

U.S. Colony In Haiti Takes Hands Off Policy In Revolt

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PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti.—"It's like trying to be objective at a football game."

He thought for a while in silence, or in as much silence as is possible when a secretary in the same room is pounding a typewriter.

"When the trouble started, the American ambassador here called us up and cautioned us all to be strictly neutral. Well, we are trying to be. We try to avoid discussing the issues with Haitians. We try not to appear concerned.

"But hell, we all have our feelings about the matter, maybe strong feelings. But we don't discuss them except among ourselves. I mean the other Americans here."

So for the sake of maintaining neutrality, Dr. Max Bond, in charge of an American educational commission here, went no further. The commission is one of several projects sponsored in Haiti by the office of Inter-American Affairs.

Heads Mixed Group

Dr. Bond, on leave as dean of education at Tuskegee institute in Alabama, as director of a project which has on its staff Americans and Haitians, Negroes and whites, men and women, is unique.

Unofficially he is also head of the American Negro colony here. The American Negro colony is not a geographic location, but a term used to describe all the colored Americans residing in Port Au Prince. Actually they are scattered all over town.

The term is bad, Dr. Bond pointed out, because the American Negroes here try not to be clannish and confine their relations to each other.

Describes Aides

The group consists of an artist, a missionary, an anthropologist, three educators, two women and five children.

The artist is lean, brown James A. Porter, assistant professor of art at Howard University, here for two months to do a series of paintings.

The anthropologist is Dr. Mark Hanna Watkins, of Fisk University, here since Jan. 1, making a study of the Creole spoken by the peasantry.

The educators are Dr. Bond; Frederick A. Clement, associate professor of physics at West Virginia State College, and Dr. John F. Matheus, head of the department of romance languages, West Virginia State college.

All are connected with the educational project here and have been here since June 1944.

The missionary—he described himself as a "pioneer"—represents the Baha'i Faith, arrived Jan. 6, the day before the revolt broke out, and plans to remain for six months. He is Malcolm King, a physician, of Milwaukee, Wis.

Mrs. Ruth Bond, wife of Dr. Bond, and her three children, Jane, George and Max, are here, as also are Mrs. Helen Clement, wife of Prof. Clement, and their two children, a girl and a boy, born here.