

AFRICAN LEADER TO VISIT ASSEMBLY

Native Physician to Represent His People Unofficially in Fight on Color Bar

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PRETORIA, South Africa, Oct. 21—While Prime Minister Jan Christiaan Smuts is traveling to New York to represent 2,000,000 white South Africans in the United Nations' General Assembly, Alfred Bitini Xuma left Johannesburg today as the unofficial representative of more than 8,000,000 natives. He claims that Marshal Smuts cannot represent his people since they enjoy no rights of citizenship.

Dr. Xuma is going for "seven weeks' recuperative vacation." He explained that on any other plea a passport might have been refused. "I gave an undertaking," he added, "that I would not engage in political activities while abroad."

Dr. Xuma, a physician, is the president-general of the African Congress and chairman of the Anti-Pass League (members of colored races in this country cannot circulate without passes). An alumnus of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Xuma studied medicine at Northwestern University and ranks high among educated Negroes here.

Public opinion feels that the Assembly may mark a turning-point in what is bitterly termed South African "pigmentocracy," under which, it is charged, the color of one's skin determines one's rights. Dr. John Reuling, a representative of the American Board of Missions, has just declared after a comprehensive survey that "from the Equator southward there is a terrific ferment among the African peoples; it is more serious than many realize."

According to information here, Marshal Smuts will press for prompt action by the Assembly on the incorporation of former German Southwest Africa into the Union of South Africa, since heavy parliamentary commitments and a royal visit will necessitate his presence in this country for the first six months of next year. He will insist that the "Indian ghetto law" is a purely domestic matter and therefore not within the United Nations' cognizance.

Yet objective observers here realize that it will be difficult to avoid the injection of the color bar that admittedly now marks a dividing line between Conservatives and Liberals. The issue will decide the next parliamentary election, it is believed.

The Nationalist opposition convention has just ended in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State took the stand that "the time has come for a showdown on the color question." The African Congress under Dr. Xuma is pledged to fight for "full citizenship rights."

Spokesmen for the South African Indians intend to have their say also. Elections to the Transvaal Indian Congress yesterday resulted in the progressives' total triumph over the moderates favoring a compromise settlement. This gives a fillip to the passive-resistance movement, which has decided to hold a day of prayer and demonstrations on Wednesday, when the Assembly opens.

Incorporation Challenged

South Africa's campaign to incorporate the mandated territory of Southwest Africa was challenged yesterday by the Council on African Affairs, which accused the Pretoria regime of "coercion and discrimination" against native peoples.

Charging that the South African Government had misrepresented native opinion in the mandate, the council declared that tribal councils that voted for incorporation had been conducted "in the utmost secrecy, under questionable circumstances, and with the complete ex-

clusion of non-governmental observers." South African spokesmen's claim that native polls showed tribesmen "overwhelmingly" in favor of incorporation was denounced by the council as "one-sided and distorted 'justification' of the annexation request."

According to the council, "the own South African sources reported that only meager information was trickling through on the character of the Government's survey. There was little attempt to take the issue to the people, the council said.

The council has adopted a resolution calling on the Assembly to reject the request for incorporation and to place Southwest Africa under the Trusteeship Council. It has also asked that the people of the mandated territories have the right to be heard in drawing the trusteeship agreements and that trusteeships lead to full independence.

The council is an American organization with headquarters at 23 West Twenty-sixth Street. Headed by Paul Robeson, it has Negro and white members and has taken an active part in fostering African welfare and "freedom" movements and in disseminating information on the continent and its peoples.