April 16, 1947

Dear Lady Reading:

I am enclosing a clipping which is causing a certain amount of excitement over here and which has brought me a number of letters.

All I can remember is that a British woman whose name I can’t recall, came to me about these children and I referred her to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. I have no record of having written to Mr. Kendall and I certainly never promised to raise funds.

Will you be good enough to have some one look into this and let me know what you find?

Affectionately,
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

At long last I have been able to secure for you authoritative information on the situation with respect to the children of colored American soldiers and white English women.

Here is self-explanatory copy of personal and confidential letter from George Padmore, a very intelligent Negro journalist in London who is one of the best informed persons on such subjects that I know.

He sent me only one copy of Miss Sylvia McNeill's report, so I would appreciate your returning this to me when you have finished with it.

Ever sincerely,

[Signature]

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
342 Madison Avenue
Room 901
New York 17, New York

WW:enw
Mr. Walter White  
N.A.A.C.P.  
20 West 40th Street  
New York

Dear Mr. White,

In reply to your letter, I am enclosing, for your information, a copy of a story which I have just mailed to the "Chicago Defender" in connection with the problem of the coloured children in Great Britain, together with copies of the survey and report referred to in the article. I should be much obliged if you would not make use of this material until it has been published in the "Defender".

Because of the law of libel in Great Britain, we journalists here have become accustomed to using a more restrained style than is employed in America. But for your personal guidance, I would give you the following facts.

Mr. DuplePlan is from the Gold Coast and came to this country as a student and, having completed his studies, he linked up with Mr. Jimmy Taylor (referred to in my story) in running some dubious bottle parties and night clubs in Liverpool and Manchester to which, during the war, coloured G.I.'s brought their lady friends. Taylor had various brushes with the police, and when the American soldiers returned home and business slackened off, he closed down his clubs and, according to information I have, being wanted by the police, took passage back to Africa.

This left DuplePlan to hold the baby, and he, seeking a way to cover himself, made approaches to Pastor Ekarte and arranged to represent him in America and appeal for funds for coloured illegitimate children born here of G.I.'s and English women. Ekarte is a Christian and honestly concerned with the welfare of these children, some few of whom he has taken into his home, which is the Mission Hall of the African Churches Mission. This building, unfortunately, is in a bad state and not a very desirable home for the children, and has been condemned by the authorities. However, as these same authorities have made no provisions for these children and cannot turn them out into the street, they have allowed them to remain with Ekarte.
DuPlan did approach the Pan-African Federation and ask for a mandate from us, but this was refused to him. Nevertheless, it is just possible that he is using the name of the Federation all the same, but I have no information about this. If he is using the name of the Federation in his appeals for funds, he is doing so falsely, and I shall be glad to be advised.

The cause of these illegitimate children is an urgent one, and I do hope that tangible help may be forthcoming from your side. As you will read in my story, the League of Coloured Peoples has established a home and is hoping to open another, and I think it would be a good idea if the NAACP could establish a direct link with the League (19, Old Queen Street, Lond, S.W.1.) in the endeavour to deal with this problem.

With kind personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) George Padmore
COLOURED AMERICANS' LEGACY TO BRITAIN
PROBLEM OF NEGRO G.I.'S CHILDREN

From George Padmore, London
Apirl 24th, 1947

It is very encouraging to learn of the widespread sympathy among the American people for the unfortunate coloured children left behind in Britain by coloured G.I.'s not always through their own fault. It is a human tragedy that will always find a warm response from the generous American people; and it is all the more regrettable that an element of tendentious controversy threatens to cloud the problem.

A number of irresponsible statements have recently appeared in certain sections of the British press from correspondents in New York quoting interviews alleged to have been given to them by Mr. E. J. DuPlan, a native of the Gold Coast, West Africa, and a resident of Liverpool, England. Mr. DuPlan is the secretary of the Negro Welfare Centre which maintains a hostel for seamen in Liverpool and provides dances and other recreations for these seafarers while on shore.

However, I understand that Mr. DuPlan's mission in America is to raise funds on behalf of the African Churches Mission, a small religious community conducted in Liverpool by a very devout Christian gentleman, known as Pastor Ekarte, a native of Nigeria, West Africa. Mr. Ekarte maintains about ten to twelve coloured children in his Mission building which, unfortunately, has very limited facilities for the proper upbringing of his wards. Nevertheless, he is trying to do his best and enjoys the goodwill and support of a number of prominent British citizens interested in the wellbeing of the coloured children.

The reports which have appeared in the press on both sides of the Atlantic are not only conflicting but, in the majority of cases, grossly untrue. It would appear that in order to dramatize the urgency of the problem, the total number of children has been multiplied at each interview. From my investigations, it would seem that the only authentic document on the problem of these illegitimate children born in Great Britain of English mothers and coloured American soldiers to have been issued is the survey made by a Jamaican social welfare worker, Miss Sylvia McNeill, under the auspices of the League of Coloured Peoples, 19, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1. Until an official investigation has been instituted by the British Government, this document must remain the only authentic report extant on this problem.

