

To the people of India:

I am Walter White, an American Negro. I am one of 13,000,000 Negro citizens of this nation of 130,000,000 people. I speak to you as one who many times in written and spoken word have advocated freedom for India. I have avidly read the words of your leaders and writers-Gandhi, Nehru, Azad, Shridviani. I have many Indian friends whose friendship I deeply esteem. I have as frequently criticized the imperialism of Great Britain and the distortion in the United States of the aims and ambitions of the people of India.

*WW - Pacific Trip
Surles*

September 18, 1944

My dear General Surles:

I am taking this means of inquiring if the War Department would favor my going as a war correspondent on or about November 10th to visit the areas where Negro troops are stationed or have been stationed in the Pacific, India, and China. I would like to return from the Burma-China theatre via Russia, the Persian Gulf and the Middle East through Cairo and North Africa to Casablanca. Since it is probable that by that time the war in Europe will have ended, I would like to return to the United States via West Africa, Brazil and the West Indies.

If, as is most unlikely, the war is still going on in Europe, it may be that from Casablanca I would want to return to the United States via Europe. I am writing you in advance of coming to Washington to get your reaction. I expect to be in Washington within the next week or ten days, this being contingent upon the date of the return of the President from the Quebec conference. May I come in to talk with you then?

With cordial greetings.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary.

Major General A. D. Surles
War Department
Washington, D. C.

WW:DW

*New Pacific Sound
Tierney*

September 26, 1944

Dear Mr. Tierney:

I am hoping to go in November to the Pacific, India, China, Russia, the Middle East and one or two other places, and I am writing to inquire if the New York Post wishes me to continue to serve as a war correspondent for it as was requested in your letter to Colonel Marshall Newton last fall asking my accreditation for the European and Pacific Theatres. I am enclosing self-explanatory copy of letter I wrote to General Surlles on September 18th to which Colonel Heard replied stating that only war correspondents are now being permitted to travel. He apparently overlooked the first sentence of my letter.

If you wish me to go as a correspondent for the Post, it apparently will be necessary for you to write a letter similar to your previous one requesting accreditation for the places listed in my letter of September 18th. Would you be good enough to let me know your wishes? If you do make such request, will you send me the letter so that I may present it when I go to the War Department sometime the latter part of this week?

Cordially,

WALTER WHITE.

Mr. Paul A. Tierney, Managing Editor
The New York Post
75 West Street
New York, New York

NW:DW

NEW YORK POST

FOUNDED 1801

75 West Street . New York . Whitehall 4-9000

Paul A. Tierney
Managing Editor

Colonel Marshall Newton
Chief Liaison Director
Bureau of Public Relations
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Walter White has been engaged by the New York Post as its correspondent in the North African and Pacific theatres.

This letter is an application for the formal accreditation of Mr. White as correspondent in those areas.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Tierney
Managing Editor

PAT:nf

October 24, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO WAR DEPARTMENT FROM WALTER WHITE:

Understanding that War Department regulations permit accreditation only to one theatre with accreditation to the next theatre to be secured in the one then being quitted, I request authority to follow as far as practicable the following itinerary:

New York to San Francisco.

San Francisco to Hawaii.

Hawaii to the Solomons group in the South Pacific command, including New Hebrides, Bougainville, and other islands where the 93rd Division, 24th Infantry and other colored combat or service troops are stationed.

The Solomons to Australia including Brisbane, Sydney, and Townsville.

Brisbane to Milne Bay for visits to the New Guinea Theatre and the islands surrounding it where Negro troops are stationed.

From Milne Bay to the Philippines (it is my plan to reach the Philippines between January 1 and 15 by which time the military situation may permit travel from the Philippines directly to China.)

Philippines to Chungking.

Chungking to the China-India-Burma Theatre.

India: - I would like to visit New Delhi where I am to be the guest of Lord Wavell. I should also like to visit Calcutta and Bombay.

From India to the Persian Gulf Theatre.

From the Persian Gulf to Moscow, Russia.

