests for interviews of every description flooded the office. The Academy in short, became an interview center and an information please on Dr. Azikiwe.

Invitations for teas, dinners, public meetings, drawing-room meetings, parties, bus outings, college get-togethers, smokers and the like found their way to the Academy's headquarters. It was difficult to convince the people that Dr. Azikiwe could not accept these many invitations, unless of course, he had a twin or on the other hand, were he a quadruple. The public, generally, gave little thought to the fact that Dr. Azikiwe was only one person.

A missionary who was stationed in Africa and on leave in the States, visited the Academy seeking an interview with "Zik," as she called him. She insisted that she meet with him, if not for more than two minutes, to make his acquaintance and have him autograph a paper she had in her possession. She said many missionaries knew him and liked him well. She further informed us that she planned to visit Nigeria within a few months and wanted to have him say in writing that she would be welcomed in his part of the country.

In an effort to decrease the heavy demands that was being made on him, the African Academy of Arts and Research, arranged a welcome at the City Hall, with the aide of the Mayor; a press conference at the Hotel Pennsylvania, for the pressmen who called continuously for interviews; a trip to Hyde Park, where he laid a wreath on the grave of the late president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, when the former First Lady of the Land, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt greeted him and a testimonial dinner in his honor at the Hotel Pennsylvania, one of the most exclusive hotels in New York.

On June 2, 1947, at 11:00 A.M., came the main object of Dr. Azikiwe's visit to the United States. At Storer College, Harper's Ferry in West Virginia, upon the historic sight where John Brown so valiantly withstood the onslaught of in battle for liberation of American Blacks, stood so significantly, the hero of New Africa, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, to deliver the commencement address to the students and faculty. The subject of his momentous address was: "DEMOCRACY:



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THE HOPE OF A CONFUSED WORLD." This address of fourteen minutes in brevity, compactness and significance equalled Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

Keynoting his address he said: "On the eve of the American Revolution, a great patriot, Tom Paine, wrote: 'These are the times that try men's souls.' This expression is equally applicable today, for we see a confused world groping in ignorance, yet seeking for a way towards international peace and inter-racial harmony. That you should be alive during these troublous times should be welcomed as an opportunity for you to contribute your quota towards the sum-total of human happiness. Yours is an unenviable legacy; are you prepared to accept the challenge?"

Speaking of Africa and world politics, he urged for indivisible democracy. Emphasizing his point he said: "After we had won the war, can we say conscientiously that we have won the peace? Are the fruits of victory - namely, political freedom, social equality, economic security and religious freedom - enjoyed today by all the peoples who gave their moral and material support to the cause of the Allied Nations? The answer is definitely NO, because I come from the part of the world where, in spite of our sacrifices in man-power, money and material in the common effort to destroy Nazism, we are still living under a political system of despotism. And when we demand to exercise elementary human rights not only are we silenced by our self-appointed rulers, but the outside world seems to close its eyes, stuff its ears and seal its mouth to what is to us a righteous cause.

"In the interest of world peace, democracy is indivisible; one-half of the world cannot be democratic and the other half undemocratic, otherwise, we are sowing the seeds of future wars, for as Tacitus said: 'A desire to resist oppression is implanted in the nature of man.'

The climax of his speech came when he charged the students of Storer to take sides, saying: "You cannot afford to be complacent about the variegated problems confronting humanity. In the vanguard of the struggle for the unprivileged and under-privileged people, reinforcements are constantly needed. Recruiting must be made from your rank and file, as well as from the rank and file of other institutions of learning. Therefore, you must make up your minds to take sides; either with the forces of righteousness or of evil."

Dr. Azikiwe's speech was punctuated with loud cheers of approval from both the students and faculty. He later received a standing ovation from the school that gave him his start in life. Then there was a brief silence. Shortly thereafter, came another applause, when the president of the college, Dr. Richard I. McKinney, conferred upon Zik, the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature, cited for his unrelenting efforts towards advancing the progress of his people. With the eulogy on his behalf, came a new inspiration to the African and Afro-American students at Storer.

Zik planted quite another gem of goodwill when he returned to the president of Storer, the check presented him as a token of their appreciation and for him making a special trip from Africa to America on their behalf. He returned the check and requested that it be used in furthering the athletic facilities of the school. In addition, he donated \$1,000, to Storer in appreciation for the opportunity the college afforded him.