Commenting upon this survey, Dr. M. Joseph-Mitchell, General Secretary of the League of Coloured Peoples, estimated that the total number of such children does not exceed 1,700, and strongly condemns the alarmist reports which Mr. DuPlan is alleged to be making on the subject to the American Public. For example, a report which appeared in the London Daily Mail of April 5, 1947, gives the utterly absurd figure of 10,000 as the number of coloured illegitimate children. Furthermore, this newspaper version quotes a statement made by one, Mr. E. A. Kendall, a British lawyer acting on behalf of Mr. DuPlan, to the effect that the United States Government has promised to send a liner to Britain in nine months' time to collect 5,000 of the children for transportation to the U.S.A. under the care of an expert staff of doctors and trained nurses. This report also goes on to allege that Mrs. Roosevelt is organizing funds in America towards defraying the expenses involved.
From enquiries made in high official United States quarters in London, there is absolutely no confirmation of any such undertaking by the United States Government. When asked to comment upon the report issued by Mr. DuPlan’s legal representative here, Dr. Joseph-Mitchell dismissed it as fantastic. "The Negro Welfare Centre and the African Churches Mission", explained Dr. Joseph-Mitchell, "have only taken minor interest in this most important sociological work. What they seem to have done is to despatch Mr. DuPlan to the United States to appeal to the sympathies of the American people in an effort to extract money. It is a shame. It is a shame," emphasised Dr. Joseph-Mitchell, "that the work which is being done and which was originated by the League should be poached upon in this way just at a time when we have been able, through the American Embassy, to get the United States authorities to recognise their obligations to the children of G.I.’s in this country.

"While Pastor Ekarte, an honest and sincere man, is struggling to do his best on behalf of the ten or twelve children for whom he has provided accommodation in his Mission hall, the League of Coloured Peoples, thanks to the generous support of British and American friends, has been able to establish a large and commodious institution known as the Rainbow Children’s Home, where some 70 children are being cared for under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. J.A.R. Russell and a band of volunteer English helpers. This is a mere fraction of the urgent and deserving cases of homeless children. Meanwhile, while contributing to the maintenance of this Home, the League of Coloured Peoples is endeavouring to raise additional funds to set up another home which can provide accommodation for at least a hundred children.

Turning to the question of adoption in the United States, where many people have expressed a desire to become foster parents to these unwanted children, and many of whom have written to Dr. Joseph-Mitchell, an (himself a lawyer) explained to me the complicated international difficulties in the way of getting children transferred from Britain to America. Expressing himself on this aspect, Dr. Joseph Mitchell pointed out that while the British Government has not really interested themselves in the problem of these children, when the question of adoption by persons in America comes up, they insist upon investigating the circumstances of the intended foster-parents, their background, characters, financial position, and the rest. The children may be living in slums, totally uncared for and neglected, but the moment someone expresses a desire to adopt one or other of them, in steps the British Government, insisting that they shall not be handed over to foster-parents unless they can provide conditions to which they are not accustomed.

"The children," stated Dr. Joseph-Mitchell, "are subjects of King George, being born in the British Isles, and although it is possible for anyone in the United States to adopt a child, the requirements of English law are such that a number of formalities must be completed before the authorities in England will grant permission for the children to cross the Atlantic.

"In the first place, the consent of the Secretary of State for Home Affairs is necessary, and in the second place, the American Immigration Department will also have to grant its permission to each applicant. Moreover, a guardian must be obtained to accompany each child on its voyage from Britain to the United States." It will be seen from this that the question of adoption is by no means simple.

Checking up independently, I found from enquiries of a high authority at the Home Office, the equivalent of the American department of the Interior, that the only organisations which the authorities in this country recognise and deal with on this problem of coloured illegitimate children are the British Family Welfare Association, headed by Mr. Asbury, O.B.E., who recently toured the United States lecturing on the problem of white women and coloured G.I.’s in Britain, and the League of Coloured peoples.
Through the activities of both these organisations, the United States Government have recently instructed Col. Alden S. Bailey, U.S. Army Attaché for Veteran Affairs, attached to the American Embassy in London, to co-operate with these organisations in giving assistance to the children of coloured veterans. I understand that under the provisions of the United States Veterans' Administration, wherever the League of Coloured Peoples can establish the paternity of young children, Col. Bailey's department in London will communicate with Washington advising the American authorities at home to allot "the appropriate share of any compensation, training or subsistence allowance, or any other type of benefit that the veteran may be receiving from the U.S. Veterans' Administration" for the maintenance of the child.

Now that this agreement has been established between Col. Bailey and the League of Coloured Peoples, Dr. Joseph-Mitchell is preparing a list of such claims from the well tabulated records which the League has been collecting over recent years. It is because of this careful study of the problem that the League of Coloured Peoples is the only organisation in this country with the facilities, as well as the staff, to undertake such work.

It is therefore most unfortunate if a false impression has been created in American because of Mr. DuPlan's statements, or those of any other person, regarding the true state of affairs in connection with coloured illegitimate children in Britain. The problem is urgent enough and requires the help, support and goodwill of all concerned about it.

But it is only fair to those who are interested that they should know that their contributions are not being misused by racketeers, but that they are going to the organisation which is honestly and sincerely endeavouring to cope with the problem and being used solely for the purpose for which they are given. In my view, on the basis of the investigation which I have made, the League of Coloured Peoples is the most reliable channel through which effective help can be rendered and contributions used for the welfare of these coloured illegitimate children until such time as the British and American Governments decide on a more official solution to a problem which is one of the sociological accompaniments of every war.
Following your enquiry we have been in touch with "The League of Coloured Peoples" and I am enclosing their reply, together with the report issued by them following a survey made throughout the country. This more than proves what grossly exaggerated accounts have reached the Press. I am sorry that you should have been involved in such a misrepresentation of the situation.