Russia to France, Germany, England, and the European Theatres of operation.

England to the United States.

In the event that the progress of the campaign to retake the Philippines has not advanced to the point that I can fly from the New Guinea Theatre to the Philippines to China, I would like to suggest this alternative route: (to proceed from Perth, Australia to Ceylon and from there to India, China, Russia, Germany, France, England, to the United States.

If the Australia-Ceylon flight is impossible at the time I reach there, would it be possible for me to go from Australia to Madagascar and from there to the Persian Gulf Theatre, India, China, Russia, Germany, France, England, and to the United States.

Following that trip, I should like to go from the United States to Hawaii; Hawaii to the Solomons; Solomons to Australia; Australia to the New Guinea Theatre; New Guinea to the Philippines; Philippines to the United States.



BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES

30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

Telephone: CIRCLE 6-5100
Cables: DIGESTION, NEW YORK

16 November, 1944

NOV 17 1944 23244

Dear Mr. White,

My attention has been drawn to a note in the Lyons column in the New York Post of November 9, that you will leave for India shortly.

No doubt you have already planned to meet Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, leader of the Depressed Classes and Labour Member of the Viceroy's Council. In case you had not included his name on your list, I am taking the liberty of urging you to make a point of interviewing Dr. Ambedkar. I think you would find an exchange of views mutually helpful, because I know that Dr. Ambedkar is very interested in the problems of your people and has assembled a representative collection of books on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

M. E. Herrington

(Miss) M. E. Herrington

Mr. Walter White
Natl Assn. for the Advancement
of Colored People
69 Fifth Avenue
New York

*Miss Herrington
Dr. Ambedkar*

November 20, 1944

Dear Miss Herrington:

I am very grateful for the suggestion contained in your letter of November 16th. I had already thought of Dr. Ambedkar but am glad to have the suggestion from you.

I am encountering some difficulties about seeing all of the people I want to see in India but I hope that they will be straightened out before I reach there.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary.

Miss M. E. Herrington
British Information Services
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, New York

WW:DW

*W W Pacific Town article
Mich - Look*

November
24th
1944

Dear Mr. Mich:

I am happy to attempt the three articles for LOOK as follows: (1) on Negro troops in the Pacific, personalized and largely pictorial; (2) an article on India; (3) an article on my interview with Stalin.

Should any other article which would be of general interest develop I shall either communicate with you by cable or letter, or discuss it with you upon my return.

When I go to Washington next week before leaving the country, I shall take up with the Army the renewal of the arrangement I had in the European, North African and Italian theatres of having access to Signal Corps and APS photographers. I shall also, of course, get in touch with Mr. Frank Bauman in the China-Burma-India theatre.

I would appreciate your advising me regarding terms of payment for these articles. I would also appreciate your giving me the benefit of any other suggestions or instructions with respect to coverage of these subjects which may have occurred to you after our pleasant interview this morning.

Ever sincerely,

Mr. Daniel D. Mich
Executive Editor
LOOK Magazine
511 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

Secretary.

WW:elj

November 28, 1944

SUGGESTED ITINERARY FOR
WALTER WHITE'S TRIP TO THE
PACIFIC, INDIA, CHINA AND
RUSSIA

December 3	--	10	--	Hawaii	
"	10	--	31	--	South Pacific (including New Guinea and the Philippines)
January 1	--	15	--	China	
January 15-- February 10			--	India	

Flying Chungking to Burma front, Assam, Ledo Road

Calcutta -- 2-3 days

(Best hotel--Great Eastern
Second best--Grand Hotel)

New Delhi -- 1 week
(24 hours with Viceroy Wavell,
if invited)

Best hotel--Imperial

Telegraph Rajah Polachari at Madras date
when WW will be in New Delhi and Bombay
to ascertain if he will be in either place
during those days

Bombay -- 1 week

(Taj Mahal Hotel--See Taj Mahal here)

See Mrs. Krishna (Betty) Nehru Hutcheson
(sister of Nehru)

See Mahatma Gandhi at _____

Karachi -- See Negro troops here

Karachi to Basra or Baghdad to Tehran to Baku to
Moscow

(Cable Ambassador W. Averell Harriman date
of arrival in Moscow)

*WW Pacific Tour
McCloy*

April 10, 1945

Dear Mr. McCloy:

I am back in the United States after four very interesting months in the Pacific. I should like very much to discuss with you some of the good and some of the not so good situations which I found there. I would be happy to come to Washington at your convenience.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary.

