

EXCISE 3

REVIEWED BY DSW DATE 9/3/85

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CLASSIFY TYPE IN THIS SPACE

REASON(S) (Example: Class/Case)

ENDORSE EXISTING FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

01.611/10-632

DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE

RELEASE DENIED FROM PA OF FOI EXEMPTIONS

EMBASSY, Buenos Aires, Argentina DESP. NO. 406

October 6, 1952

REF :

18 For Dept. Use Only 18	ACTION IPB*	DEPT. I N O	ARA OLI I IRS IFI BY PD	Received from the State Department Initial and initials
	REC'D OCT 9	OTHER		Date <u>10-25-52</u>

SUBJECT: Josephine Baker - Press Interviews in Buenos Aires

Of possible interest to the Department, Embassy is attaching representative clippings of a series of local press interviews with Josephine Baker, presently in Buenos Aires for a two-week engagement at a local film and vaudeville theatre.

Representing herself as a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, (a group to which - as all government dailies point out - Ralph Bunche also belongs), Miss Baker delivered a series of detailed and impassioned accounts of race prejudice in the United States, all of which have been given dramatic play by most newspapers in Buenos Aires. Evening daily "Critica" has presented the interview in a series of five chapters to date. Among quotes attributed to Miss Baker are the following:

"I will not cease (in my mission) to awaken the conscience of the world against the gravity and urgency of the problem. Above all, because I know that now is the moment to strike at the heart. As you know, the persecution of my race in the United States, and considerably less in South Africa, has been renewed in a most alarming degree since the relative respite during the second World War. Lynchings, condemnations without trial, electrocutions, are dealt out coldly to negroes in order to foment the climate of racial violence. These are the order of the day. In the country where I was born they continue to speak of 'democracy' and of 'civilization' while negroes are sent to die in Korea in the same miserable way as they are treated in the Yankee south."

"There are many, very many people, who, with the greatest naivete, look upon the United States as a model. It is necessary to open their eyes."

"Let me recall to the inhabitants of Latin America the card placed in the books in Texas; until yesterday a Mexican State but later appropriated with blood and fire by the Yankees: 'This is a clean establishment and neither negroes nor Mexicans are admitted.'"

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Desp. No. 405
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CONFIDENTIAL
ESPIONAGE

"What does the famous statue of Liberty represent? Where is the democracy about which so many North Americans speak with conviction?The people in the United States who struggle against race prejudice and for justice live in terror."

On days subsequent to the interview Miss Baker paid tribute to Eva Peron at a meeting with General Confederation of Labor and made a personal call on Señor Raul Alejandro Apold, Subsecretary of Information.

She has been acclaimed by the local press as "Queen of African Rhythms" and "Venus of Ebony".

Barbara Atkins

Barbara Atkins
Assistant Press Attaché

Attachment:
1 envelope containing clippings

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REVIEWED BY *OSW* DATE *9/3/65*

CONFIDENTIAL
(Security Classification)

811.411/11-6-52

PDS or XDS EXT. DATE
BY AUTH. PERSON(S)
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASE BY: Buenos Aires, Argentina 567

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IA. or IDOI EXEMPTIONS DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 6, 1952
DATE

REF :

18 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	OLI IBS IFI IPS SY PD					Received from the State Department
	REC'D	IN F O	OTHER	Date				UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
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SUBJECT: Josephine Baker - Lecture Series in Buenos Aires

For the Department's information, Mission attaches sample clippings from local dailies which reported the first of Josephine Baker's series of three lectures on racial and religious discrimination to be delivered before public gatherings in Buenos Aires. Admission to these lectures is free although it has been reported to Mission that tickets from the Subsecretariat of Information must be obtained before entrance actually is granted.

Miss Baker delivered her opening discourse on Tuesday, November 4, the evening following her benefit performance at the Teatro Colon for the Eva Peron Monument fund. The speech was delivered by Miss Baker in English and simultaneously translated into Spanish by interpreter Julio Cesar Barton.