We are having discussions to see whether there are any ways in which we can help, but as I knew all along, the problem is not at all a large one, and is no more unwieldy than many others calling for attention today.

I do hope if there is anything further I could find out or do for you - on this or any other matter, you will let me know.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas have already made themselves very welcome over here, and I have been delighted to meet them and have the chance of knowing them. His speech at the Pilgrim's Dinner, which was broadcast, was quite excellent and very well received throughout the country.
We are working at top pitch now, trying to prepare in every way possible for next winter. Conservation, salvage—all the old well worn tactics are back with us again. W.V.S. has been accepted as an integral part of the life of the nation, and by a Cabinet decision, we have been asked to carry on into the future. This is, of course, very gratifying—but it also lays a great responsibility on us to justify this trust and to shoulder as conscientiously as we did during the war years, our work for the community. We are, therefore, busy switching over to a freshened approach, and I am tremendously heartened at the keen response, especially among young people. Any concrete job never lacks for workers, and as there are plenty of jobs to be tackled, we have our hands full to overflowing. In case it is of interest I enclose a leaflet listing 49 of the ways we can help—though of course there are innumerable other ways too.

I am afraid you must be as busy as ever but I hope you take time off for a rest now and then.

Everyone's affectionately,

Chairman.

Mrs. F.D. Roosevelt,
Apt. 15-A,
29 Washington Sq. West,
New York 11, N.Y.,
U.S.A.
Legs Welfare Society

London's Surveyor

E. S. Kendall - W. P. Stone

9 London, April 07
HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE. Taking patients to and from hospital.

HOSPITAL HELP. Providing experienced nurses.

HOME SERVICES. Providing or assisting in the maintenance of home help services.

CLINIC. Domestic assistance.

COTTONG EXCHANGES: Operating Cottonexches.

Home Extension. Exchange in community direction.

COTTON DISTRIBUTION.

CIVIL DEFENCE. Assisting the Civil Defence

NURSES.

The clothes and services which will be in Day

ORGANISATION. Mother and Children’s Clubs. etc.

CHILDREN’S CLUBS AND CRISES.

Clothing collected and sent every month from commercial

CASH AND CARRY schemes for people to

when required.

BRITISH RESTORANTS. Shining on working

Childen paid on

Rooke Transficion. Organizing of markets.

NURSERY. Advice and information centres.

ACADEMY PREVENTION. Arranging schemes for the

in which W. V. S. can serve the Community.

FORTY-NINE WAYS
HOUSING. Making preliminary surveys and visiting waiting applicants. Receiving initial enquirers, assisting in the filling up of forms, and keeping up-to-date accommodation lists.

IMMUNISATION. Assisting in propaganda for diphtheria immunisation.

MEALS ON WHEELS. Hot meals taken from central kitchens to old people and invalids in their homes.

MENTAL HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS. Giving assistance, as in hospitals, with feeding, clerical work, etc., taking the patients for walks, paying regular visits, arranging flowers, etc.

MOBILE CANTEENS for emergency feeding.

MOTHERCRAFT HOSTELS, where mothers with nowhere to go on leaving hospital after the birth of their babies may stay for up to three months.

NATIONAL SAVINGS. Running and staffing Selling Centres, providing Group Secretaries and Street Collectors.

OLD PEOPLE'S RESIDENTIAL CLUBS. Setting up and administering Old People's Clubs.

PERSONAL PARCELS. Collecting names of needy families for people overseas who wish to send food parcels to individuals in this country.

PIE SCHEMES. Distribution of pies in rural areas.

POLES. Welfare work in Polish Dependants' Camps, provision of clothing and other amenities, English lessons, etc.

PREVENTION OF WASTE. Running campaigns for all forms of conservation and preservation of food, textiles, etc., etc.

RATION BOOKS. Assisting local Food Offices with issue of ration books.

REHABILITATION. Visiting, transport service, occupational therapy and general welfare of ex-Service men and women and civilian disabled.

RE-HOMING SCHEME for bombed and flooded-out families. Collecting and distributing gifts of furniture and equipment.

REPAIRED. Meeting, escorting, advising on ration books and general welfare.

ROSE HIP COLLECTIONS. Organising collection of rose hips and delivery to manufacturers of Rose Hip Syrup.

SALVAGE. Organising and staffing Salvage Shops and assisting in Waste Paper Campaigns.

SAY-IT-WITH-FLOWERS SCHEME for Service men overseas to send flowers to families and friends.

SERVICES WELFARE (HOME). Running Canteens and Clubs, and providing general welfare for Service men at home.

SERVICES WELFARE (OVERSEAS). Providing welfare workers for NAAFI Clubs overseas.

SITTERS-IN. Organising "sitters" schemes. Arranging and staffing children's waiting rooms at the public wash-houses.

VISITING old people, undertaking their shopping, changing their library books, etc., visiting residual evacuees in foster homes, overseas Servicemen's families, and families of men in prison.