Honorable John J. McCloy
Assistant Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

WW:DW

MARKED COPY

INTERRACIAL NEWS SERVICE

Published by

DEPARTMENT OF RACE RELATIONS, FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Gleanings from the press releases and other sources to inform busy people of some of the things affecting the lives of racial minorities and human relations. "We are all one in Christ Jesus."

The Material in the News Service is given for information and is not to be construed as declarations of official attitudes or policies of the Department of Race Relations or the Federal Council of Churches.

Vol. 16

Bi-Monthly, \$.50 a year

No. 3

May, 1945

*"Peace Will Come Only from Wanting What God Wants —
Namely, the Welfare of the Whole Human Family."*

Samuel McCrea Cavert

"My Friends."

As the voice of the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt was stilled on Thursday, April 12, in "the little White House" at Warm Springs, Georgia, there still echoed in the ears of the people of the country and the world those warm words, "My Friends," which for twelve years opened his radio fireside talks.

"My Friends" will carry the warmth and geniality and sincerity of this world leader as long as America holds before her the pattern of justice and goodwill to all men which he championed. As the world bows in humble reverence, and from time to time turns its eyes toward the rose-bordered crypt at Hyde Park, despite the turmoil of war and the struggle of lowly men to survive, there will forever resound in the hearts and minds of those who loved Mr. Roosevelt his understanding and concern for all who heard—and those who didn't listen—his "My Friends."

(The editors).

Tributes from the Negro Press

"The President Leaves a Legacy" is the title of double paragraphs of editorial tribute from the *Chicago Defender*. "Negro America joins with a saddened world to mourn the passing of a great humanitarian . . . If only for the beginning of the principle in government that racial discrimination in employment is illegal, President Roosevelt would live in history as a champion of Negro America . . . But America must go on to the promise of the future. President Roosevelt has opened the high road to us, lit the way, and now the people, the common men and women of this great country, must take up the challenge."

Pittsburg Courier: "How much of the interests, well-being and fate of the common people of the world were buried with Franklin Delano Roosevelt, only the future can tell . . . The gloom of personal bereavement darkened all lands where people aspire and yearn for a better world. The Chinese coolie in Asia as well as the millions of Hitler's slave laborers, were sustained and comforted in their hours of greatest tribulation by the hope he gave to the world."

Memorializing the President as "Frontline Casualty of World War II," the *Norfolk Journal and Guide* commented at length on his "twelve years of leadership unparalleled for daring and far-seeing statesmanship, vision and courage to follow that vision . . . Roosevelt came to the forefront in the dark days of domestic near-disintegration of 1932-33 and remained with us during and after the foreboding days of Munich and Pearl Harbor . . . A man who when believed himself to be right, disregarded precedent and political or personal risk and stirred and inspired his fellowmen both at home and abroad."

"Great Friend of Little Man" is the title of full columns review of the career of the fallen President in the *Kansas City Call* (early issue).

The East Tennessee News: "With the passing of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt minority racial groups suffer the loss of a noble champion of their cause . . ."

Baltimore Afro-American: "History will not withhold from Franklin Delano Roosevelt his high share of the credit for the triumph he almost witnessed (in the World War), nor his tremendous influence in charting the course for a lasting peace . . . He was a shatterer of precedents whose strength and stature increased with each obstacle that he overcame, each tradition which he pushed aside. He was a great liberal in thought and action, and his contributions to human welfare will be a lasting monument to his memory."

