

3 AFRICAN LEADERS ASSAIL GEN. SMUTS

Here to Enlist U. N.'s Support Against Annexation Plan, They Score Racial Bias

Organizations of American Negroes and persons of other races sympathetic with the political and social causes of non-white peoples of the Union of South Africa tendered a reception yesterday to three South African leaders.

The three were Dr. A. B. Xuma, president of the African National Congress; H. M. Basner, a member of the South African Senate for Africans in the Transvaal and Orange Free State Provinces, and H. A. Naidoo, leader of the Natal Indian Congress. They came to New York recently to place before the United Nations a protest against the move by the Union of South Africa to annex the mandated territory of South West Africa.

The reception was held at 23 West Twenty-sixth Street and sponsored by the Council on African Affairs, of which Dr. Max Yergan is executive director and Paul Robeson, singer, is chairman. Persons attending were representative of virtually all sections of American Negro opinion and included leaders of the National Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Academy of African Arts and Research.

Dr. Xuma described himself as "the unofficial representative of 8,000,000 Africans, here to oppose the aims and designs of General the aims and designs" of Prime Minister Jan Christiaan Smuts of the Union of South Africa, who, Dr. Xuma added, represents only the 2,000,000 Europeans in the Union.

The presence of the Indian representatives was called "symbolic of the union of the oppressed." Mr. Naidoo, and other Indian delegates who came to attend sessions of the United Nations said they were in agreement on two questions affecting South Africa—"the treatment of the South African Indians" and "General Smuts' move to take in the mandated territories of South West Africa."

Mr. Naidoo declared that the problems of Africans, Indians and Euro-Africans were the same. "That this policy [of discrimination] should be justified in the name of Christian civilization is at once an indication of the degradingly low level to which statesmanship has sunk in South Africa," he commented.

Mr. Naidoo, who was described as prominent in the Indian passive-resistance movement in South Africa, asserted that "the age of white domination in South Africa and elsewhere is over."

Mr. Basner, who called himself "a political middleman to represent the Africans in their dealings with the white leaders, as required by the sort of Government we have," criticized General Smuts for "being prepared to argue that South Africa is a democratic country."