Embassy officer who attempted to attend the lecture given at Teatro Odeon reported that although the theatre itself was not over-filled, its entrance was crowded with would-be attenders who were not permitted to enter without tickets, obtainable at the Subsecretariat of Information. (Although all local dailies had announced previously that entrance would be "absolutely free", they neglected to publish the information that it was necessary first to obtain tickets from the Subsecretariat.) Embassy Officer attending reports that among those denied admission to Miss Baker's lecture was a group of negroes who complained about being barred from entrance while the audience was filled with white citizens.

Typical headlines of dailies reporting Miss Baker's speech is Democracia's "There is no Civilization where the Spirit of the Ku Klux Klan is latent, Said Josephine Baker" and El Mundo's "It is Not Wise to Trust North American Promises Says Josephine Baker". The following are translated excerpts taken from the complete text of Miss Baker's speech as published by El Mundo.

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Page 1 of 1
End No. 727
Dep. No. 367

From Buenos Aires

CONFIDENTIAL

El Mundo is emphasized by being set in large capital letters, reads, in translation as follows: "While the North American army needs us, (the United States) smiles and makes promises. But when we are no longer necessary, it humbles us and reveals that it feels no great love for us. This proves that it is not wise to trust in North American promises."

Miss Baker terminated her remarks with the statement: "This is the same thing that happened with the liberation of the slaves."

Barbara Aitken

Barbara Aitken
Assistant Press Attaché

Attachments:
4 newspaper clippings

BA/wc

CONFIDENTIAL

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ENCLOSURE (7)

CONFIDENTIAL
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

THIS SPACE
NOV 13 1952

Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

November 13, 1952

Embassy's Despatch 567, November 6, 1952

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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REVIEWED BY *DSW* 9/3/85
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 DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
 RELEASE DENIED (P.M.)
 PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS 55204(7)(C)

Local Press Treatment - Josephine Baker's Speech

Concluding a series of three public conferences presented on November 4, 5 and 6 to audiences in Buenos Aires, Josephine Baker spoke on the subject: "Why Non-Race Discriminating Countries Should Join the Crusade for the Liberation of Humanity".

As previously announced by many local dailies, the subjects to be included in this terminating discourse were the following: "The Octopus and Race Discrimination"; "Experience in Brazil"; "Influence of the Press"; "Negro Armies and White Armies"; "Loyalty of the Negro in the War"; "White Actors Imitate the Negroes"; "The Ku Klux Klan"; "Associations Against Race Discrimination". According to advance notices, Miss Baker also planned to discuss the irritation of the North American press resulting from her visit with President Peron.

Although not all of Miss Baker's proposed subjects of discussion were dealt with in detail, the following translation of excerpts from the speech as published in El Mundo indicates the subjects which were given particular emphasis:

"Racial and religious discrimination is like an octopus which releases a black liquid to conceal itself....to give you an idea as to how the octopus functions, I will tell you that I was in Brazil some months ago....There I found a fantastic change...The great buildings which circled the beach of Copacabana did not impress me...and that was my first impression of North American influence...The second was the reaction of some of the people with whom I had contact in relation to my crusade. I sensed a resistance and a fear when I told them of discrimination in North America....

"I was in Montevideo a month ago....I realized that an organization was also necessary there. The situation is not against negroes but against the Jews, which I consider equally hateful and attack with equal strength, since they, too, are our brothers.

NOV 13 1952

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67 DEC 23 1952

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Fr. Louis Alton

"I found that the greater part of the (Uruguayan) press is a bit hostile and fears to speak about my organization, because it is based on the problem of discrimination which exists especially in North America. Upon my arrival in Montevideo, the press was very kind to me, but after my speeches, only one newspaper dared to publish my discourse, and they told me that they had received a friendly visit from the American Embassy requesting them not to publish it. Of course this did not stop them (the one newspaper) but you understand what I mean concerning the influence of the press".

Turning to a discussion of World War II during the North African campaign, Miss Baker continued: "I personally hoped that by aiding the North Americans in this war, my people would never again suffer from discrimination....I was stunned to realize that the same people with whom and for whom we were fighting would use us for their own ends..."