WELFARE FOODS. Assisting local Food Officers by organising distribution of welfare foods for children and expectant mothers.

WORK PARTIES. Knitting for the Forces, altering and making garments for Clothing Exchanges, etc.
Mrs. Dunbar,
Women's Voluntary Services,
41 Tothill Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Mrs. Dunbar,

Mrs. Weston has asked me to communicate with you on the subject of the illegitimate children born in this country to English mothers which at the present time is becoming a subject of international interest. The enclosed booklet is, I can assure you, the only authentic document published on the subject and although it does not pretend to be a comprehensive report I am astonished at the astronomical figures reported in the press, both here and in the States. Since the publication my attention has been called to a number of other cases requiring attention and I am therefore led to believe that the total number must be in the vicinity of one thousand or so. Much has been done by the League to assist the mothers of some of these unwanted children and so far some twenty adoptions have been carried out and there is possibility that before very long many more will be effected.

The American authorities have been most co-operative in the way of arranging for children to be sent to America but two important points hinder the development of this part of the project. Firstly there is the problem of securing suitable persons to accompany the children from England to America, and, in the few cases which now await passage, the question of raising the means to defray the cost is one which I find difficult to overcome.

I would welcome an opportunity for a discussion with you and feel sure that this would be productive of more informative on the points which you wish cleared up and possibly create a means whereby your assistance might be obtained.

Yours faithfully,
For THE LEAGUE OF COLOURED PEOPLES.


M. Joseph-Mitchell, B.Sc., Ph.D.,
General and Travelling Secretary.
ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN
BORN IN BRITAIN
OF ENGLISH MOTHERS
AND
COLOURED AMERICANS

REPORT
OF A
SURVEY

made by
Miss SYLVIA McNEILL

LONDON: THE LEAGUE OF COLOURED PEOPLES
Price Sixpence
REPORT OF A SURVEY

made by

Miss Sylvia McNeill
of the Illegitimate Children born in Britain of English Mothers and of Fathers who are mostly American Coloured Service-men.

To the Executive Committee,
The League of Coloured Peoples.
19 Old Queen Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I have pleasure in submitting for your attention my report on a survey which I carried out on the request and instructions of your Secretary dealing with the illegitimate children born in this country of English mothers, and fathers who are mostly among the various coloured American service-men stationed here during the war.

2. I do not propose to suggest that the survey is by any means complete, as there are one or two cases which are sure to come to my notice as time passes. The need for a work of this kind was, however, felt to be necessary from the point of view of the interest which the League is obviously taking in peoples of colour all over the world, and from the many requests which are being made to your Secretary for assistance in providing homes and/or adoption arrangements for a good many of these unfortunate, unwanted children.

In the interest of humanity this problem must be solved. Any contributions you may care to send us to help towards its solution will be gratefully accepted.
3. The files which are herewith submitted for your perusal contain various letters, chiefly from married women whose husbands were in the British Forces and stationed overseas at the time when the adulterous actions were committed. The position is a somewhat precarious one, as you will see from these letters. The position of these women and, in a good many cases, the children, is somewhat confusing, requiring special study and decisions which I find myself incapable and unqualified to make. It is nevertheless a little gratifying to find, in one or two instances, that the fathers have been in correspondence with the mothers and are expressing willingness to have the children with them in the United States. In such cases, not being familiar with the procedure which should be adopted in dealing with such cases, I have not been able to offer any assistance, and the correspondence remained unanswered for your attention. There is no doubt in my mind that your legal advisers would be in a position to assist in this direction.

4. As mentioned earlier, a fair proportion of the cases reported relate to married women who, in most instances, have children by their lawful husbands. The situation therefore is more complicated, and there can be no doubt that the pressure which is being brought to bear on the offspring of mixed parents is intensified by the embarrassments of such a situation.

5. Quite apart from the consideration of immorality reflected on the mothers and the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the birth of these children, you will not doubt agree that a good deal of the hindrance to any sort of peaceful relations or to the prospect of reciprocity between the husbands and wives is caused by the colour prejudice. At the same time, consideration must be given to the attitude of the husbands in a position of the kind. The important question which must now be answered is (a) what can be done to help in moulding some sort of future for these children, and (b) to what extent can the League of Coloured Peoples assist in any direction? It must be appreciated inasmuch as the enquiries were made to the League and as the Survey was carried out on its behalf, a great deal of responsibility now rests upon the decision made by your Committee to whom, in future, a good deal of enquiries will naturally be made as to the progress made and steps taken.

6. Naturally, a survey of the kind would call for considerable financial expenditure. In this instance, however, a good deal of expense has been saved by the fact that the major part of the enquiries and investigations made was carried out by post. A memorandum showing the total amount expended is herewith attached for your information. In one or two instances the Secretary paid special visits, but the expense on the whole does not amount to much. Although a survey carried out in this way would take a long time, it cannot be said that the results are not gratifying. At the moment, most of the correspondence being received consists of further enquiries by mothers and organising bodies which, as explained earlier, I have been unable to deal with myself, and I wish you would give this your immediate attention.

7. At this stage, I think it fair to suggest, and I do so in the interest of the League, that a special Committee should be set up (a) to advise on the course which ought to be adopted in dealing with the correspondence, and (b) to deal with the legal aspects which are now arising.

THE SURVEY.

