

# UNITED NATIONS PEACEMAKER

RALPH J. BUNCHE



NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN JEWS AND ARABS HAD COMPLETELY BOGGED DOWN...WAR IN THE HOLY LAND CONTINUED TO RAGE ...COUNT BERNADOTTE, THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR, HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED ...EUROPE WAITED FEARFULLY FOR THE WAR TO SPREAD...BUT RALPH J. BUNCHE WAS APPOINTED CHIEF OF THE U.N. PALESTINE COMMISSION...AND THERE WAS PEACE, AT LAST! WHAT KIND OF A MAN PRODUCED SUCH WONDERS?



HE WAS THE GRANDSON OF A SLAVE, THE SON OF A DETROIT BARBER...

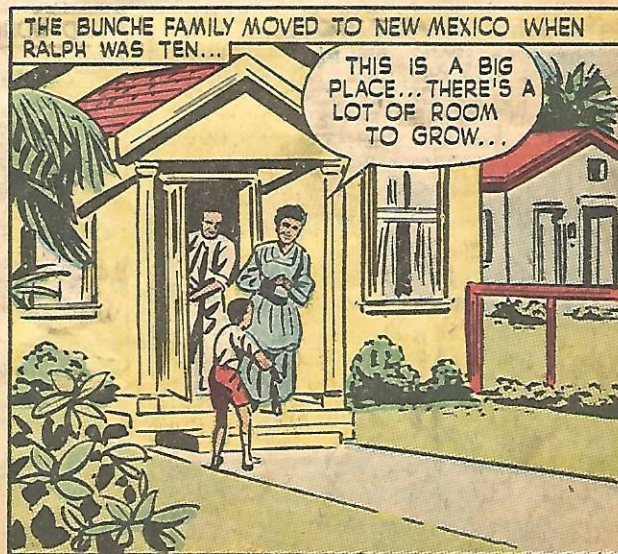
THE DOCTOR SAYS THAT IF WE DON'T GET TO A BETTER CLIMATE THAN DETROIT MY HEALTH WILL FAIL...

I GUESS PEOPLE HAVE TO GET THEIR HAIR CUT IN DRY CLIMATES, TOO.



THE BUNCHE FAMILY MOVED TO NEW MEXICO WHEN RALPH WAS TEN...

THIS IS A BIG PLACE...THERE'S A LOT OF ROOM TO GROW...





RALPH CERTAINLY GREW! BUT IN 1916, HE WAS ORPHANED, AND FOR THE REST OF HIS CHILDHOOD HE WAS RAISED BY HIS GRANDMOTHER... IN LOS ANGELES...

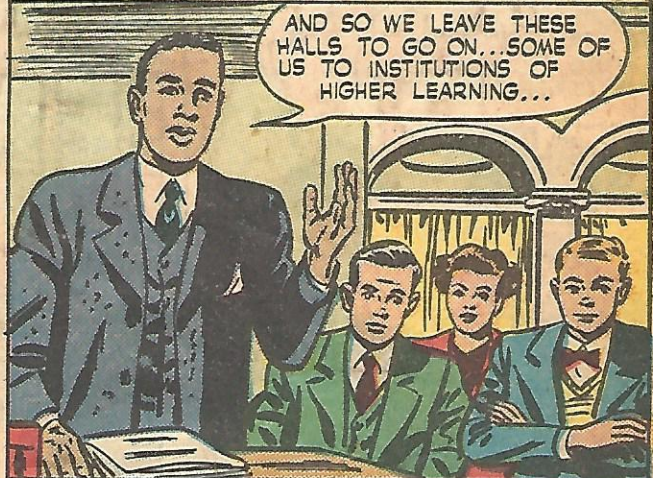
GRANDMA, HOW COME YOU GET SO MUCH DONE? FOR A TINY BIT OF A WOMAN YOU'RE THE STRONGEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN.

STRENGTH DOESN'T COME FROM SIZE, RALPH... DON'T EVER THINK THAT. STRENGTH COMES FROM INSIDE YOU.