"Ladies and gentlemen, we, the Free French, lacked uniforms and, while the Yankees held the gold of France under their control, we, the Free French who fought by their side, struggled for sheer idealism, with empty stomachs, without shoes for our feet. Our soldiers did not receive their pay for months and months..We were considered the poor relations. They accused us and they needed us desperately because this war was to save Wall Street from a crash like that of 1929....

"We, the Free French, had discarded all material thoughts, we were fighting for an ideal....In our ranks we saw men from Argentina, Brazil and many parts of the world...They knew that that meant sacrifice, while North America was calculating how much money it could get out of the war".

Miss Baker continued her speech with references to situations involving the negro actor Canada Lee, Willie McGee, and W.C. Handy, a negro composer who was allegedly unable to obtain hotel lodging in St. Louis, and a criticism of the activities of the Ku Klux Klan. She concluded:

"At this moment in North America I am branded...because I have the courage to speak of the atrocities resulting from race and religious discrimination.

"In the white newspapers of that country, there is hardly ever anything printed about negroes. But I am the latest news. I am the traitress; I am the undesirable. According to the newspapers they are taking measures to prohibit my entry to North America. I hope they know that none of those threats can prevent my carrying on my trust

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until all men are equal...and although they can prevent my entry into their country, they will not stop my activities as long as there are those who need me....

"In North America I am considered the mouthpiece of President Peron. I would consider this a great honor if it were true; but since I am not aware of what the President thinks or says, it would not be easy for me to be his instrument' as they say. Besides, I believe that President Peron is loved and respected by his people for having ideas and his own beliefs.

"Upon hearing that for the first time, I was surprised..it even shocked me. But since then I have come to the conclusion that the thing which has most inflamed North America is not my campaign against discrimination but my being here in Argentina. North America will not pardon me for having visited this country, for admiring it and its people and its leader. She (North America) is trying to deceive you in the same way that she is deceiving so many innocent people of the world with her falsehoods....

"Every day I receive articles published in North American newspapers which angrily attack me. Every time I realize with greater clarity that it is not only for my claims against discrimination, because I have said these same things in other countries and in North America itself. It was precisely when I arrived in Argentina that the bomb exploded. It seems as though I have committed a terrible crime in coming here and in being received affectionately by President Peron and by the Argentine people... I committed the unpardonable crime of leaving flowers before the image of Señora Peron and of visiting the works of the Foundation....What most infuriated them was my visit to the social works of Señora Peron and my having signed the book of gold with the words 'Your Sister'. Ladies and Gentlemen, for the North Americans that was the crime of the year."

Miss Baker concluded her discourse with the naming of the following countries where her Association presently exists: Scandinavian countries, Italy, Mexico, North America, Japan, Cuba, Haiti, Brazil, France, Uruguay, Johannesburg, South Africa. She said she hoped a new branch would be established in Buenos Aires.

Although El Mundo printed Miss Baker's speech in full, most dailies (with the exception of the two English-language papers and Nacion, which did not carry it at all) published extracts. Singled out for particular emphasis were Miss Baker's remarks about the attitude of the United States toward her visit in Argentina and her comment about the possibility of a prohibition being put upon her entry into the United States. Epoca headlined its report of November 8 "Yankee Ambassador Inhibited Uruguayan Newspapers From Mentioning Josephine Baker" a Speecher".

El Lider

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El Lider and other government dailies published a Friday Press dispatch detailing Washington which reported an alleged declaration by an unidentified member of the U.S. Justice Department to a Friday Press correspondent indicating that Miss Baker's case was under study. All dailies publishing this dispatch, added as Miller's State editorializing on the alleged injustice of the Department of Justice action in not allowing Miss Baker to return "to her own country" because, according to these dailies, "she did not submit to the tyranny of the whites". Charlie Chaplin's case was also mentioned in this connection.

The English-language Buenos Aires Harald is the only newspaper to date which has published a Reuter's (erroneously attributed to United Press) report of Representative Adam Clayton Powell's comment to the effect that if it were true that Miss Baker had made statements attributed to her, he would ask that she should not be allowed to re-enter the United States.

Coincident with the reporting of Miss Baker's conferences, La Esfera Daily La Esfera bitterly attacked local independent daily La Nacion on the grounds that its ignoring of Miss Baker, her visit to Argentina and her conferences, constituted another proof of La Nacion's foreign domination.