8. I commenced the actual Survey on the 9th July, 1945, when a series of letters was forwarded to the County Welfare Organisers of each county in England and Wales. No enquiries were sent to Renfrew, Ross, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Shetland, Stirling, Sutherland, West Lothian and Wigtown in Scotland, inasmuch as reports which came to hand from adjoining towns and burghs gave the indication that there were no such cases existing in these places.

9. At a later stage in the survey questionnaires were issued to organisers and individuals from whom requests had been received asking for assistance on the question of the adoption of coloured children. Looking at the entire question in its fairest light and considering
the large number of troops who were stationed in this country during the war, especially the district of Peterborough and in the County of Leicestershire, it is most reassuring to find the total numbers of births in these areas considerably low and to hear from the Clerk to the County Council of the Soke of Peterborough there are no such cases in his records. Similar reports were received from:—

(a) The Medical Officer of Health, Durham;
(b) The Public Assistance Officer, Kent;
(c) The County Social Worker, Westmoreland;
(d) The Public Assistance Officer, Northumberland, and
(e) The Director of Social Welfare, Cumberland County Council.

The County Welfare Officer for the Isle of Ely informed me that no cases were known to exist in the district under her supervision as the coloured American soldiers were not stationed there and only a few ever visited.

10. I received similar reports from the Assistant Secretary of the Essex County War Welfare Committee, the Public Assistance Officer to the East Sussex County Council—although the latter informed me that he had confined enquiries only to the Poor Law Service. I have been unable to receive replies to correspondence addressed to the Pembroke County Council, to whom I was directed by the Director of Education. The Superintendent of the North Hampshire Moral Welfare Association informed me that none of the infants in her home at the time were of coloured or mixed parents, but promised to make enquiries for any existing cases from her out-door nurse. On the other hand, the Mid-Hampshire Moral Welfare Association reported the birth of two children, but are stated to have dealt with these themselves. In these cases the reputed fathers were among the Canadian service-men.

11. I attach for your perusal a schedule showing the total number of children in each district which would in great measure reduce the length of this report. Nevertheless, I feel compelled to give you a brief report of replies received from the following:—

BERKSHIRE: The County Public Assistance Officer to the County Council sent me a list of some of the coloured children born in the county identified as being the children of the coloured American service-man. One child has since died.

CAERNARVONSHIRE: Only one such birth reported by the County Welfare Officer.

CARMARTHENSIRE: Only one such birth reported by the County Council, Master of the Public Assistance Committee.

CHESHIRE County Medical Officer reports that there are about six such children. There is no indication here, however, that these are offering any problem to that community, although the Moral Welfare Association have asked our assistance in adopting one child.

12. Correspondence received from South Devon gave the indication that there was only one child presenting any problem in that area and, on my request, I attended a meeting of the County Welfare Committee. This Committee include such persons as Dr. Horan Watson, head of the Welfare Section to the Ministry of Health, Dr. Lisman, Deputy County Medical Officer of Health, Mrs. Leadley Brown, the County Welfare Officer, Mrs. Drake and the Misses Gallop and Tredigar, City Welfare Officers. The Committee questioned me on: (a) The aims and objects of the survey; (b) The possibilities of starting a home or homes and, in such a case, whether these homes were to be strictly reserved for coloured children; and (c) the possibilities of getting children sent to the United States in such cases where the fathers were anxious to have them. It also discussed the advisability or otherwise of women marrying coloured soldiers and going to the United States. Forty-five cases were then submitted and, I am informed, these cases and the above questions, (a), (b) and (c), have been forwarded to your President for action.

13. Ten cases were reported by the Moral Welfare Officer to the City of Plymouth Maternity and Child Welfare, all of which were then in need of immediate help, and on the invitation of this organisation, I paid
a visit to Plymouth and had a conference with the Welfare Officer and also had the pleasure of visiting one of the children.

14. The worker to the Ilkeston and District Association for Moral Welfare did not say how many cases were in the Derbyshire district, but was desirous of some assistance in having three children adopted.

15. The worker to the Salisbury Diocesan Association reported thirteen cases, all of whom were in need of immediate attention. Three cases were reported in Poole, fifty-eight in Gloucestershire and one in Herefordshire. The Chief Social Welfare Officer to the Herefordshire County Council reported that eleven cases had been reported as seeking admission to the County Public Assistance Institute. She also reported that one child was taken over by a Roman Catholic organisation, but there were other cases where no assistance was being solicited by the mothers. The Organising Secretary to the Winchester Diocesan Council reported seventeen cases in Hampshire, the worker to the said Council reported another six cases, and the Army Officer reported one. Portsmouth Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare reported three cases and the Worker to the New Forest Area Association reported thirteen cases.

16. The Superintendent and Health Visitor for the County Council of Somerset reported thirty-nine cases which he said were dealt with by him since September, 1944. He adds, however, that there are a good many other cases which were not included in his report, as these were being managed by the Moral Welfare Workers. The Diocesan worker for Salop and for the Lichfield Association for Moral Welfare said that only two cases were brought to his notice. These, he said, came from the Bristol area. He added that the investigation was most gratifying in as much as there were large camps of coloured service-men in that district for a long time. In the two cases reported, he says that efforts were made to have the children sent to the United States on the request of the fathers, but this was refused by the Home Office.

