

THE ELEANOR AND ANNA ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

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Description: In this segment, ER interviews Eunice Carter, an attorney and a chairman on the board of trustees of the National Council of Negro Women.

Participants: ER, Eunice Carter

[ER:] Thank you, Anna. Our guest today is a very busy woman. She is Eunice Carter who, besides being a successful lawyer, holds several important positions in national and international organizations -- among them, the post of chairman of the board of trustees of the National Council of Negro Women. I understand, Mrs. Carter, that you are going to Europe very shortly. Am I correct in assuming that this is not entirely a pleasure trip?

[Eunice Carter:] Well not exactly, Mrs. Roosevelt. This trip has a threefold purpose. I'm going first to Legnano, to the executive meeting of the International Council of Women as a representative of the National Council of Women of the United States. And then I'm going over to Geneva for two meetings. First, to the meeting of the Liaison Committee of the-- of Women's International Organizations, you know I'm American secretary of that organization. And then to a meeting of the consultative organizations which have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also in Geneva from June twenty-ninth to July second.

[ER:] It sounds to me as though you're going to be very busy. It occurs to me, Mrs. Carter, that a great many people may not know about the work of the consultative organizations. Could you explain just what the group attempts to do? (1:20)

[Eunice Carter:] Well, let me put it this way. The preamble to the charter of the United Nations begins, "We the peoples of the United Nations." This means that this organization was intended to belong to the peoples of the world. Accordingly, the framers of the charter thought that there should be some way of finding out from time to time what the people think on certain vital social and economic questions, and provided for this in Article Seventy-one of the charter. Therefore, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations has granted to some eighty or more international organizations what is known as consultative status. These organizations, representing a cross-section of world public opinion, in turn have appointed representatives or consultants who follow closely the work of the Economic and Social Council, its various commissions and sub-commissions, and from time to time act as spokesmen for their organizations on the questions under discussion.

[ER:] That's very interesting and most useful. Now, could you tell us something about your work as an officer of the National Council of Negro Women? What phase of this work are you especially interested in just now?

[Eunice Carter:] Well, as chairman of the board of trustees, uh my job is to guard the assets when any of our organization- to take care of the property and keep it in good shape for the membership. But for the last four years, I have been putting the major emphasis of my work on international affairs and work with the United Nations for the National Council.

[ER:] Well, of course uh I know that you've done a great deal to help Mrs. [Mary] Bethune and I know of your house in Washington, and I've always felt that was a great asset not only to your organization, but uh

to all of us uh who wanted to have a meeting place in Washington. Now you've answered my questions, Mrs. Carter, perhaps you'd like to ask me something? (3:23)

[Eunice Carter:] Yes, Mrs. Roosevelt, as a matter of fact I have two. As you know, part of the work of the non-governmental consultative organizations is to spread information about the United Nations. Do you think this work should be done in countries not now eligible to join the United Nations such as Italy, Éire [Ireland], and Austria, or should we concentrate only on those countries which are already members? There's been a great deal of discussion about this.

[ER:] Oh, I think that naturally, you should make sure that the countries that are members have all possible information. But I also think it very important that um one should give all the information possible in countries uh like Éire or Spain or Italy or Japan, wherever there is a sign they want information, I think they should get it and get it um as fully as we're able to give it. It's important that they should know and we hope someday they'll all be in the United Nations working with us.

[Eunice Carter:] I'm glad that you think that, Mrs. Roosevelt, that's the way I feel. Now my last question is entirely different. In a discussion concerning a resolution urging the ratification of the Atlantic Pact, the question was raised as to whether any organization with a primarily Christian purpose should support legislation or take action on a matter implying the possible use of armaments.

[ER:] Well it's- course seems to me to be a question of how you look upon the Atlantic Pact. If you look upon the Atlantic Pact primarily as one of the steps we are taking in the hope of building up defense for the democracies, the strength of the democracies, as a preventative for war, then it seems to me that any Christian organization can stand back of the Pact and should stand back of the Pact because its very desire for peace will help that organization and its members to be a watchdog. I know that having-creating power is always dangerous because there's always the temptation to use it in the wrong way instead of the right way. So you have to really make sure that the organizations who stick to their ideals will be with you and will keep you using the power that you must have at present in the right way to defend the right of the democracies to live and to keep peace in the world. Now, thank you for being our guest today, Mrs. Eunice Carter, and for telling us about the work you're doing with the National Council of Negro Women and the consultative organizations. Time is up, so back to my daughter Anna in Hollywood.

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