New York Amsterdam Star-News: "The words 'these are the times which try men's souls,' first written during the struggle for American independence, were written large before Franklin D. Roosevelt during his administration—first by the despair of depression and next by the long spectre of foreign aggression. He answered with a faith in the American people, and with a deep sense of the spiritual significance of being Chief Executive of one of the great nations of the earth. His was a boundless optimism which surmounted problems which appalled lesser men. He overwhelmed the chaos of economic depression in one grand purpose of serving 'the forgotten man.' He plugged gaps in employment, education, banking, social welfare, farming, trade unionism and industry; until, in spite of complaints and criticism America's faith in herself was restored."

People's Voice: "Within the memory of modern man there has been no greater fighter for exploited humanity . . . Mr. Roosevelt believed that the only way that democracy could work for any portion of the American people was to work for all the people . . . He refused to allow any balcony Caesar, paper hanger, or Japanese Fascist to deny any people anywhere their right to a full democracy. . . . The greatest monument to Franklin D. Roosevelt must be a people's peace, which must conform to the pattern laid down by our Commander-in-Chief."

In a telegram to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, signed by Mrs. Henry Hill Pierce, Co-Chairman, and Dr. George E. Haynes, Executive Secretary, Department of Race Relations of The Federal Council of Churches, official tribute was expressed in the words:

"We mourn the loss of President Roosevelt as friend and leader of the underprivileged and oppressed of every race and class in every land. We shall miss him in the struggle for real democracy at home and abroad. Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and family."

"He Will Not Die!"

"Franklin Delano Roosevelt is not dead. He has joined the immortals," wrote George E. Haynes in his column to the press on current interracial relations. "His words and deeds for the welfare of the common man will go down the road of time. He will not die!"

Dr. Haynes closes his review of highlights of the President's career in behalf of justice to races, by reprinting a letter "typical of the point of view and spirit of the man" which Mr. Roosevelt addressed last year to Bishop Henry St. George Tucker, then president of the Federal Council of Churches, at the dawn of the 22nd observance of Race Relations Sunday. The letter in full follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1944

My dear Bishop Tucker:

I am grateful for the opportunity to join with the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America in emphasizing the importance of the observance of Race Relations Sunday on February thirteenth.

At no time in the twenty-two years of the observance of this Day, dedicated to the Christian spirit in race relations, has its meaning been so significant to America and to mankind. The unity of the nations fighting for a free world includes men of every color and race.* The strength which this nation contributes to that unity depends at home on men of all races who are also all Americans.

Unfortunately, in this time when America requires greatness in its spirit, some of our citizens have betrayed our cause and damaged the world's respect for our faith by acts of violence and prejudice, bigotry and division. Such men miss the meaning of America as they are incapable of understanding the brotherhood of men in terms of divine teaching and democratic living. Some such men deserve our censure. Some are entitled to our contempt. All require the never-ceasing reiteration of the Christian and American faith in the dignity of all peoples and right of all men to equal treatment in this land and on the earth.

No institution can be more effective in the creation of the harmonious and warm-hearted relations of men of all races than the Christian Churches. I rejoice in your observance of Race Relations Sunday and take courage from the divine teachings that every day give emphasis to the spirit of brotherhood among men upon which our hopes for lasting peace beyond victory must depend.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Rt. Rev. St. George Tucker, D.D.
The Federal Council of the Churches of
Christ in America,

297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

(*Opening quotation of *Interracial News Service*, May 1944)

Out of the Churches Bias Disputes Mediated

The Open Door, an office of public service for the mediation of discrimination on grounds of race, nationality, religion or sex, is now functioning at the Community Church in New York City, of which Dr. John Haynes Holmes is minister. It is sponsored by 22 Protestant ministers and Jewish rabbis. (*N. Y. World-Telegram*, April 10).

Maryland Churches Rebuke Jim-Crow Laws

Representatives of Maryland churches have joined with leaders of civic and labor groups to urge the judiciary committee of the legislature to work for the repeal of Jimcrow laws in the state. (*Christian Century*, April 11).