17. Eight cases were reported in Warwickshire and three in Worcestershire.

18. Reports from Scotland are even more encouraging. Replies from secretaries of Territorial Army Associations and Welfare Officers in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, East Lothian, Dumfriesshire, Banffshire, Inverness, Lanarkshire and Fife, reveal that there are no reports of children born to local women and coloured service-men.

19. I feel compelled to associate myself with an observation made by the County Welfare Officer for the County of Leicestershire to your Secretary in which he said: "Everyone is in agreement with the fact that there are not nearly as many cases of illegitimacy as one has been led rather loosely to believe."

20. It is only proper for me to point out to you that inasmuch as the enquiries were made in the name of the League and as I have been receiving a good deal of correspondence from some of the mothers concerned, the responsibility now rests with the League's Council to consider what next is to be done. In doing so your Committee must bear in mind that the reputation of the League is to some extent at stake, and that if something constructive could be done in these cases, a great service would have been rendered to a new generation of Coloured peoples.

21. Unfortunately I find myself unable to make any constructive suggestions, but I would like you to consider:

(a) The possibility of furthering communications to the respective fathers with a view to securing regular support for the children and, later, to have them sent to the United States where this is desired.

(b) Communicating with the American Army authorities with the object of negotiating some sort of provision for these children.
22. In concluding my report I wish to express my thanks to your President, Secretary and Assistant Secretary for the assistance and advice which they were at all times ready to give me in the course of this survey, to the Secretaries of the various organisations for their prompt replies, and to Dr. M. Joseph-Mitchell, who assisted me in editing this report.

I am, Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

S. McNEILL

30th November, 1945.
22. In concluding my report I wish to express my thanks to your President, Secretary and Assistant Secretary for the assistance and advice which they were at all times ready to give me in the course of this inquiry. I wish also to thank Mr. Mitchell, who assisted me in editing the report.

Yours faithfully,

S. McNeill

30th November, 1926.

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APPENDIX 3.

Number of children whose parents are willing to have them sent to the United States. 4.

Number of mothers willing to have children sent to the United States. 3.

Number of mothers wanting to keep children if father supports. 2.

Number of fathers willing to have children sent to the United States. 6.

Number of fathers wanting to marry mothers. 4.

The remaining 116 priority cases need immediate accommodation.

Of the 409 cases, all need attention.

APPENDIX 4.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO MINISTER OF HEALTH.


The Rt. Hon. Aneurin Bevan, M.P.,
H.M. Minister of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.J.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing herewith the Report of a Survey made by one of our special workers with respect to illegitimate children born to English mothers and to fathers who are mostly among the coloured troops from the United States of America, who were stationed here. The report, you will notice, does not deal with the children born to white troops.

It will be seen from a perusal of the Report that, as far as it goes, the gross number of such children is about five hundred and fifty (550). Although large, it is by no means as large as might have been expected in the circumstances, and should on no account constitute an insoluble problem. It must, however, be stressed that our worker does not in any way claim that this is a comprehensive Report. Indeed, she indicates, in paragraphs 14 and 15, that there are other children who are not included in our count, because satisfactory arrangements have been made for them.

We are unable to estimate the number of such children some of whom, it is reasonable to expect, may require assistance at a later date.

The League of Coloured Peoples is of the opinion that this is a matter with which the Government of this country, in co-operation with the Government of the United States must deal as a "war casualty". We would urge the importance of wise and effective action at this stage in order to avoid the emergence of a more serious problem in the course of a few years.
The League of Coloured Peoples is pleased to note that some effort is now being made to deal with this problem in its larger aspect, and we are very anxious that the part thereof in which we are particularly concerned should not be treated in such a manner as may tend to aggravate the expression of the Colour Bar in this country.

As mentioned before, the total number is Five Hundred and Fifty (550), but the number requiring immediate action is much smaller; only One Hundred and Thirty-five (135), being definitely reported as priority cases, and these fall into four groups:—

(a) Those whose fathers want them in the United States and whose mothers are willing to send them—a small group of three or four, which might increase if something positive were on hand. We suggest that the Government should undertake this transfer.

(b) Those whose mothers want to keep their children, but want arrangements for money to be paid by the fathers. This number is also small, only two according to this analysis. This is part of the general problem, which we understand is now being discussed, of how to get money out of Americans for their children here, whether black or white.

(c) Those whose mothers will keep their children and want no assistance, or only assistance to a certain degree or in certain directions.

(d) Those whose mothers want to put their children into homes. This comprises the major number of the priority group. There are certain possible evil results which must be safeguarded against in dealing with this large group. If they are put together in one large home in one place, then too much will be known about them in the neighbourhood, they will be considered a public disgrace and difficulties will arise about employment later on and thus there will be an aggravation of the Colour Bar.

Accordingly we would put forth the following suggestions for your consideration:—

(1) That they should be sent to a large number of homes all over the country, along with white children and they should be put under the care of carefully selected matrons who will do everything possible to mitigate the psychological shock attendant upon their origin and their lack of maternal affection, and thus train them up to be useful citizens of the community.

(2) The possibility of sending some of these children to homes overseas, either in the Southern States of America or in the Colonies should not be entirely overlooked. We are not anxious to press this issue, because we do not like the idea, but in the long run, we consider that it may be better for all concerned that these children should grow up in a more congenial racial atmosphere than they may find in this country.