Copy of El Mundo's report of Miss Baker's latest discourse is attached.

Barbara Athan
Barbara Athan
Assistant Press Attache

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SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

According to Robert C. Ruark's column which appeared in the "Washington Daily News" on October 10, 1952, Baker in Buenos Aires, after visiting President Juan Peron, President of Argentina, had indorsed such quotations which appeared in "Critica," Buenos Aires newspaper as: "The persecutions are more shocking than before World War II with lynchings, condemnations without trial and electrocutions the order of the day." To this Ruark commented "She is speaking of America. How she would know about pre-World War II is rather baffling since she lived abroad and was wed to a series of Frenchmen."

Ruark's column also attributed the following remarks to Baker:

"White men prate of democracy and civilization and send the Negroes to die in Korea. In this horror of discrimination, where is democracy?"

"In America they hunt Christ with a gun and hang him from a tree."

"I have personally seen many lynchings and much brutality. The horror of seeing men, women and children killed like animals will never fade from my mind."

"I was terrorized on my last trip home. They wouldn't let me live in peace. My brother-in-law stumbled into a white man whose son complained 'Daddy, you promised me I could kill the next black I saw.'"

Ruark further stated that Baker was quoted as having read the series in "Critica" and as having said "It's all unfortunately absolutely true."

For your information, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] there is attached dated October 30, [REDACTED]

hereto a copy of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] 1952, at New York, New York in the case entitled [REDACTED] (100-392496-5)

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
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The foregoing information is being furnished as the result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance. It is for your confidential information and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency.

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RESTRICTED (Security Classification) DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

511,411/10-2052
IR: U32 Baker, Josephine

FROM: AMEMBASSY, Buenos Aires, Argentina
TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. October 20, 1952
REF: Embassy's Despatch 406, October 6, 1952

41 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
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al	REC'D OCT 27	OTHER

Received from the State Department through Liaison channels Date 11-3-52

SUBJECT: Recent Local Reporting - Josephine Baker Interviews

For the Department's information, Mission is attaching sample clippings from local dailies which published Josephine Baker's open letter to U.S. correspondent Herbert Clark after publication of his article about her in a recent edition of the New York Daily News.

In connection with the letter, addressed to Mr. Clark and signed by Miss Baker, "Democracia", "Critica", "La Epoca" and "Noticias Graficas" described Mr. Clark's article as an attack against Miss Baker and commented editorially with the supposition that Miss Baker's comments in earlier interviews (despatch 406 of October 6th) had aroused an angry reaction in the United States which was spearheaded in Argentina by correspondent Clark. Also widely quoted by local dailies were Miss Baker's comments bitterly criticizing Mr. Clark, an Argentine correspondent who was said to have accompanied Mr. Clark, and race discrimination in the United States in general. A translation of her published letter to Mr. Clark reads, in part, as follows:

"You are a typical scandal monger. You are the type of person who fights to prevent the people from joining hands in friendship...you are of the species which criticizes other countries and sends falsehoods about them to the United States...You well know that in the United States negroes are the object of threats and intimidations and that people of the white race who fight for our cause are the victims of terrorist acts. None theless I can tell you, Mr. Clark, and all who want to hear it, that negroes are no longer afraid. I have been telling the truth about race discrimination in the United States but now that you have attacked me in your articles, I propose to tell the absolute truth about the horrors and the atrocities which occur there and which are directed against all those who try to defend human rights...Those who attacked people like Barry Gray and Pearl Bailey, Mr. Clark, are living proof that North American democracy is a farce."

Accompanying the publication of Miss Baker's letter were reports of a protest from an organization called "Accion Incoamericana de la Republica Argentina" which expressed its support of Miss Baker's denunciation and suggested that journalists like Mr. Clark and his Argentine companion should be not allowed to remain in Argentina.

REVIEWED BY DW DATE 8/29/85
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From Buenos Aires.

