

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES

DATE: July 23, 1951

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Mrs. W. E. B. Du Bois
SECURITY MATTER - C
[Redacted]
[Redacted] advised Special Agent [Redacted]

[Redacted] an invitation to a luncheon honoring SHIRLEY GRAHAM, also known as Mrs. W. E. B. DU BOIS, at Ciro's, 8433 Sunset Boulevard, on Friday, June 22, 1951, at 12:30 P.M.

[Redacted] the above-mentioned luncheon and observed that approximately 150 women were in attendance. About 25 of these women were colored.

SARAJO LORD, Executive Secretary of the Southern California Council, ASP, introduced Mrs. LOU SOLOMON, also known as WILMA SHORE, who spoke briefly on the question of peace. She said that the subject of peace was of particular interest to the mothers, wives, and negro women because of the persecution of the leaders for peace. She stated that SHIRLEY GRAHAM had been on the battlefront in the fight for peace. She further identified SHIRLEY GRAHAM as chairman of the National Committee for the Defense of Dr. W. E. B. DU BOIS, and a charter member of the ASP.

Mr. LLOYD GOUGH made some humorous remarks and finally asked for contributions. One SALKA VIERTTEL donated a large solid gold ring, stating that she had no money to give at this time.

SHIRLEY GRAHAM began her talk by stating that she felt very much at home among members of the ASP, and further that she did not intend to make a speech but that she wanted to make a frank talk as one worker for peace to another. She told of a recent dinner party given by New York attorney MARTIN POPPER at which JOHN HOWA B. LAWSON, DALTON TRUMBO, Dr. DU BOIS and herself were present. During the preliminary cocktails at this dinner, MARTIN POPPER's son commented that everyone present at the party had either been in jail or was going to jail. In this regard, SHIRLEY GRAHAM commented that it was ridiculous and fantastic that America's best minds were being sent to jail. She said that with all of the

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great progress which had been made in this country, we had not advanced in the commonest of ideas. "We in this room are the protectors of the culture of America." She said that "squads" were going into book stores and libraries taking books off the shelves. "Writers are being deprived of making a living and it is up to us to seriously face the problem--unafraid."

She described the Peace Information Center, which had been set up in April of 1950, as a point for the gathering of information regarding peace movements around the world and the dissemination of the same. She told of the peace conference which was started by ASP and held at the Waldorf Hotel in New York. She said that it had been started by HARLOW SHAPLEY and further that some of the best minds in the country were present. Some of the great minds of Europe were prevented from coming to the United States by our State Department.

Miss GRAHAM said that she went to France to attend the Paris Peace Conference. She paid her expenses from money received on an advanced payment of her forthcoming book. She said that every nation, creed, color, and class came to discuss how world peace could be obtained. "We will not be driven to murder each other," they said. She mentioned (PABLO) PICASSO and others who were present. She described them as "workers." Their slogan at the end of the conference, "We shall have peace." She gave a short discussion of the peace conference at Cuba and was at one held in Mexico City. She said that writers were the "core" of the peace movement. They must give out information. The Peace Information Center sent out postalsgrams all over the country. She said that the Stockholm Peace Appeal had been drawn up in Stockholm by the people of the world. She mentioned that O. JOHN ROGGE from the United States had signed the appeal in Stockholm. She said that the Peace Information Center had obtained several million signatures on the peace appeal. The State Department of the United States then noticed this group, the American Peace Committee, and ordered them to register as foreign agents. "We laughed," she said. They were all volunteer workers with the exception of SYLVIA SOLOFF (ph.) who worked overtime in the office. They were not receiving money from any foreign sources, only from poor Americans--working people--who wanted peace.

Miss GRAHAM said the Government had decided to close the office of the Peace Information Center and Dr. DU BOIS asked the State Department for an opportunity to explain and show the

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records of that organization. Soon thereafter five officers of the Peace Information Center were indicted as "foreign agents." SYLVIA SOLOFF received a \$10,000 fine and five years in jail. She said that another man of the group, a war veteran who had been on the staff of General MAC ARTHUR and who had seen Hiroshima and Nagasaki, said, "We must work against the atomic bomb." He also received five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. Miss GRAHAM referred to General MAC ARTHUR as "that mad man from Tokyo." She said that the treasurer of the group was a businessman with offices in New York, London and Paris. He was sentenced to five years in jail. He said, "If this can happen to me, it can happen to TAFT." She said that another cultured New England woman who had taught in an exclusive New England school had been in Czechoslovakia studying conditions, and upon her return to the United States, she was captured at the airport on Long Island by the F.B.I.

