

# NEW NEGRO PRIDE IN ORIGINS FOUND

Conference Here on Africa  
Told of Growing Interest  
on Part of Americans

The American Negro's new-found cultural kinship with Africa was one of the themes developed here yesterday at the opening session of a four-day conference on Africa and African culture.

Sponsored by the American Society of African Culture, the Conference at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel was described as an attempt to bring together a comprehensive group of Negro writers, artists, scholars and civic leaders as well as the most important African specialists in the United States. The 261 participants included eleven African leaders.

In the opening address, James T. Harris Jr., assistant executive director of the society, noted that in recent years Africa had emerged from centuries of cultural oblivion. Similarly, he said, the American Negro community was only beginning to realize its "enormous potential."

"Our fundamental assumption is that Africa must and will be free," Mr. Harris declared. He held that Americans of African descent had a special interest in the fulfillment of this goal.

Dr. Horace Mann Bond, dean of Atlanta University's School of Education and president of the society, said the American Negro's traditional aversion to Africa and things African as a humiliating part of his heritage was quickly changing to intense interest and sympathy.

A spokesman for the society predicted that the conference would mark a significant step in the American Negro's progress away from the "native son" attitude and toward a belief in cultural pluralism combined with pride in his singular identity.

In an address on African political leadership, Dr. Mercer Cook, Professor of Romance Languages at Howard University, quoted Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana as having said recently: "Today the Sahara is a bridge that unites us."

Abdel Kader Chanderli, representing the Algerian Front of National Liberation, reminded the session of his country's "struggle and sacrifice." He

regretted that, despite the "bridge of the Sahara," more concern was not felt by Africans "for the continent as a whole."

Dr. Gikonyo Kiano, a member of the Legislative Council in Kenya, assured Mr. Chanderli that such concern was felt and that this would become increasingly apparent.

The American Society of African Culture, founded in 1957, is the American affiliate of the International Society of African Culture in Paris. The society's first annual conference was held in April, 1958.