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Dr. Azikiwe was accompanied on this trip by K. Ozuomba Mbadiwe. This marked the first time in many months that Mr. Mbadiwe left the cares and responsibilities of the Academy to go out of town.

Zik was on time to attend the commencement exercises of another alma mater, Lincoln University, where an honorary degree, Doctor of Law was conferred upon him in absentia last year. So too, Lincoln gave him a rousing welcome from the students and faculty. He also donated \$1,000, to Lincoln, to be used as the president, Dr. Horace Mann Bond saw fit. This event took place on June 3rd.

His visit to America could have been incomplete without a visit to the United Nations Organization at Lake Success. On June 5th, Dr. Azikiwe, Mr. Mbadiwe and Mr. Disu paid a courtesy call to the United Nations. Here again Zik was warmly received by Dr. Ralph T. Bunche, director of Trusteeship Division of the U. N. The visit was previously arranged by the Academy.

Dr. Bunche arranged an informal meeting which included ranking members of the division and African area specialists. Among them were: Messrs Kweku Ata Gardiner and Daniel Chapman, both of the Gold Coast. Dr. Bunche explained the machinery of the United Nations to the distinguished guest from Africa and also discussed chapters 11, 12, and 13 of the U. N.'s charter, which applied to mandated territories and the dependent areas. Dr. Azikiwe then met with Hon. Benjamin Cohen, Assistant Secretary-General, in charge of information, and Hon. Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the U.N.

On Sunday, June 8th, Dr. Azikiwe was one of the honored guests at a mass meeting sponsored by the Jamaica Progressive League, in honor of Dr. Norman Manley of Jamaica, British West Indies.

It was agreed between the organizers of the meeting that the African Academy be assured that Dr. Azikiwe would not be called upon to speak, due to the fact that his first scheduled appearance was an official reception at the City Hall.

However, towards the end of the program, there was a chant in the audience. "We want to hear Zik." Dr. A. George Daly, chairman of the meeting and the vice-president of the Academy explained the agreement to the audience, but the chant continued louder, until the entire audience joined in very loudly, "we want to hear Zik." Finally, Dr. Azikiwe was prevailed upon to speak amidst the deafening applause from the huge crowd.

Zik brought to the audience the greetings of the African people and called upon them to close ranks between the people of the West Indies and the people of Africa.

On June 9th, Dr. Azikiwe's four female relatives, who accompanied him from Africa to study in American schools arrived to New York on the Queen Elizabeth from London. He left them there to fly into Montreal, Canada, in order to be prompt for the commencement exercises at Storer College.

The four relatives of Zik were detained at Ellis Island for technical reasons: chiefly because the youngest of the four was under fifteen years of age. Mr. Julius Okala, of Nigeria, was on hand at the pier to meet them on their arrival.



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June 10th, was a particularly busy day for Dr. Azikiwe. At 8:00 A.M., he was accompanied by messrs Disu, Okala and several members of the Academy proceeded to Ellis Island to secure the release of his relatives. The authorities learning of the responsible persons behind the young girls, lost no time in completing details for their release. One other technical point raised by the authorities was; that one of the high schools selected was not as yet accredited by the Department of State. Every evidence showed that the high school involved had fulfilled their requirements and was an accredited school. It was purely a question of formal registration which could be cleared within a month or so.

In order to avoid further delay, K. Ozuomba Mbadiwe telegraphed one of its board members, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, president of Palmer Memorial Institute in North Carolina, to arrange for admission of the girls to Palmer Institute. Within two hours, a telegram of acceptance reached the offices of the Academy from Dr. Brown. On the strength of this, the four neices of Dr. Azikiwe were released shortly thereafter.

On the same afternoon, Dr. Azikiwe, Dr. Manley of Jamaica, Hon. Adams of Barbados, B.W.I., and many notables were entertained in a private luncheon tendered by Dr. A. George Daly, the Academys vice-president, in the auditorium of the Mutual Life Insurance Company. This afforded the leaders of East and West an opportunity to meet and exchange views on the international situation and other problems of common interests.

