



Folk singer Odetta sings and explains development of black music during the five-day black awareness Arts Festival, at New York's Riverside Church. (RNS)

'Black Awareness'

New York — (RNS)—Music, drama, painting, history and ideological workshops marked an intensive, five-day "Black Awareness Arts Festival" at Riverside church here.

Sponsored by the Black Christian Caucus of the interdenominational congregation, the program attracted hundreds of blacks and whites, and was the first festival of its kind in the New York metropolitan area.

Riverside's membership of 3,500 includes 600 black members. The black caucus, a group of about 50, was organized 20 months ago, spurred by the visit of James Forman, spokesman for the Black Manifesto, to the church last Summer.

Highlights of the festival included a workshop on black drama led by the Negro Ensemble Company, a "gospel sing-in" an art exhibit arranged by the Weusi Artists group and the Nyumba Ya Sanaa Gallery of Harlem and a concert by Odetta, the folk singer.

The spirit and impact was summed up by Odetta. She had the audience sing "Home on the Range" in the style Americans learned in elementary school. She sang it in the form of a black "moan." "This proves," she said, "that two communities can get along doing the same thing in their own way."

Participating in the evening of gospel music were the choirs from several black churches, in-

cluding Mother AME Zion, Cornerstone Baptist, Concord Baptist and Life Temple. Soloist was gospel singer Kate Smith, to be distinguished from the popular singer of the same name.

The Gothic sanctuary of Riverside echoed with a beat and with words which members could not remember having heard there before. Emotions rose and resounding applause followed Miss Smith's haunting rendition of "Peace in the Valley" and the crescendo of the statuesque singer's version of "I've Got Jesus and That's Enough."

A display on black history was provided by the Negro History Associates. More than half of the items in the art exhibit were sold during the course of the festival. Workshops focused on economic development, attitudes, theology, writing, drama and music.

Symbolic colors used throughout the festival were the black, red and green of the "Nationalist/Liberation Flag." Program notes pointed out that this flag has represented "black Unity for 15,000 years." The colors are found today in the flags of several African nations, including Kenya and Ghana. The Riverside program explained:

"Red . . . for the blood of the people; Black . . . the skin of the people; Green . . . the land, as far as you can see; land Green with promise of the future."

Osservatore: 'Innocents' Pay Mideast Cost

Vatican City — (RNS) — L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican City daily, expressed "deepest consternation" over the Arab guerrilla attack on an Israeli school bus near the Lebanese border.

The terrorist attack on May 22 killed eight children and three adults, and injured 21 others, mostly children.

"Innocent victims are paying with their blood for the faults of those who deepen divisions that are already grave, and who feed hatreds that destroy everything, starting with human life," the journal said.

The newspaper recalled that it had expressed concern, after the recent Israeli military incursion into Lebanon, that actions and reactions would sharpen hatreds and cut down "often defenseless and innocent victims on both sides."

Pope Paul VI asked his representatives in Jerusalem and Beirut to convey his sympathy to the Israeli and Lebanese governments for the "victims of attacks on each other's territories." According to AP, 20 Lebanese were killed and 40 wounded in an Israeli bombardment.

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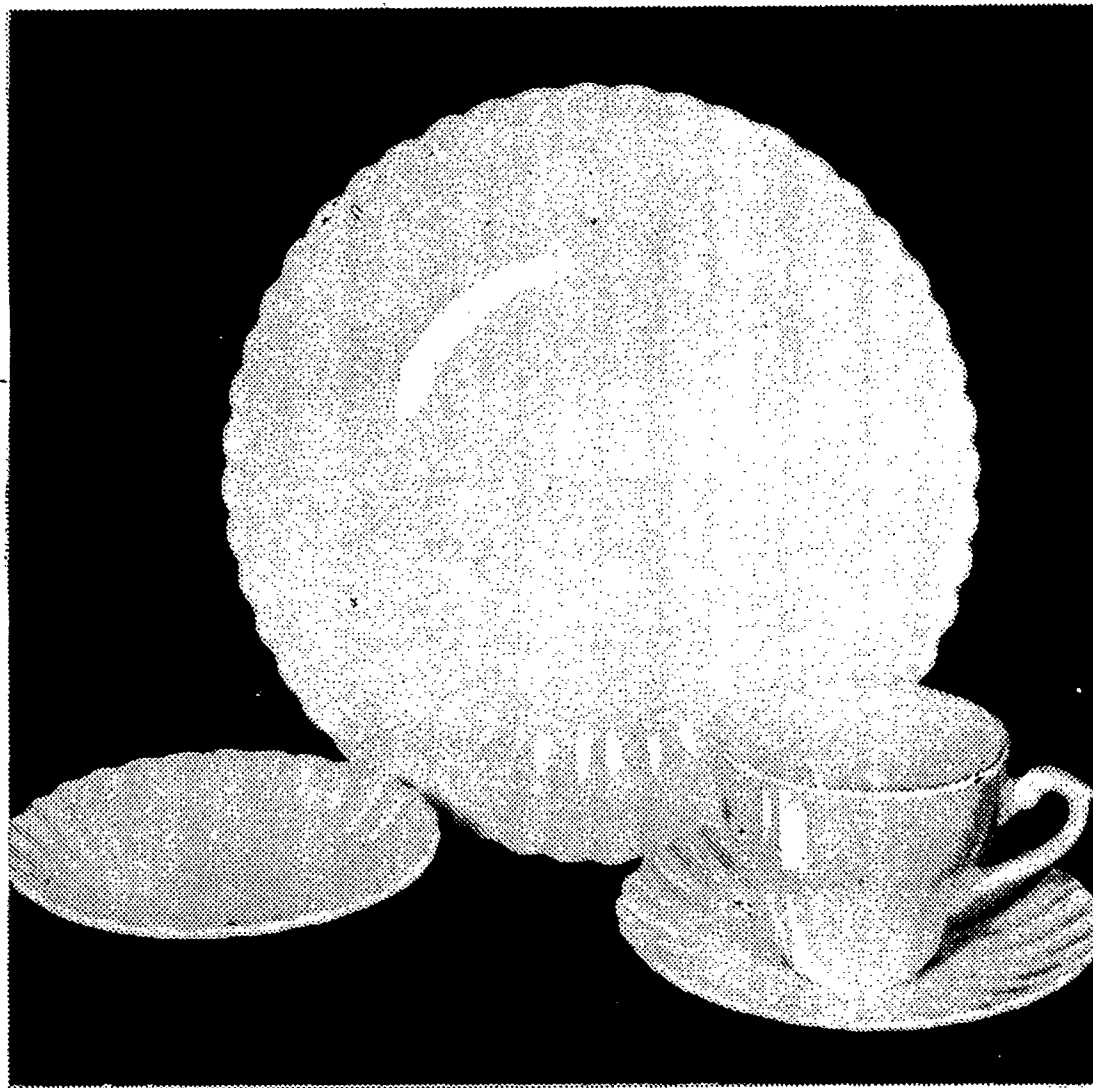
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