

# World Unity of Blacks Sought at Parley

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ATLANTA, Sept. 3 — An international Congress of African People opened here today with hundreds of black delegates, mostly young, converging on the five college campuses of Atlanta University.

Convened by a divergent group of black activists and intellectuals, many of whom took part in previous black power conferences in Newark, Philadelphia and Bermuda, the four-day meeting of "problem solving sessions" has the stated aim of providing "a functioning methodology for reducing the contradictions and artificial diversity of nationalist theory."

Major themes emerging in the pre-workshop sessions here center on the ideas of "nation building, black self-determination, black self-sufficiency, self-respect and self-defense." Political and "economic autonomy" workshops are among the most popular of the 11 workshop sessions planned. Early indications are that the participants will also attempt to join the struggle of black Americans with those of nonwhites around the world.

## Purpose Is Unity

"Our purpose here is to unite black people, not only in America, but in Africa, and the Caribbean, in Australia, Mexico, South America and all over the planet earth," said Hayward Henry, the chairman of the congress.

Mr. Henry, 27 years old, who is a lecturer in black studies at Harvard and at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said the delegates would attempt to work for the "unification of blacks through programs, not through ideology."

With Mr. Henry at the news conference at the Interdenominational Theological Center was Roosevelt Brown, a member of Parliament in Bermuda, and five delegates of the Australian Aborigine Advancement League.

The chairman of the Australian civil rights organization, Bob Maza, who wore a multi-colored dashiki, said he hoped to learn about black self-help programs and to open lines of

communications between blacks throughout the world.

Several youthful African and East Indian students were on hand among the hundreds of youngsters who stood on long lines in the hot sun outside the Hickman Student Center at Morris Brown College.

Afro hair styles predominated as did mod dress. While there were many dashikis in evidence, they did not come close to the number of dashikis at previous black power conferences.

Registration workers said the total number of registrants would be several hundred and they declined to predict the total congress participation. About 2,000 persons attended the black power conference in Newark in the summer of 1967 and the meeting in Bermuda in 1969. Philadelphia's black power conference in 1968 was attended by about 4,000.

## Meetings in Conflict

The Congress of African People conflicts with a conference of the Black Panther party scheduled for Philadelphia this weekend and the annual meeting of the Congress of Racial Equality, scheduled in Mobile, Ala. The CORE director, Roy Innis, is scheduled to take part in both meetings.

Sponsors say that the conflicts were coincidental and Mr. Henry noted that while invitations had been sent to the Black Panther party, no replies had been received.

Closer observers here say that the Congress's planners split generally with the Black Panther party philosophically on several issues. A major issue of conflict is the Panther party's willingness to work closely with white radical groups.

Mr. Henry told newsmen today that the thinking of the Congress planners was that whites could work best to help black progress by working among white people and to improve the racial attitudes of white institutions. He said, "These are the real sources of the problems."

White newsmen, while invited to the daily news conferences, are barred from the work sessions. Black newsmen are permitted to register as

delegates and are given complete freedom of movement.

As darkness fell, about 1,000 delegates were welcomed to Atlanta at the Morris Brown College athletic field by the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

They later heard the keynote speaker, El Hajj Abdoulaye Toure, the Ambassador to the United Nations from Guinea, say "We are attaching much importance to this conference, and we wish it will be a true conference and a total success."