After the luncheon, Dr. Azikiwe rushed to the meeting of the board of directors of the African Academy, held at its headquarters, 55 West 42nd. St. This was the first meeting attended by Dr. Azikiwe since he was elected to its board.

Dr. Azikiwe in his brief address said in part: "This is the first opportunity since my membership on this board to be in your presence. I have followed your activities and reports that reached me in Africa with great interest. I am happy to be here and feel that you should be congratulated for the fine work you are doing here. The African Academy of Arts and Research has come to stay and stands as a symbol of unity between Africa and America and visa-versa. Such an organization deserves to live. Africa owes many thanks to Mr. Mbadiwe for his energy and tact in being able to get around the Afro-Americans and West Indians who are interested in their African ancestry, to have formed this organization and to secure their support, not only within the race, but outside of the race as well. I think it is a privilege on my part to make this confession publicly. I thank you all for sticking with him through thick and thin." He wished the Academy much success and said he hoped its work will be further encouraged. Dr. Azikiwe was shown around the headquarters of the Academy and witnessed records of activities on the work of the organization, its filing system and the method of retaining newspaper clippings from Africa.

Owing to the break in Dr. Azikiwe's stay in the city, due to the commencement exercises at both colleges, the City Hall welcome was delayed until June 11th. It must be remembered that these numerous events, marked a new trend in American-African relationship. While the outstanding citizens of New York were honoring Dr. Azikiwe, they were at the same time honoring and paying their respects to Nigeria in particular and to Africa generally.



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The City Hall welcome added greater stature to the Mayor of the City of New York. The tribute to Zik took place in one of the greatest cities in the world. The Afro-Americans did not fail to take note of this honor.

Dr. Azikiwe was welcomed to the City Hall on June 11th. Many Africans, scores of Afro-Americans and a good number of whites were present in this colorful and significant occasion. The event was most impressive and historical. The invitees seemed anxious to meet the distinguished guest and to pay deserving tribute to him for his many achievements. Dr. Azikiwe was accompanied by Mr. Mbadiwe, who introduced him to the Deputy Mayor and the welcoming group. Upon their entrance in the spacious reception hall, all rose and stood throughout the welcome address of Col. John J. Bennett, Deputy Mayor of the City and during the response of Dr. Azikiwe.

Col. Bennett emphasized his keen interest and that of the Mayor in the African students and said that they had not only stimulated the culture of the United States, but have brought here the cultures of Africa. He wished him a pleasant stay and said that the City was at the service of Dr. Azikiwe during his entire visit.

The honored guest thanked the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for the courtesies extended to him. He recalled that side by side Africans fought in World War 11, and died with the American soldiers, sailors and aviators, hoping, trusting and believing that jointly, they would defeat the common enemy and that side by side they had hoped to win the peace. In conclusion, he thanked the Mayor for his interest in the work of the African Academy of Arts and Research and said that the African people are grateful.

Flashbulbs and cameras flickered - many of them, lighting up the room even though the sun shone. There was much hustling and excitement on the part of the press as they caught shots of the delegation from every angle. Motion picture cameras caught every step of the events that took place. After the reception, the press delayed their stay to take additional photos of Dr. Azikiwe and the Deputy Mayor.

Another highlight of Dr. Azikiwe's American visit was a trip to Hyde Park where he laid a wreath upon the grave of the late President, Franklin D. Roosevelt. In the morning of June 15th, Dr. Azikiwe, Messrs A. K. Disu, and K. C. Mbadiwe were entertained to breakfast by Judge James S. Watson and his family. Following breakfast, ten automobiles consisting of prominent citizens, members and friends of the Academy formed the tour with Dr. Azikiwe to Hyde Park. Mr. A. A. Austin, wealthy real estate operator from the West Indies provided his car (a high powered twelve cylinder Lincoln) for Dr. Azikiwe's use. In the party were: Hon. and Mrs. James S. Watson, K. Ozuomba Mbadiwe, and Mr. A. A. Austin. Other members of the delegation were: Dr. Alain Locke, professor at Howard University, Attorney Herman Stoute, Mr. Clarence Holt, Mr. Louis C. Gibbs, Mrs. Mattie Hunter, Mrs. Margaret Innis, Dr. A. George Daly, Dr. and Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Mattie Hunter and others.