(3) There is a further group to which careful attention should be given: those mothers who would be willing to keep their children and look after them well, if they received assistance from some source. We suggest that careful enquiries should be made to increase the numbers in this group and to make possible the upbringing of these children by their own mothers. This in our opinion is the best solution for this problem.

Finally, in presenting the Report to you, we do urge upon you its great importance and the need to do something quickly and await with confidence your reply.

On behalf of the League of Coloured Peoples,

Yours very truly,

HAROLD A. MOODY,
Founder and President.
MINISTER OF HEALTH'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT.

January 24th, 1946.

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to your undated letter received on 14th December, 1945, enclosing the report of survey of illegitimate children in this country whose fathers are coloured American soldiers, and to make the following observations on the suggestions offered in your letter:

1. The Minister agrees that these children should share the existing homes for illegitimate children which exist throughout the country. While there is known to be a general shortage of places in these homes, the Minister, so far, has received no evidence that coloured children have been refused admission on grounds other than the lack of vacancies. The question of increasing the accommodation—especially in relation to the problem of the illegitimate child—is receiving attention.

2. The question of sending children to homes overseas involves certain difficulties, including legal difficulties, and these are being considered.

3. The Minister agrees that the most satisfactory solution is for the mother to keep and bring up her child, and it is his general aim and policy to encourage such arrangements in regard to illegitimate children.

Should the League wish to discuss the problem generally with officers of the Department, the Minister would be glad to make arrangements accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) D. E. SHARP.

H. A. Moody, Esq., M.D., B.S.,
The League of Coloured Peoples,
19, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

Reprinted from THE WORLD'S CHILDREN,

HAROLD A. MOODY, M.D., B.S.,
in this article, specially written for “The World’s Children,” considers a little-known problem of the war. Dr. Moody, a Jamaican, is founder and president of the League of Coloured Peoples, a British organisation which exists to protect the interests of coloured peoples and to promote good relations between them and the white race. He is also a member of the Council of the Save the Children Fund, and was the first “coloured” man to become chairman of a British missionary society (the London Mission Society).

Among the sequelae of the war are many social problems which will tax the genius of statesmen, doctors, educationists, psychiatrists and social workers for many years to come. Few are more baffling than one which has arisen in Great Britain, and possibly in other countries—the problem of the illegitimate child born of a “white” mother and a “coloured” service man. In the present state of public opinion in the white countries, such children are subject to peculiar social disadvantages. In such communities, the half-coloured child is always in an ambiguous position; it is only the more enlightened and more liberal citizens who are willing to ignore his minority characteristics and give him a place in their community parallel with that of their normally begotten children. When what public opinion regards as the “taint” of illegitimacy is added to the disadvantage of mixed race, the chances of the child’s having a fair opportunity for development and service are much reduced.

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Happily the problem as it presents itself in Great Britain is of less magnitude than some have supposed. I have just issued a report on the question which has been made for the League of Coloured Peoples by Miss Sylvia McNeill, a Jamaican school teacher. This report does not pretend to survey more than a sample of the cases which have occurred, but I think it may claim to present a fair cross-section. Enquiry was made in a number of counties and county boroughs in England and Wales, chosen in various parts of the country where coloured American troops were known to have been quartered. Replies from thirty-two of these administrative areas reveal that 544 children were born to 536 mothers, of whom 89 were known to be married, and 95 unmarried, while the marital status of the remaining 352 was unrevealed.

One can well understand the reticence of women—particularly married women whose husbands were in the Forces—to draw attention to any lapse from conjugal probity, and it must be assumed, therefore, that any survey omits a number of cases. Those which form the basis of this report have been reported, in reply to a questionnaire, by responsible officials of statutory and voluntary bodies such as county and county borough councils, public assistance committees, and moral welfare societies, including medical officers of health, health visitors and military officers. They are obviously only the cases in which application for help or advice has been made to these authorities. Since, happily, no questions as to race or colour are asked when registering a birth in Great Britain, there is no means of identifying the cases which have not been the subject of applications for help.

But the evidence we have been able to accumulate is sufficient to reveal the difficulty of the problem, and to make it clear that, though of small dimensions, it is one which is clamant for solution, for the sake of the children themselves who, within so few years, will become citizens. It is imperative that they shall be given every possible chance to develop into useful citizens, prepared to contribute their gifts and their service to the general welfare. The terrible alternative is to create a minority, with—at the worst, like Ishmael of old—their hand against every man and every man's hand against them.

By issuing the report, I hope we shall draw attention to the problem and help in some small way towards an equitable solution. What is to be done with the children of these mixed, illegitimate and often adulterous unions? In my view one of the most important considerations to keep in mind is that of avoiding any exacerbation of colour prejudice. We must not countenance any segregation of these children. It would seem to be a facile solution to bring them all up in a special institution and, at adolescence, turn them out into the labour market. That would merely be to cut the Gordian knot. It would set the clock back and might create a new species of slave labour. These children have white mothers and coloured fathers. How much better to regard them as links between two peoples, each with its great contribution to make to the welfare of humanity, and give them, not the minimum of care and consideration, but in the greatest degree practicable to give them a chance to fulfil in their lives what may be a great service of inter-racial integration.

