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## I. INTRODUCTION

A previous monograph The Communist Party and the Negro, dated February, 1953, covered the period 1919-1952. As indicated therein, the Communist Party, USA, has devoted an extraordinary amount of its time, funds, propaganda, and personnel to recruiting members from among the fifteen million Negroes who comprise approximately ten per cent of our total population. The failure of its efforts in this respect is best attested to by the fact that as of June, 1956, active, dues-paying Negroes constituted seven per cent of the total Party membership.

Its basic program in this field until recently has been set forth in its two slogans: "equal rights" and "self-determination" for the Negroes in the "Black Belt." The term "Black Belt" as used by communists refers to that portion of the Southern United States containing a large concentration of the Negro population. At varying intervals, depending on the extent of the Negro population, communists describe it as including parts of southern Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas. Marxists have maintained that the "Black Belt" contains all the necessary characteristics for becoming a separate nation and accordingly advanced the theory of "self-determination,"



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