In the picturesque Rose Gardens of Hyde Park, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe was greeted by the former First Lady of the Land, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. After the introductions of the guests by Mr. Mbadiwe, Mrs. Roosevelt and Dr. Azikiwe talked briefly before he was escorted to the grave, where the ceremony took place.



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Dr. Azikiwe thanked Mrs. Roosevelt for her interest in the work of the African Academy and expressed his deep sorrow at the passing of a great world leader, the late President Roosevelt. Meanwhile, hundreds of spectators stood outside of the reception hall seeking a glimpse of Mrs. Roosevelt. None other than the delegates in Dr. Azikiwe's party were permitted to enter the reception rooms.

During the wreath laying ceremony, hundreds watched from the outpost. The party was admitted to enter the grave enclosure. Dr. Azikiwe and Mr. Mbadiwe wore traditional African attire. It was estimated that over 6,000 persons visited the Roosevelt estate that day.

In spite of the numerous public affairs that Dr. Azikiwe was compelled to attend in his honor, he kept up individual and organizational invitations. He was entertained by Dr. Walter Merrick; Dr. & Mrs. P.M.H. Savory, the publisher of the Amsterdam News and chairman of the board of the Victory Mutual Life Insurance Company; Mr. Clarence Holt, former classmate of Zik at Lincoln; Mrs. Mattie Hunter, chairman of the building committee of the Academy; Dr. Emery Ross, secretary of the North American Missionary Conference and Mrs. Lucinda Ward a beautician and member.

Zik held a conference with Dr. Max Yergan and Paul Robeson of the Council on African Affairs; Dr. Channing Tobias, director of the Phelps Stokes Fund and Dr. Emery Ross. He held several interviews for individuals on various occasions.

The illness and later the death of the late Dr. Nnodu Okongwu caused a lapse of one week in the schedule of Dr. Azikiwe. Because of this sad news, an important address which Dr. Azikiwe was to deliver before the 38th annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was cancelled. A summarized version of the text was telegraphed to Washington. Other engagements were also cancelled.

Before Dr. Okongwu's illness took a sudden turn for the worse, Dr. Azikiwe despite his nerve shattering schedule, made time to visit the nations capitol in Washington, D. C., at the joint invitation of Mr. Nwankwo Chukwuemeka, professor of engineering at Howard University. He was received graciously by Howard University, and was personally greeted by Dr. Mordeci Johnson, the president.

At a private luncheon of the faculty tendered in his honor, he made an address on the "Role of Nigeria in World Affairs." The speech was so moving that Dr. Johnson made it understood that America could not afford to be a by-stander in the struggles of the African people. He pledged the support of the Afro-Americans in Africa's fight for political advancement and economic freedom.

Dr. Azikiwe was also invited to a luncheon by members of the U. S. State Department. There they exchanged views about Africa and American relationship in general.

Dr. Azikiwe left Washington for Detroit to give the principal address at a banquet closing the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association. His text was: "Freedom of the Press in Nigeria." His main thesis was that in Nigeria freedom of the press does not exist. After citing numerous obstacles



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and victimizations which <sup>a</sup> newspaper publisher faces in Nigeria. He left his listeners with a choice - to support his fight. Dr. Azikiwe was given three minutes standing ovation at the conclusion of his address. He was then unanimously elected honorary member of the Publishers Association.

Every important event has its climax. For Dr. Azikiwe's visit in America the climax was reached at the testimonial dinner in his honor tendered by the African Academy of Arts and Research, and co-sponsored by the Lincoln Alumni Association at the Hotel Pennsylvania, June 27th. Dr. Azikiwe was surrounded by notable personalities when he made his major address to the American people.

The dinner was arranged to an estimated cost of nine hundred pounds. The attendance was record breaking for a summer dinner. Four hundred persons were present and paid two pounds each per plate for dinner. Approximately fifty young people were guests and <sup>were</sup> served dinners that evening.

