

200 at Pier Bid Farewell to Claudia Jones

Two hundred persons gathered at the pier side Friday to bid farewell to Claudia Jones, Negro woman leader and victim of the Smith Act, as she was deported to England aboard the SS Queen Elizabeth.

Prior to sailing, Miss Jones issued a statement denouncing the Walter - McCarran Act, under which she was deported, as a "foul and unconstitutional statute" which "will go the way of the Alien and Sedition Laws of Jefferson's day" and the fugitive slave codes.

"The Smith Act, and the continuing persecution of firstly the Communists, then scientists, trade

union leaders, too, will go," she said, "because in this country the struggles of the American people for peace, democracy and equal rights is growing."

She termed the statutes under which she was deported "racist immigration laws, directed especially against West Indians from whose proud heritage I spring, and also against Asiatic people."

These laws, she said, are "the shame of America." she concluded by thanking those who had spoken in behalf of her own rights as well as the rights of other victims of cold war persecution. She pledged to continue in England the

struggle for human rights and expressed confidence that the American people would succeed in restoring the Bill of Rights and the traditional right of asylum for which the U.S. stood so long.

Miss Jones was convicted in 1953 under the thought control provisions of the Smith Act and served a year and a day in the Federal Women's Reformatory, Alderson, W. Va. She was released from prison Oct. 23 suffering from a serious heart illness and was under care of physicians until the time of her deportation.

The National Committee to Defend Negro Leadership, made this

comment on the imprisonment of Miss Jones under the Smith Act:

"Claudia Jones' conviction was prepared and carried out in an atmosphere of anti-Negro abuse and cold-war hysteria, and in an unusually comprehensive manner. Stoolpigeons and paid informers were used as 'witnesses.' The judicial apparatus rendered questionable decisions at decisive stages of her prosecution that had far-reaching consequences. . . . This hysteria has placed Claudia Jones' attorneys under continuing intimidation. And it can be said therefore that she has not had the fullest defense of her rights in court."