



Source 3

Evidence of Communist reaction in the USSR and Britain to events in Alabama, May 1963

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Questions

1. According to source 3a, a letter from the British Ambassador in Moscow to the British Foreign Office, what was the Soviet press reporting?
2. Why do you think the Soviet newspapers' response to the racial disturbances was "as was to be expected"? (Clue: Think about the relationship between the USSR and the USA at this time and about any differences between the two superpowers.)
3. In source 3b, why did these London branches of the Communist party write to the Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, about the President of the USA?
4. What did these branches of the Communist party want Macmillan to do about racial problems in Britain?
5. Are there any similar points made in source 3a and source 3b?



HEROES & VILLAINS

King & civil rights > Birmingham

Source 3a

(1035/16/5)

UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
MOSCOW.

May 16, 1963.

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Dear Parsons,

As was to be expected, the Soviet press has devoted considerable space to the racial troubles in Alabama. Many reports have been accompanied by photographs of clashes between negroes and police.

2. The reports stressed that the police used dogs against demonstrators, but the racialists used bombs and that many negroes had been arrested. The American people were said to be shocked by the disturbances, and the United States Government and President Kennedy were accused of making pious appeals but of taking no effective action against the racists, whom they had not condemned. American leaders were said to be alarmed at the effect the troubles would have on the United States' reputation abroad. The Soviet press described the affair as a demonstration of the real meaning of "so-called" American freedom.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Chancery at Washington.

Yours ever
J. C. Cloake

A. D. Parsons Esq., M.C.,
American Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

(J. C. Cloake)



Source 3b

to the Prime Minister,
The Rt. Hon. H. Macmillan, M.P.

THIS Joint Meeting of the BALEAM & TOOTING
and EARLSFIELD Branches of the Communist Party of
Great Britain, calls on the Prime Minister to
intercede with Mr. Kennedy, President of the
U.S.A., to use the full powers given to him in
the Federal Laws of the United States of America,
to stop the inhuman brutality now being inflicted
on the coloured population of Alabama struggling
for their rights as citizens of that State.

Further, in view of the shameful manifestations
in this country of racial prejudice and antagonism
in areas, such as our own, with large African and
West Indian populations, we urge that legislation be
passed without delay by our Government to make the
public incitement of race hatred and discrimination
an offence.

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