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The Argentine Communist weekly "Propositos", which appeared before Miss Baker's denunciation of Mr. Clark, features a front page photograph of Miss Baker with an article headlined "The Great Negro Artist Issues a Call for the Unity of People". After a flattering description of Miss Baker's personal appearance, the author of this account reports that Miss Baker in an interview had expressed her intention to deliver three speeches. One was to be on the subject of race discrimination, another upon religion and culture, and a third on the urgent need for the people to join together in a spirit of unity and fraternity.

Barbara Aitken
Barbara Aitken
Assistant Press Attaché

Enclosure:
One envelope containing clippings

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AIR FORCE

CONFIDENTIAL
(Security Classification)

TYPE IN THIS SPACE

10-1552

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

EMBASSY, Buenos Aires, Argentina

DESP. NO.

October 15, 1952

DATE

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

Received from the State Department
through Liaison channels

Embassy's Despatch 406, October 6

Date 10-24-52

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SUBJECT: Josephine Baker - Anti-Race Prejudice Organization

It has been reported to Mission that Josephine Baker, now terminating a two-week engagement in Buenos Aires (see reference despatch) plans to return to Argentina within three months to establish and direct an anti-race prejudice organization in Latin America, with headquarters in Buenos Aires.

When and if there is verification of this report, Mission will advise the Department.

2 J. Baker
W. B. R.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/KR

REVIEWED BY DSW DATE 8/29/85

FOIA EXEMPTIONS: b1, b2, b3, b7C, b7D

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Barbara Aitken
Barbara Aitken
Assistant Press Attaché

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DATE 11/3/85

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FOR THE DIRECTOR (Secretary Classification)

REMOVAL OF EXISTING MARKINGS
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TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 21, 1952

REF: Subj. 406, Oct. 6, Det. 477, Oct. 20, and Digital 224, Oct. 23

41 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION MFA+	DEPT.	N EUR OL I RES IFI UNA IFS EUR/Y SY PD VD									
	REC'D OCT 30	I N F O	Received from the State Department through channels Date <u>11-6-52</u>									

SUBJECT: Local Press Comment - Josephine Baker's Speech on Racial Discrimination Before Japan & Community in Buenos Aires

For the Department's information, a copy is attached of a sample clipping of local press reports on Josephine Baker's latest speech in Buenos Aires on the subject of racial and religious discrimination. Delivered to "a selected group of Japanese living in Buenos Aires and a number of Argentine intellectuals and professionals", Miss Baker's discourse was quoted in part by virtually all government-controlled Buenos Aires dailies and in full by evening daily critica of October 23.

Translated, Miss Baker's speech reads in part as follows:

"As you well know, I am dedicating my life to the struggle for the rights of human beings, be they black or white, because I do not believe in the superiority of the white race or in the superiority of the negro race.... I believe that you will agree with me that it is essential that the white and black races be united in brotherhood, but more especially that the colored people of the world be united so that they can recover their confidence in themselves—that confidence which they are rapidly losing because they have been told they are inferior...

"I believe that the white race is aware of the persecution of their colored brothers in all parts of the world and that their good hearts may bring them to their rescue. If everyone joins together against the horrible injustice, the situation of the world will change rapidly....

"I remember that at the beginning of the last war, France had no particular reason to go to war with Germany; but when she was informed of the atrocities and injustices committed against Jews, negroes and other innocent (victims) of the white race, the spirit of fraternity, equality and liberty lifted her to the point of arms and she pledged herself to join the crusade to save the ideals and justice of the world. I am with her, and I will again be with her should it be necessary because she is for us, she is standing and fortitude must protect our weaker brothers....

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Date _____
From Buenos Aires

"If the people of North America and South Africa and other countries where racial and religious discrimination exists would take the bull by the horns and pass a law against it, I believe that discrimination would disappear immediately.

"If, on the contrary, men continue not taking this problem seriously, someday they will be suffocated by the monster of hatred. When people are aroused there are no limits to their vengeance.

"God has given to you and to me this mission...When a man is gravely ill and the doctor discovers that an operation can save his life, the doctor operates. The man may suffer by this operation but his life is saved. Thus it is with our struggle in many parts of the world where discrimination exists. We must at times hurt the people in order to save them.