Mayor William O'Dwyer was the honorary chairman and the speakers consisted of distinguished citizens such as: Hon. Benjamin Cohen, Assistant Secretary-General of the U. N., Dr. Horace Mann Bond, president Lincoln University; Rev. James H. Robinson, Chairman of the board of the Academy; Hon. J. Raymond Jones, Dept. Housing and Building, representing the Mayor; K. Ozuomba Mbadiwe; Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, president Palmer Memorial Institute; Rev. Charles Y. Trigg and Rev. Asapansa-Johnson of Sierra Leone. Norman Coker supplied the African drum music, songs were given by Louvinis White, Everette Lee on the violin and Sylvia Lee at the piano. Commissioner Maurice P. Davidson served as toastmaster.

Mayor O'Dwyer said in his message: "I am pleased to greet Dr. Azikiwe upon his arrival in the United States. His work as editor, legislator and representative of the Nigerian people is known to us here in America. His election by an overwhelming majority as the First Lagos Member of the Nigerian Legislative Council is a tribute to the leadership which he has given to the vast membership of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons. I trust that his stay in America will be pleasant and that he will take back with him memories of the friendship and cordiality of the people of the City of New York."

One of the most dramatic moments of the dinner was the motion picture featuring the Academy's outstanding activities for over a period of two years. The public was not aware that the Academy had prepared such a film. It also showed Dr. Azikiwe being greeted at the United Nations, the City Hall and at Hyde Park. The film will be fitted with sound and music and will later be shown throughout West Africa. The narrating was done by Miss Elaine Hanley.

The four neices of Dr. Azikiwe were among the honored guests. They were: Victoria Obodochina; Stella McIntosh; Veronica Arinze and Elizabeth Arinze, the youngest of the four, who made a brilliant speech during the course of the evening. She said in part: "It gives us great pleasure to be here tonight. As students just arriving in this great country, my sisters and I hope to achieve education of the highest degree. We are determined to make a success of our chosen careers in the good name of our uncle, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe. We are truly grateful for your kindness." Elizabeth did not show any signs of stage fright. She spoke with poise and assurance. Had it not been for the



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unusual personality of the guest of honor, his fourteen year old niece could have stolen the show. She was given a prolonged applause after her address.

The young ladies wore traditional African attire and made a magnificent impression on their American public. They danced joyfully upon the request of the guests and were warmly received by all. Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, president of Palmer Memorial Institute said that she knew at once these African girls would steal her heart.

Hon. Benjamin Cohen, in his remarks said he was aware of the work that is being done by Dr. Azikiwe and complimented him for the progress he had already made. He further indicated that the United Nations will endeavor to assist in helping to further the cause of the people of Nigeria and the Cameroons.

Dr. Horace Mann Bond, president of Lincoln University, gave an excellent recollection of the accomplishments of Dr. Azikiwe as a student at Lincoln. He said that he was not at all surprised at his achievements to date, and that as a student he had shown great signs of leadership. He spoke of the fields in which Dr. Azikiwe excelled and added that he was proud that Zik was a product of Lincoln. He wished him continued success in his great task as a statesman, educator and philanthropist. In conclusion he said he was happy to announce that several of the new students from Nigeria had already gone off with honors from the school.

Mr. K. Ozuomba Mbediwe introduced the honored guest. He described him as one who had blazed the trail for others to follow and who blew the trumpet for a New Africa. In speaking briefly of the program of the Academy he said that on his return to Africa, he will appeal to the African people direct to help in the struggle of building an organization that will mean a great deal to them within a few years. He expressed great delight upon receiving the cablegram of Zik's arrival to the States. This he said he kept as a secret for a few days, because of his great happiness. He also added that this was the best news he had had in the three years of the Academy's existence. He spoke of the great strides he made as a newspaper editor and publisher, and announced that Mr. Mbonu Ojike, as business manager was making great progress, on the Pilot. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Mbediwe said: "The world will hear from Zik, the youths of Africa are behind him. I consider it a most distinguished pleasure to introduce one of Africa's greatest sons - Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe." The dinner reached its heights at this point. The more than four hundred guests stood for a brief moment as Dr. Azikiwe arose to give the major address of the evening.