GRAHAM said that Dr. DU BOIS, who speaks for all people who are oppressed, black or white, and workers everywhere, has been called a "dangerous agent." She said, "He is dangerous to tyrants who would oppress the people." She said if the Peace Information Center can be indicted, then all of us can be indicted and civilization can be crushed and annihilated. She said the bill of particulars of the indictment of the Peace Information Center says that it disseminated in the United States information about war, about peace and matters related thereto. Miss GRAHAM said, "If this is a crime, then everyone in this room is guilty--every worker for peace."

Miss GRAHAM then described the desolation caused by war which she had observed in Hamburg, Germany, and Marseilles, France. "War against the people--war against the workers," she shouted. She said that writers must make the people see this thing in our country or we will be destroyed. "We will have concentration camps. We must save our country from total destruction. We must be real Americans like Thomas Jefferson and Tom Paine. We cannot afford to be afraid. We must clasp hands and all work together. We are lost as individuals. As we swim against this tide, we will gather strength. Others will join us." She said, "We cultured workers of the Peace Information Center were indicted because we dealt with ideas which are dangerous to the tyrants. We are all guilty because we elect men like RANKIN to our Congress. I want you to feel your guilt. This is our nation." She closed by reading a poem by Dr. DU BOIS.

The meeting closed by SARAJO LORD stating that SHIRLEY GRAHAM would endorse copies of her book in the lobby of Giro's.

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On June 25, 1951, [REDACTED] advised Special Agent [REDACTED] attended a meeting at the Embassy Auditorium in Los Angeles on June 21, 1951, sponsored by the Independent Progressive Party. The informant noted a huge banner across the top of the stage with the inscription, "The verdict must be peace."

SHIRLEY GRAHAM was introduced as "a fighter for peace." She said the attack on Dr. DU BOIS was an attack on all Americans. "We are fighting for equality and freedom for the colored people and peace and equality for all people." She said that she did not intend to be silenced in her work for peace or her fight for negro rights. "We must get rid of white supremacy," she said. She indicated that America needs honest men in what is left of this democracy. Today the majority do not want war. Throw off those who would keep us down. This is a critical day for American negroes." Everywhere she travels, she is greeted by loyal Americans who want peace and also desire to be saved from the threat of war.

Miss GRAHAM described the Peace Information Center which she and Dr. DU BOIS founded in April, 1950, in New York City. She said, "Truth is dangerous to the selfish few in our country who are trying to silence the strong voices in the fight for peace and freedom."

"The Government called Dr. DU BOIS an 'enemy agent.' He is an agent of oppressed people." Miss GRAHAM described a concentration camp in Germany with smoke-blackened walls and huge piles of ashes. "The Jewish people will rise against their enemies." "I call upon minority; we can do something now."

Dr. W. E. B. DU BOIS received a standing tribute when he appeared on the stage. He started his speech stating that the world was astonished at the United States as the rest of the world believes that the United States wants war. "We have warned and insulted Russia and prepared for war while Russia prepares for peace. In this country we jail the advocates for peace. We have turned Korea into a stinking desert and are set to drop bombs on Moscow and lick the world. In order to make their investments safe, our masters will lead us into total war unless we say no. This cannot happen. American business dominates the Government. The small minority are so large and powerful that they own the earth. The capitalists

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believe that whole industries will collapse unless we have war. American investments will seek to dominate the world." Some of the guilty ones he mentioned were General Electric, American Telephone and Telegraph, National Broadcasting Company and the Radio Corporation of America. "They order you to fight and demand that you be crippled by endless war. We need to reform ourselves before teaching others. Free speech and opinion are throttled. Unless you hate Russia, you are slandered and subjected to personal violence. What can be done to bring this nation to its senses?" He said that of all nations, the United States alone wants war and he further indicated that he would take an inalienable stand against war even though he would be jailed for it. "The rich Americans crave power because they profit by it."

Dr. DU BOIS spoke of "rank slavery" and "yellow coolies" who are victims of our imperialism. He described our present situation as "frightening." He referred to the policies of the United States Government as an attack on civilization. Dr. DU BOIS closed his speech with a quotation from Biblical scriptures. He received a tremendous applause.

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