"When I reflect on the situation in South Africa and other countries where race discrimination has been transplanted and above all on the situation in North America - I tremble with horror. I can very well understand why some negroes hate their white brothers...

"I want to tell you about my experience in San Francisco, California, one of the many cities in North America where discrimination exists. Let us speak of the situation of the yellow race, a situation which is deplorable.

"When I went to Los Angeles and San Francisco, I put myself at the disposition of the NAACP and of the Urban Legion. These organizations are fighting to obtain civil rights for the colored people.

"We went to banks, to large stores, hospitals, radio studios, television studios, railroad companies, breweries, restaurants and hotels, and we requested better work, better salaries and better social conditions. We requested that they return to the Japanese the businesses which had been confiscated after Pearl Harbor. Speaking of the Japanese, let us turn to a tragic situation.

"After Pearl Harbor, the Japanese were placed in concentration camps or were ordered to leave the country. Their businesses were confiscated. Some were so panicked that they sold them for almost nothing. These businesses represented a lifetime of struggle and work. All disappeared within a few hours. Some Japanese gave their businesses, their homes and their furniture to their negro brothers because they preferred that they benefit by the ownership of their possessions than that the white people should profit by them...

"The order was to leave the only home they knew, the only country they knew and the only language they knew..."

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The next four paragraphs of Miss Baker's speech describe the "hated, confused, miserable, humble and profoundly sad" situation of the Japanese in the United States during the war years, and conclude with her description of the ways in which the white citizens of the United States would occasionally allow a Japanese actor, painter or artist ("not more than one or two in a generation") to attain limited success "as a pacification" because "the whites know that a little would calm the Japanese race and the white race could continue being master."

Miss Baker continued: "This same system is being employed with the negroes, Hindus, Indians and other colored races who live in North America...."

"It is for this reason that I am calling for unity of all the colored people of the world to regain their dignity and their self-confidence, I am also calling upon our white brothers to join us.. in proving to those who believe that the colored race is inferior...that all men are equal... that there is but one race, the human race."

Miss Baker concluded her remarks with the announcement that she will go to Japan in April or May for the official inauguration of the World Cultural Association Against Racial and Religious Differentiations. To supply the necessary financial backing of this organization, Miss Baker announced that she would perform in fifteen recitals, proceeds from which would be given to the organization's fund.

Before leaving Buenos Aires, it is anticipated that Miss Baker will give additional lectures on race discrimination, and the pattern which she has established indicates a likelihood that the treatment of Latin American minorities (Puerto Ricans, Mexicans) in certain sections of the United States may be the subject of some of them.

Since Miss Baker is presently a citizen of France, an information copy of this despatch is being sent to our Embassy in Paris.

Barbara Aitken
Barbara Aitken
Assistant Press Attaché

cc: Tokyo and Paris

[Handwritten initials]

Attachments:
Newspaper clippings

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE (7)

CONFIDENTIAL	THIS SPACE
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH	NOV 13 1952
Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina	

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C. November 13, 1952
 Embassy's Despatch 567, November 6, 1952 DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

ACTION	DEPT.	REVIEWED BY
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Local Press Treatment - Josephine Baker's Speech		ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>
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		PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS 55204(7)(C)

Concluding a series of three public conferences presented on November 4, 5 and 6 to audiences in Buenos Aires, Josephine Baker spoke on the subject: "Why Non-Race Discriminating Countries Should Join the Crusade for the Liberation of Humanity".

As previously announced by many local dailies, the subjects to be included in this terminating discourse were the following: "The Octopus and Race Discrimination"; "Experience in Brazil"; "Influence of the Press"; "Negro Armies and White Armies"; "Loyalty of the Negro in the War"; "White Actors Imitate the Negroes"; "The Ku Klux Klan"; "Associations Against Race Discrimination". According to advance notices, Miss Baker also planned to discuss the irritation of the North American press resulting from her visit with President Peron.

Although not all of Miss Baker's proposed subjects of discussion were dealt with in detail, the following translation of excerpts from the speech as published in El Mundo indicates the subjects which were given particular emphasis:


"Racial and religious discrimination is like an octopus which releases a black liquid to conceal itself....to give you an idea as to how the octopus functions, I will tell you that I was in Brazil some months ago....There I found a fantastic change...The great buildings which circled the beach of Copacabana did not impress me...and that was my first impression of North American influence...The second was the reaction of some of the people with whom I had contact in relation to my crusade. I sensed a resistance and a fear when I told them of discrimination in North America....