Photographers moved toward the speakers' dais to take shots of the honored guest. The motion picture camera threw off huge lights and all was quiet, with the exception of the Voice from Africa. Dr. Azikiwe was garbed in a delicate white velvet robe, trimmed in baby blue. He wore a combination of Hausa and Yoruba style robe to symbolize the new trend. The audience seemed over-anxious to hear his remarks. Every head was focused toward the center of the guest table where he stood. Had a pin dropped, it could have been heard. Then he said: "My subject is Co-operation Between the United States and the Dependent Territories in West Africa." He continued:

"I take this opportunity of extending my congratulations to the African Academy of Arts and Research and the Lincoln University Alumni Association for making possible tonight's affair. I can assure you that I appreciate the motive of fellowship which animated same and express my gratitude to all who have contributed their share



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in making it the success it richly deserved.

"Since my arrival in this country, I have been privileged to renew old acquaintances and to make new ones. I can say without exaggeration, that wherever I visited, I have been received with hospitality that is typically American. The press has been fair to me, not only in publishing news about my visit and activities, but also in making appropriate comments thereon. So too the other instruments of public opinion, and I do not hesitate to say that I am grateful for the courtesy and fairplay extended to me.

"Before continuing my assignment in tonight's programme, I wish to thank the previous speakers who have spared no pains in extolling my person and activities; not because I am worthy of their encomiums, but the expression of such sentiments do me a world of good, in that they act as an inspiration to fire my imagination and steel my constitution for greater service to humanity, of which Africa is part and parcel. I repeat that I do not deserve all the credit, I feel that as a normal human being who is exposed to the stimuli of a confused world, that I have only contributed my quota towards the making of the world a better place than I found it. Not because I am in anyway better qualified than my contemporaries, but that I have been signally fortunate in having the opportunity to study abroad and to acquaint myself with the basic factors responsible for human behaviour and attitude in contemporary society."

Dr. Azikiwe defined the mission of the delegation to London, sponsored by the NCNC and mentioned the reforms suggested towards the emancipation of Nigeria from political thralldom, economic insecurity and social disabilities of a variegated nature. He wound up by suggesting how the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research can act as a bridgehead to build a span across the Atlantic to the mutual advantage of the peoples of the United States and British West Africa. He also gave a gist of Anglo-Nigerian relations and mentioned the personnel of the NCNC, giving a complete biographical sketch of each member of the delegation leaving for London.

Among other recommendations regarding the work of the Academy, Dr. Azikiwe suggested that a monthly magazine of high literary and artistic standard be established in New York City, with the object of encouraging contacts between the U.S. and dependent territories of West Africa. If such a periodical is organized and administered on a purely business and professional basis, with a view toward enhancing the cultural mission of the Academy, he said that the Zik's Press Limited is prepared to shoulder one-half of the cost of its production and distribution on terms to be mutually agreed. Continuing he said:

"To realize the dreams of the Academy, which is to emancipate the minds of peoples of the two continents so as to make them worthy citizens of 'One World,' educational facilities should be made available to both communities, either in the form of student scholarships or teaching fellowships or universities. So too, goodwill tours to West Africa by Americans. But to broaden the base of operation and make this two-way traffic, much more efficacious we have to make university education accessible to the Africans as well."

In conclusion, he said: "The cause is a precious one, because what animates us is desire to crystallize in our country, in concert with the world, a truly 'century of the common man,' where the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter can be a reality and not mere platitude. Naturally, we must expect persecution and victimization. That is natural, but I can assure you that so far as the NCNC



and those of us who believe in world freedom are concerned, it is better to advance towards freedom, unmindful of the dangers that lurk ahead, than to remain in servitude." Tacitus said: "A desire to resist oppression is implanted in the nature of man."

Immediately after the completion of Dr. Azikiwe's address, a thunderous applause was heard. There was no longer the silence witnessed twenty minutes before. Comments as to the forcefulness of this dynamic speaker and leader were heard, talk of his vision and his ability to cope with such vast problems confronting his people were made. The decorum of the dinner was not lessened, it remained on the high and dignified plane with which it began. Motion picture reels were again at work. Photographers were seen buzzing around the speakers table and the metropolitan newspapers dashed out to meet their deadlines carrying with them the address of Dr. Azikiwe that had been mimeographed in advanced through the Academy's office. Other newsmen were busy at work taking notes and requesting further data on Zik. The most talked about dinner of the season came to a close with the benediction by Rev. C. Aspensia-Johnson from Sierra-Leone.