We have evidence that the American Negro is often a good father—affectionate, generous, kindly. But in many cases, the temporary war-time union was destroyed when the time came for the man to return to his own country, perhaps to his own wife and children. This is not true, however, in every case, and one of the most encouraging facts revealed by our enquiry is that some of these fathers are anxious for arrangements to be made to take their child and its mother home to the United States. Since it is best, in general, for mother and father and children to be together, this seems to be the ideal solution, and it is hoped that it will prove practicable in a number of cases. In some other cases where the mother becomes reconciled to her husband on the condition that the bastard child is removed, the Negro father is still willing to adopt the child into his own family in America, and this, too, seems to be a fairly happy solution.
I should like to see all the children treated as “war casualties”, for whom provision should be made jointly by the British and United States governments. Where there is a home for them in America, the two governments in collaboration should see that facilities are given for them to go to that home. Where there are no such advantages, where the children are to all intents and purposes waifs of the war, they become in a very high degree the responsibility of the two governments—the communal representatives of their mothers and fathers. They must obviously be cared for in some kind of “home”, but they should be kept in small groups, in different parts of the country, and always in company with white children needing similar care. They must be in the charge of carefully selected matrons who will do everything possible to mitigate the shock attendant upon their origin, and the privation of maternal affection. These proposals I have brought before the English Minister of Health. In some cases it may be better for the children to grow up in a racial atmosphere more congenial than that of a country which is preponderantly white, and the possibility of migration to British tropical colonies and to the Southern States of the United States is therefore not excluded, though personally this is not a solution which I should advocate strongly.

My opinion is that we must always bear in mind the welfare of the child himself and the paramount advantages of his being brought up by his own parents. All else must be regarded as second best. But I should be the last to underrate the difficulties of the situation. Having regard to the emotional, economic and political issues involved, the problem inevitably presents us with a dilemma. At the best, the position of these children is an abnormal and an unenviable one, but if we and the Americans make a courageous and impartial attempt to reach a solution along the lines suggested, we shall at least achieve something towards the more harmonious future of mankind.

* We acknowledge with gratitude the courtesy of the Editor of “The World’s Children” in allowing us to reproduce this article, which was written for their March issue.
Other Publications of L.C.P.:

Colour Bar, by Dr. Moody. 6d.

Freedom For All Men, by Dr. Moody. 4d.

Christianity and Race Relations, by Dr. Moody. 4d.

Race Relations and the Schools. 2s. 6d.

What Africa Wants, by Mrs. Paul Robeson. 6d.

Relations Between White & Coloured People in Britain, by Dr. Little. (Ready Shortly.)
February 13, 1947.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The enclosed newspaper item speaks in language better than my own of my estimate of our late President.

After the smoke of battle has cleared away and we can see with a clearer vision, twenty-five years from now, some historian will write a real and true estimate of the services of our late President.

With highest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely,

Fred H. Hertel.

Fred H. Hertel.
A SMILE

A SMILE costs nothing, but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it.

A SMILE creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

Compliments of Fred H. Hartel, Welfare Director, Columbus Lodge of Elks, Columbus, Ohio.
Letters From Readers

Writers of letters to this forum are requested to limit themselves to 100 words. Names & places may be used, but all communications must bear names and addresses. Only letters written on one side of the paper will be printed.

Hypnotized by FDR

Editor Ohio State Journal:

I have been reading some rather vicious attacks on President Franklin D. Roosevelt, so I've decided to set people straight about him. I'm going to give you now the verdict history will inevitably render after the exit of partisanship and we can view the man in a clearer perspective. I feel quite capable of predicting history's verdict since I have been a student of history for 50 years. I majored in history in college and I'm now a history teacher. I read histories and biographies for recreation.

In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt became president of this country. He found the country in the abyss of the Hoover depression. There were 15,000,000 people totally unemployed and 35,000,000 others working only part time and at starvation wages. The national income was only $10,000,000,000. The Treasury was running a deficit of $140,000,000 per day and not a cent was being spent to aid the poverty stricken millions. Banks, farmers and small businesses were going bankrupt by the thousands. Here is what FDR did in this emergency.

He reorganized the banking system so that bank failures decreased by 90 per cent. 13,000,000 people who were unemployed were able to get work at living wages. The national income was increased from $10,000,000,000 to $170,000,000,000. Farming was made profitable again. No more farms were sold for their taxes. Newspapers which now attack him bitterly and libelously began making a profit after four years of losses. The very men who write scurrilous letters against FDR made their fortunes during his administration.

Yet, but not least, he raised the labeling man to the place of dignity from which big business is now trying to knock him. Now those whom FDR helped most are pursuing him beyond the grave like a band of yapping watchdogs. He foresaw, he fought, he fought on, he fought for the poor, the weak, and the underprivileged everywhere. He was, for a time, the only man who could lead the great revolution that was in our time. The man who was exalted by the people to the highest place of power in the land had been trained in the school of suffering. He knew the agony of despair, the joy of hope, the fight for the future.

He was the one man who could lead this country. He was the one man who could lead us through this war. He was the one man who could lead us to victory. He was the one man who could lead us into the future.

I, therefore, write to protect the man who has saved this country.

May 6, 1954

W. L. Langum
Woodstock, Ohio