Bishop McConnell Re-Activated

When Methodist law last year forced the retirement of Bishop Francis J. McConnell from his duties as a bishop, no one expected to see him withdraw from the national scene. Nor has he . . . Through the Workers Defense League, one of the many bodies through which he has long worked for social justice, he is at work on the case of terrorization of Negroes in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His memorandum about the case charges that the sheriff in this Florida community arrested and fined without trial more than 49 Negroes, most of them for refusing to work for the low wages offered at jobs on local truck farms or along the waterfront. Under Florida law a sheriff is allowed 100 per cent of all fines collected up to \$5,000 a year; 60 per cent of the next \$3,000 and 30 per cent of the next \$2,000. "The most amazing thing about this story," writes the bishop, "is that it could, and did, happen in the United States." Attempts by local groups in Florida and by the federal department of justice to secure indictments have so far failed. But Bishop McConnell has not dropped the fight. He is out now rallying support for another effort to make the constitution provision against "involuntary servitude" as applicable in this Florida city as in the rest of the United States. (*Christian Century*, April 11).

Dayton Church Federation Does Not Sit Down

After investigation of a local sit-down strike against the employment of two Negro women, the Race Relations Committee of the Church Federation of Dayton and Montgomery County, Ohio, interviewed the strikers and sent an open letter to the press, March 27, which said in part:

"Because two Negro women, one of them the wife of a soldier in the U. S. Army, have been employed by the Kurtz-Kasch Company, a sit-down strike was staged by white employees of the department to which the two women were assigned. The strike has since spread to other departments of the plant . . .

" . . . All good Americans should deplore this stoppage of essential war production. The Church leaders of Dayton especially deplore the fact that this work stoppage was caused by an un-Christian attitude toward members of a minority group . . .

"The personnel of the local governmental agencies are to be commended for their referral of qualified workers. The new employees are to be commended for their poise and self-control in a tense situation. The company should be commended for its published announcement that striking employees will lose jobs, seniority, and job referral unless they return to work.

"The Negro community should be commended for exercising restraint that has prevented incidents which might have led to open violence . . .

"If a minority's right to work, conditioned only by willingness and ability to work, can be threatened because of the color of the skin, then all the rights of labor are threatened." . . .

The Church Federation "feels that the moral influence of religion was at least partially responsible for the effect that the community retained its poise and balance throughout the entire situation".

Labor Award to Church Leader

The Rev. James Myers, Industrial Secretary of The Federal Council of Churches and author of *Do You Know Labor?*, known for his efforts to secure equal justice for all races, was chosen to receive the Workers' Defense League Award for "distinguished service in behalf of labor's rights."

Mr. Myers' activities include work for continuance of the FEPC Federal; an investigation of racial discrimination in employment by the Philadelphia Transit Company and appearance at mass meetings demanding elimination of this discrimination; long active support of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, which unites colored and white sharecroppers in fighting for their rights. (From *Associated Negro Press* release). According to the Workers Defense League, Mr. Myers is the first churchman to receive the WDL award which has been given since 1941. (Eds.)

* * *

American Indians — Not Vocal But Vital

(Cullings from *Indians at Work*)

The National Congress of American Indians

Although attended by little fanfare, it was an event of historic importance when some 80 delegates representing over 30 Indian tribes of the United States assembled together in Denver, Colorado, from November 15 to 18, 1944, to form the National Congress of American Indians . . . The Convention was called by the Indians themselves and . . . had full participation of all the delegates . . . The purposes for which the Congress was formed are found in the preamble to the Constitution unanimously adopted by the Convention, as follows:

"We, the members of Indian Tribes of the United States of America in convention assembled on the 16th day of November, 1944, at Denver, Colorado, in order to secure to ourselves and our descendants the rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws of the United States the several states thereof, and the territory of Alaska; to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian race; to preserve Indian cultural values; to seek an equitable adjustment of tribal affairs; to secure and to preserve rights under Indian treaties with the United States; and otherwise to promote the common welfare of the American Indians—do establish this organization and adopt its Constitution and By-Laws."