"I was in Montevideo a month ago....I realized that an organization was also necessary there. The situation is not against negroes but against the Jews, which I consider equally hateful and attack with equal strength, since they, too, are our brothers.

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"I found that the greater part of the (Uruguayan) press is a bit hostile and fears to speak about my organization, because it is based on the problem of discrimination which exists especially in North America. Upon my arrival in Montevideo, the press was very kind to me, but after my speeches, only one newspaper dared to publish my discourse, and they told me that they had received a friendly visit from the American Embassy requesting them not to publish it. Of course this did not stop them (the one newspaper) but you understand what I mean concerning the influence of the press".

Turning to a discussion of World War II during the North African campaign, Miss Baker continued: "I personally hoped that by aiding the North Americans in this war, my people would never again suffer from discrimination....I was stunned to realize that the same people with whom and for whom we were fighting would use us for their own ends..."

"Ladies and gentlemen, we, the Free French, lacked uniforms and, while the Yankees held the gold of France under their control, we, the Free French who fought by their side, struggled for sheer idealism, with empty stomachs, without shoes for our feet. Our soldiers did not receive their pay for months and months..We were considered the poor relations. They accused us and they needed us desperately because this war was to save Wall Street from a crash like that of 1929....

"We, the Free French, had discarded all material thoughts, we were fighting for an ideal....In our ranks we saw men from Argentina, Brazil and many parts of the world...They knew that that meant sacrifice, while North America was calculating how much money it could get out of the war".

Miss Baker continued her speech with references to situations involving the negro actor Canada Lee, Willie McCree, and W.C. Handy, a negro composer who was allegedly unable to obtain hotel lodging in St. Louis, and a criticism of the activities of the Ku Klux Klan. She concluded:

"At this moment in North America I am branded...because I have the courage to speak of the atrocities resulting from race and religious discrimination.

"In the white newspapers of that country, there is hardly ever anything printed about negroes. But I am the latest news. I am the traitress; I am the undesirable. According to the newspapers they are taking measures to prohibit my entry to North America. I hope they know that none of those threats can prevent my carrying on my trust

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until all men are equal...and although they can prevent my entry into their country, they will not stop my activities as long as there are those who need me....

"In North America I am considered the mouthpiece of President Peron. I would consider this a great honor if it were true; but since I am not aware of what the President thinks or says, it would not be easy for me to be his instrument' as they say. Besides, I believe that President Peron is loved and respected by his people for having ideas and his own beliefs.

"Upon hearing that for the first time, I was surprised..it even shocked me. But since then I have come to the conclusion that the thing which has most inflamed North America is not my campaign against discrimination but my being here in Argentina. North America will not pardon me for having visited this country, for admiring it and its people and its leader. She (North America) is trying to deceive you in the same way that she is deceiving so many innocent people of the world with her falsehoods....

"Every day I receive articles published in North American newspapers which angrily attack me. Every time I realize with greater clarity that it is not only for my claims against discrimination, because I have said these same things in other countries and in North America itself. It was precisely when I arrived in Argentina that the bomb exploded. It seems as though I have committed a terrible crime in coming here and in being received affectionately by President Peron and by the Argentine people... I committed the unpardonable crime of leaving flowers before the image of Señora Peron and of visiting the works of the Foundation....What most infuriated them was my visit to the social works of Señora Peron and my having signed the book of gold with the words 'Your Sister'. Ladies and Gentlemen, for the North Americans that was the crime of the year."

Miss Baker concluded her discourse with the naming of the following countries where her Association presently exists: Scandinavian countries, Italy, Mexico, North America, Japan, Cuba, Haiti, Brazil, France, Uruguay, Johannesburg, South Africa. She said she hoped a new branch would be established in Buenos Aires.