Among the distinguished guests were: Dr. Channing Tobias, director of the Phelps-Stokes Fund; Dr. Harold Scott, president, -general, Lincoln University Alumni Association; Dr. Oren Riley, co-chairman of the dinner committee; Dr. Alain Locke, prof. Howard University; Dr. A. George Daly; Dr. George D. Cannon, president Lincoln Alumni Association; Hon. Joseph L. DeJean, Haitian Vice-Consul General; Hon. Samuel Battle, parole Commissioner of New York; Dr. and Mrs. Balintuma Kalibala. Dr. Kalibala is one of the African area specialist to the U.N. from Uganda, East Africa; Mr. Robert Gardiner, area specialist from the Gold Coast; Dr. Daniel Chapmen, area specialist from the Gold Coast; Dr. Max Yergan, director Council of African Affairs; Dr. Harry W. Laidler, president League for Industrial Democracy; Judge Irvin C. Mollison; Attorney Douglas Speaks; Dr. A. B. Andre; Mr. Langston Hughes, noted poet; Francis B. Owuoh, scholar from West Africa; Mrs. P.M.H. Savory; Mr. and Mrs. F. Adeniji Ajaye; Mr. Effiom Odok of Calabar, Nigeria; Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Holt; Mrs. Countee Cullen; Mrs. Estelle Holder; Mrs. Mattie Hunter; Mrs. Mae Thompson; Mrs. Angella Kelly and many others. Among the many guests present were African students from many sections of West Africa, who were invited as guests of the Academy.

The Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Pennsylvania where the dinner took place was most spacious and every table (seating ten persons) was filled. The guests ate by candle light and wore splendid dinner clothes, some formal and other informal. Mr. Mbadiwe and Dr. Azikiwe added much color and warmth to the atmosphere by wearing gay colored robes. The four nieces of Dr. Azikiwe were also garbed in colorful African dress.

On June 29th, Dr. Azikiwe made another hurried trip to Washington for a broadcast to the American people. The program was arranged under the auspices of the Institute of Race Relations. Dr. Azikiwe devoted the entire time allotted him on the air, to the aims and purposes of the NCNC. He further explained the purpose of their mission to London.

By this time, the youthful Dr. Okongwu's illness had become seriously grave. Within a space of less than two weeks, he had taken ill. On Tuesday, July 1, at 4:15 A.M., ~~the late~~ Dr. Nnodu Okongwu passed away. The already fatigued members of the Academy turned out to make the funeral arrangements. Dr. Azikiwe cancelled all engagements and interviews as the Africans and their American friends were thrown together in deep mourning.



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Dr. Okongwu was buried on July 5th, at Rose Hill Cemetery, at Linden, New Jersey.

Dr. Azikiwe was now racing for time in an effort to reach London before the N.C.N.C. delegation arrived. Mr. Mbediwe accompanied him to West Virginia, with his cousins and neices where they would spend the rest of the summer, before departing for their various schools in the fall.

Mrs. Angella Kelly, held a dinner party in honor of Zik and his four relatives before the girls departed for Storer College. The girls resided with Mrs. Kelly during their entire stay in the city. Mrs. Kelly resided in Nigeria for many years and is known for her hospitality to Africans coming to this country. An African dish was served. It is interesting to note the Africans who ate with their fingers. They were: K. Ozuomba Mbediwe, Abdul Disu, and Asadata Bafara. Many Americans also ate with their fingers. When Dr. Azikiwe was seen using a knife and fork, he was questioned as to why he did not eat the fufu and soup with his fingers. He said: "I believe that I have an excuse. It is customary to be polite in someone else's country. They say - when in Rome do as the Romans do." This was as good an answer as could be expected.

Dr. Azikiwe returned to New York from Storer College on July 7th. He left for Montreal Canada on July 8th, to a board a plane for London, England. Zik was anxious to greet the delegation personally on their arrival to London. Hence, it was necessary for him to leave in great haste. He had to leave two trunks behind in order to make a quick departure. As a result, many engagements were left unfilled by Zik. Scores of people were awaiting interviews.

Dr. Azikiwe arrived safely in London on July 10th, and the news of same was released to the American press, in an effort to ease the mounting inquiries and requests about him that reached the Academy.

Zik came to America to find rest after the commencement address, but found no peace or rest. He had scarcely sufficient time to renew the friendships made during his school days here, despite the fact that he wanted to do so.

