

AFRO-ASIAN MEETING UNDERWAY

22 Nations Represented At Cairo Parley

WASHINGTON (ANP)—Although the agenda for the Asian-African conference meeting in Cairo this week has not officially been announced, it is almost certain that they will discuss the nationalist movement, colonialism, racial discrimination, undeveloped economy, freedom and independence, and world peace. This information was revealed by Mohamed Habib, press attache of the Egyptian embassy.

In an exclusive interview, Habib pointed out that the nearly 500 persons, representing 42 delegates, assembled in Egypt on Dec. 26, to discuss their mutual problems. Those include their national aspirations, the similarity in their standard of living, racial discrimination, and their foreign policy.

This first "African-Asian peoples solidarity conference" is an outgrowth of a similar conference held in Bandung in 1955. It was planned in Cairo last October by a "national planning committee" composed of representatives from 22 nations. The purpose is to cultivate a better understanding between the peoples of those areas and to keep alive the spirit generated at Bandung.

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THE UNITING of the peoples of Asia and Africa has resulted in economic advancement and improved cultural relations, said Habib. Since Bandung the volume of trade has increased between those countries and a free exchange of views has broadened their cultural outlook and elevated their diplomatic relationship.

As an example he pointed out

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that Arab countries are now trading with Ghana and Liberia. And their diplomatic relations have so advanced that in many countries where they had only consulates they now have legations. And in others, where there were legations, there are now embassies.

The smaller countries of the East, said the Egyptian spokesman, do not want to be squeezed between the "big game" which the United States and the Soviet Union are playing. They don't want to be used in a cold war. These darker races realize that by uniting their efforts they outnumber the big powers. "Our basic cry is for peace," said Habib.

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"It is up to us, who are poor, but who are more numerous, to warn the potential powers who have the missiles that they cannot blow up this earth by their decision alone, and that more than half of the population of this earth have a desire for peace.

That is why the Asian-African bloc was formed in the United Nations eight years ago, they did not want to be used by major powers and realized that by uniting their forces they would have more weight in this fight against imperialist aggression.

The Egyptians admire the noble and quiet way by which

their rights in line with the principles of the Constitution which guaranteed these rights. And, concluded Habib, he hoped the New Year would bring more understanding between the two elements of the American people.