. . . Through an organization national in scope, with membership limited to persons of Indian ancestry, Indians will have an opportunity to speak for themselves, work for themselves and to assume responsibilities in areas where this has not been possible heretofore. (Lois E. Harlin, delegate to the National Convention).

— — —

An Indian Farm Cooperative

Only a few years ago a supervisor reported on a small band of Kootenai Indians, up in Northern Idaho, as "the most ignorant, obstinate and non-progressive of any in the entire Northwest." . . . Today these same Indians live in decent cottages, have sanitary sewage; at the end of the 1943 farming year they had 385 acres in crops; they sold agricultural products valued at over \$10,500 and consumed for home use products valued at \$500. Their farming and livestock expenses amounted to over \$4,100 and their net income for the year was nearly \$7,000. Of the money expended, \$1,700 was paid to their own people for labor.

These changes came about after attempts on the part of the Indian Service (Government) to teach them accepted methods of farming, which in the beginning met with indifference. Organization of the "Better Times Club" was the result of this cooperative farm effort.

Recently a supervisor said of the Kootenai Indians, "They are a very thrifty and industrious group and work well together."

— — —

Use of Indian Manpower

During last summer, the Office of Indian Affairs undertook inquiry into the utilization of Indian manpower in the United States and Alaska . . . From 65 jurisdictions of the Indian Service in the United States and Alaska, reports indicate that approximately 23,000 Indian young men are now in the armed forces, 7 per cent of the total Indian population in the United States. No account is taken of the large number rejected or discharged from the armed forces for various reasons, such as illiteracy, inaptitude, physical handicaps or disease. In addition, 800 Indian young women are serving in the WACs, the WAVEs and other services.

In 1943 more than 46,000 Indians left the reservations to obtain employment for varying periods. It is estimated that they earned over \$40,000,000. The same year 22,192 Indians were employed in agriculture, herding, picking cotton; 24,122 non-agricultural laborers in airplane factories, shipyards, railroads, mines, canneries, sawmills, etc. Indians have proved to be satisfactory railroad workers, and many railway maintenance crews are composed almost entirely of Indians. Indian girls and women have been in demand for household work and as waitresses in restaurants and hotels; they have made a favorable record as nurses and nurses' aids. (Dover P. Trent, Supervisor of Extension and Credit, Office of Indian Affairs).

— — —

"Don't Fence Them In!"

While various estimates have been made as to the proportion of Indians who will return to reservation areas following the war, the consensus is that a majority will return at least for a limited period. Reasons are:

The desire to see family, friends, and home; security—tenure on and tilling of the soil; dislike of tensions and competitions in urban areas; tribal affairs—vested interests on certain reservations; employment in the Indian Service with some measure of security offered by wages and living quarters; proposed postwar programs of the Indian Bureau which seem to offer a new W.P.A.

Among the reasons for the return to the reservation being only temporary for a relatively large number of Indians, especially those who have had training for specific jobs are: Good wages and good living; younger educated group trained in skills such as aircraft, automotive, smelting, radio, etc. will remain outside the reservations; growing unrest among people as to outmoded restraint of tribal life; only another depression will bring them back to their pensioned parents. (*News Letter*, National Fellowship of Indian Workers).

* * *

West Coasters Homecoming

(From *Pacific Citizen*, Salt Lake City)

"U. S. Should Pay," Says California Senate

The California State Senate's local government committee adopted recently a resolution calling on the Federal government to assume full financial responsibility for the return of persons of Japanese ancestry to California. Senator Ed Fletcher of San Diego, author of the resolution, cited War Relocation Authority figures reportedly showing 55 per cent of the adult Japanese population are indigents and likely to become public charges on their return to California. "I believe it is the duty of the United States government," Fletcher declared, "to pay any and all costs of the counties or the state caused by their return."