It was the desire of the Academy to cut their own schedule in order that Zik could rest after the testimonial dinner. However, he had to leave shortly thereafter. The American people were just beginning to consider Dr. Azikiwe a permanent guest in their country, when he bade them farewell to join his comrades on a far greater mission.

The American press played a most enviable role in giving warmth and meaning to the visit of Azikiwe on these shores. Few statesmen have been so significantly presented to the public, or so graciously received as was Dr. Azikiwe. Many newspapers ran banner headlines welcoming him. Front page photographs were a regular feature.

At the first and only press conference for Dr. Azikiwe, organizations, major metropolitan dailies and weeklies were fully represented. Among those present were: The New York Times; The Associated Press; TIME MAGAZINE; The New York Times; The Daily Worker; The New York Post; P.M.; The Afro-American; The Pittsburg Courier; the Amsterdam News; The Chicago Defender and the Hindi (an Indian paper) Organizations represented were: The Council on African Affairs; The African Academy of Arts & Research; (who arranged the conference), the Lincoln Alumni Association and the Schamberg Collection.



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Mr. Mbadiwe, summarized Dr. Azikiwe's visit in these words: "Dr. Azikiwe brought to the American people a new light on African affairs. The American people were left with much goodwill, much fellowship and ~~much~~ Africanism. Nothing more significant could have happened to the African Academy, that at long last, one of the greatest voices of New Africa came to see for himself the mission and task of the Academy. It could have been difficult otherwise to convey the program in platitudes or on paper manifestoes. We have long believed that independence is contained within the soul of men. Once instilled and installed in the soul of a nation, no power can enslave it.

"It is to this task that we have dedicated ourselves to liberate the mind, by doing, by trial and by error processes; conquer the mind and you would have conquered the material forces of life.

"Zik's visit to America is to us in the Academy a Dream Come True, for what we are attempting to do today is what he advocated some thirteen years ago. Zik is a dreamer, an architect, a builder and an able servant of human progress, that is why we welcomed him."

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<http://www.sahistory.org.za/pages/chronology/special-chrono/governance/icu.htm>

Robert R. Edgar "African Educational Protest in South Africa: the American School in the Transkei in the 1920s" in *Apartheid and Education: The Education of Black South Africans*, ed. Peter Kallaway (Johannesburg: Ravan Press, 1984), 184-191

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Zenzele YWCA.

The Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1947.The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held @ Swatow.

Meeting started at 11.45 a.m. Mrs Gwelo Chair Lady for the day. This was the first Conference<sup>& fix</sup> held during Mrs U. P. Umm's absence. Meeting was opened with a hymn and prayer conducted by Mrs Opperman.

After this the Chair Lady Mrs Gwelo introduced to the ladies the Pres. Sec. & Treas of the different branches of Zenzele's Clubs. Then the first speaker was Mrs Opperman who mentioned a few things about Mrs Mahapeloa who has gone over seas for African work and etc. Next was Mrs Gwelo President of the Roodersport Club she spoke of Mrs Umm's leaving to America where a fare-well party was given by the Zenzele women @ Crown Mines at Mrs Pilson's Residence and there Mrs Umm wished all the Club to do the best with their Club work while she is away.

Then followed Music by the Prad. Sch. Wilkesforce conducted by Mr P. Lubotape (Masonsw)

### Nextly: Reports of the Clubs

First was read a letter from Springs reporting failure of Club members attending the Conf. and £x. 100 articles were sent either by Pres. M. S. Paswayo (10/- in shillings) was sent by the Springs Club with the letter, letter was to be discussed first speaker was Miss P. Masoko who objected to the letter being discussed she was seconded and moved. Report from Roodersport Mrs Klaasli was to read it later Mrs Opperman objected to this. Mrs Opperman then proposed that if any Club fails to give a report it should be fined (2/-) Two shillings & sixpence she was seconded and moved.

Next was the Johannesburg Club a brief report was given by Mrs Sophie Aldwin<sup>the Pres.</sup> Firstly she reported that the President Mrs J. R. Lambala left to Basutoland with out notifying any of the members.

Memberships Active members this year were 46 some of the members were in active because of duty the Club is growing



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