Although El Mundo printed Miss Baker's speech in full, most dailies (with the exception of the two English-language papers and Nacion, which did not carry it at all) published extracts. Singled out for particular emphasis were Miss Baker's remarks about the attitude of the United States toward her visit in Argentina and her comment about the possibility of a prohibition being put upon her entry into the United States. Epoca headlined its report of November 8 "Yankee Ambassador Inhibited Uruguayan Newspapers From Mentioning Josephine Baker" a Speecher".

El Lider

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El Lider and other government dailies published a Friday Press dispatch detailing Washington which reported an alleged declaration by an unidentified member of the U.S. Justice Department to a Friday Press correspondent indicating that Miss Baker's case was under study. All dailies publishing this dispatch, added as Miller's State editorializing on the alleged injustice of the Department of Justice action in not allowing Miss Baker to return "to her own country" because, according to these dailies, "she did not submit to the tyranny of the whites". Charlie Chaplin's case was also mentioned in this connection.

The English-language Buenos Aires Harald is the only newspaper to date which has published a Reuter's (erroneously attributed to United Press) report of Representative Adam Clayton Powell's comment to the effect that if it were true that Miss Baker had made statements attributed to her, he would ask that she should not be allowed to re-enter the United States.

Coincident with the reporting of Miss Baker's conferences, La Esposa bitterly attacked local independent daily La Nacion on the grounds that its ignoring of Miss Baker, her visit to Argentina and her conferences, constituted another proof of La Nacion's foreign contamination.

Copy of El Mundo's report of Miss Baker's latest discourse is attached.

Arthur Athan

Arthur Athan
Assistant Press Attache

April 20, 1953

#225,694

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"CHINA DAILY NEWS"

November 13, 1952, Volume 13, No. 110

Page 1, Columns 1-4 Left. SOONG Ching-ling (Mme. ~~SUN~~ Yat-sen) made a speech on the 35th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution entitled, "Strengthening the Friendship Between China and Russia" as follows: N.Y.

During the 35 years since the Russian Revolution, China has been fighting a hard battle but has at last succeeded in establishing a government based upon peace and humanitarianism. The two nations have a common bond which benefits both and strengthens the cause of peace. As a result of this we signed the treaty of 1950 and the agreement of 1952 and have carried on trade and cultural relations. Most people realize that these two nations are really working to preserve peace in the world, as well as doing a great deal of construction and making great plans for the future. We recognize that life is worthwhile only when there is peace and friendship, and that war militates against both of these and against our highest welfare. We are not only working for peace as always, but are now redoubling our efforts. All nations who feel as we do are now joining hands with us. Our two nations cannot fail to go ahead under our great leaders and the foundation stones of peace, humanitarianism and prosperity cannot fail to be firmly established.

Page 1, Columns 5-6, Right. AP New York 12th: On the 11th Mme. Pandit the Indiana delegate to the U. N., made a speech before the U. N. General Assembly stating that the three things which should be done immediately are:

1. To negotiate and end the Korean War.
2. To recognize the right of the Chinese People's Republic to be represented.
3. To restore independence to all colonial territories.

The first is the most urgent. In regard to the second she said that it was India's conviction that the U. N. should recognize the government of the Chinese People's Republic. "Without the participation of Chinese delegates, all the U. N.'s discussions and decisions are useless."

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increase in scope, the U. N. will come to an end. Vishinsky has proposed that the U. N. set up a special committee of representatives from countries concerned and others to work out a solution. His proposal which is the only means of solving the problem, is to cease fighting immediately, return all war prisoners according to international law and to withdraw all foreign troops from Korea within two or three months. The only hindrance is America's refusal to repatriate her prisoners. This is contrary to all international law and agreements. The Russian proposal is the only road to peace.

Page 4, Columns 4-5, Right. The famous Negro singer, Josephine Baker, in a speech on racial discrimination which she made recently in Argentina, spoke of so-called American "democracy," which she called a false thing because of the unfair treatment of colored people by the whites. She said, "America is not a free country." Their immigration laws are very discriminatory and even in the U. N. they snoop into the private beliefs of the delegates. The speaker herself, having spoken unfavorably of the U. S. several times, has been refused permission to reenter the U. S.

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Does not pertain to request.

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