

FOURTH CONGRESS OF NEGRO CULTURE IN THE AMERICAS

**UNESCO - PARIS - FRANCE.
6, 7 8 of March 1991**

**BLACK AMERICA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
FIVE HUNDRED YEARS
AFTER THE ENCOUNTER OF TWO WORLDS**

IV CONGRESS - EUROPEAN ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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ANNOUNCEMENT

On the eve of the Five Hundreth Anniversary of the Encounter of Two Worlds, the CONGRESS OF NEGRO CULTURE OF THE AMERICAS is taking place with the object of throwing a spotlight on black contribution to the cultural identity of the American continent.

Blacks in the Americas and their part-Indian and part-European mixed blood offspring, represent a creative force imbued with new values that deeply influenced the social and cultural development of the American continent and enriched the cultural heritage of mankind as a whole.

Because of its historical ties with the Americas, Europe is particularly receptive to these contributions, which include : ideological and practical dimension of freedom struggle, religious syncretisms, liberation theology, the concept of family within the extended family structure, the ethnic imperative as a basis of social identity, new expressions in music, danse, literature and other esthetique forms, as well as decisive contributions to science and tecnology through the empirical knowledge of Indian and Afro American cultures.

The timing of the Congress is thus most opportune especially in view of the fact that the new nature of the international relations admits as a norm the sharing of the achievements of modern science and technology against a background of mutual respect and equal status of diverse world cultures and ethnic groups.

STRUCTURE AND ANTECEDENTS

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

CALI : COLOMBIA 1978
PANAMA CITY : PANAMA 1980
SAO PAULO : BRAZIL 1983

These were occasions that brought together historians, ethnologists, artists, and popular delegates (representative of Black and Indian communities, peasants, craftsmen) to, methodically develop an understanding of the contributory elements of black and mulatto cultures.

THE GOAL OF THE CONGRESS OF NEGRO CULTURE IN THE AMERICAS IS TO

- Develop research in the ethnographic, social, economic, and artistic fields into the historical role of Blacks in the Americas.
- Raise the problem of African contributions and the value of such contributions from the perspective of the feelings and aspirations of the black population.
- Establish a common front of scholars involved in research on black culture in the Americas.
- Bring contribution to the improvement of social and cultural condition of Afro American Communities, by setting up specific projects funded by Non governmental Organizations.
- Create institutions in each country in the continent devoted to research on Afro American cultural values, and develop exchanges between these institutions and similar organisations in Africa and the rest of the world.

IV CONGRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

As application of the statute of the Congress of Black Culture in the Americas, The standing Directory Board, convenes the IV th Congress, at the UNESCO house in Paris, 6,7,8 of March 1991.

Permanent Directory Board :

Abdias do Nascimento, president

Manuel Zapata Olivella, vice president

Gerardo Maloney, vice president

Official languages :

Spanish - Portuguese - English - French

THEME OF THE FOURTH CONGRESS

Within the parallel perspective of the five hundreth anniversary of the Encounter between two worlds and the establishment of the European Community, the Congress will adopt a multidisciplinary approach to an examination of black culture in the Americas and provide a forum for the expression of different points of view by delegates from America, Africa and Europe.

The Congress, which will be placed under the auspices of UNESCO, will aim at renewing and broadening the scope of previous debate in this field.

FIELDS OF DEBATE

1 - THE BLACK AMERICAN IMPACT ON EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT

Afro American intellectual and material contributions to European development

2 - THE BLACK CULTURAL PRESENCE IN THE AMERICAS

The instruments of liberation and creativity of the new Afro American identity : plastic arts, literature, religious syncretisms, philosophy and science.

3 - FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OF MUTUAL INTERPENETRATION

- Ethnic groups, social struggles, economic discrimination, power...
- The interpenetration of American peoples : a pointer to the Future.

4 - THE CHALLENGE OF CONTEMPORARY TECHNOLOGY

Science and traditional empirism : ecology, technological transfers, creativity of empirical peoples and their contributions to the heritage of mankind.

PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT*

In addition to President and Delegates of previous Congresses, the following will participate in the Fourth Congress.

- Personalities who have contributed to world wide acceptance of the values of Black Culture.
- Personalities who have devoted themselves to philosophical, anthropological, sociological and scientific research on the Black and Mulatto cultures of the Americas and comparative studies of European and African cultures.
- Following organisms

* **incomplete list**

FROM THE AMERICAS

Instituto de Pesquisas e Estudos Afro-Brasileiros. Sao Paulo.
Centro Cultural Francisco Sobrinho Matarrazzo. Sao Paulo.
Funafro. Rio de Janeiro.
Intecab. Salvador de Bahia.
Movimiento Negro Francisco Congo. Lima.
Centro de Estudios Afro-Ecuatorianos. Quito.
Fundación Colombiana de Investigaciones Folklóricas, Bogotá.
Movimiento Nacional Cimarrón, Colombia.
Presencia Negra en Colombia.
Congreso Negro Colombiano.
Instituto de Danzas Folklóricas Colombianas.
Casa de las Americas. Las Habana. CUBA
Casa Caribe. Santiago. Cuba
Centro de investigaciones historicas de America Latina y el Caribe. Caracas.
Congreso de Integracion Africa - América Latina. Caracas. Venezuela
Grupo Juvenil Calenda. Cartagena de Indias.
Instituto Nacional de Cultura. Panamá.
Société des Amis de Leon Damas. Cayenne. Guyane.
Department of Extramural Studies. University of the West Indies Kingston. Jamaica.
Howard University Washington.
African Diaspora Research Project. Michigan State University.
Caribbean Research Center. St Lucy.

FROM EUROPE

Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora de Africa. Madrid.
Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (España)
Comision Nacional del V Centenario (España)
Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) Paris.
Universités : PARIS III - PARIS IV - PARIS I - PARIS VII - PARIS VIII
Institut des Hautes Etudes d'Amérique Latine. Paris
Ecole des Hautes Etudes des Sciences sociales. Paris.
Afrique 2000. Paris.
Organizaciones No Gubernamentales de : España, Francia, Belgica, Suiza, Alemania, Holanda, Italia, Inglaterra.

FROM AFRICA

Centre International des Civilisations Bantu : (CICIBA)
Centre des Hautes Etudes Afro-Iberoamericanos. Dakar. Senegal.
Société Africaine de Culture.
Fespac
Fondation Leopold Sedar Senghor
Congreso Afro-Hispano de Guinea-Ecuatorial
Université de Libreville. Gabon.
Université de Kinshasa. Zaire.

ORGANISATION IVth CONGRESS :

- PERMANENT DIRECTORY BOARD OF THE CONGRESS
- FUNDACION COLOMBIANA DE INVESTIGACIONES FOLCLORICAS :
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- EUROPEAN ORGANISING COMMITTEE