BY 1922 RALPH RECEIVED THE FIRST OF HIS MANY 'FIRSTS'... HE GRADUATED FROM JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL WITH HIGHEST HONORS... HE WAS CLASS VALEDICTORIAN...

AND SO WE LEAVE THESE HALLS TO GO ON... SOME OF US TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING...



AT SUCH AN INSTITUTION, U.C.L.A., RALPH BEGAN HIS WORK ON WHAT WAS TO BE HIS LIFE'S CONSUMING INTEREST...

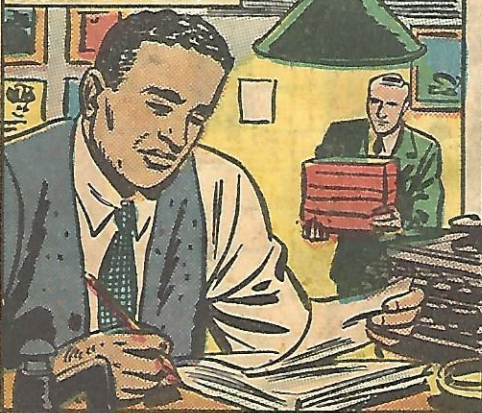
YOU STUDENTS WHO ARE MAJORING IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MUST KNOW THAT A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF RACIAL RELATIONS COMES FIRST...



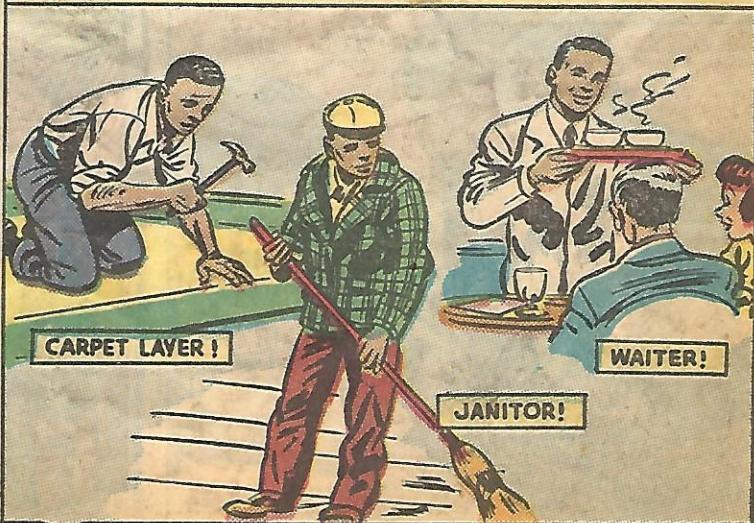
THIS WAS IT! RALPH BUNCHE HAD FOUND WHAT WAS TO BE HIS NICHE... BUT BEFORE HE WAS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S OUTSTANDING AUTHORITIES ON RACIAL RELATIONS THERE WAS A LOT TO DO IN COLLEGE...



BESIDES BEING STAR GUARD ON THREE BASKETBALL TEAMS AND PLAYING BOTH FOOTBALL AND BASEBALL, RALPH WAS SPORTS EDITOR OF THE SCHOOL YEAR-BOOK... AND BUSIED HIMSELF ON THE DEBATING TEAM!



AND WORKED HIS WAY THROUGH COLLEGE!





A FEW SCHOLARSHIPS FINALLY EASED SOME OF THE HARD WORK AND IN 1927 HE GRADUATED...

GLAD YOU MADE IT, RALPH... SUMMA CUM LAUDE, TOO... ALL MY CONGRATULATIONS...

THANK YOU, SIR.

BESIDES ALL THIS, HE WAS NOW A MEMBER OF PHI BETA KAPPA... NOT SATISFIED, RALPH WENT ON TO HARVARD. HIS TUITION WAS PAID FOR BY A PURSE OF A THOUSAND DOLLARS THAT HIS TOWNSPEOPLE GATHERED FOR HIM!

THIS IS WHERE I REALLY BEGIN TO WORK!

AT HARVARD, RALPH BUNCHE AGAIN MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF. HE RECEIVED HIS M.A. IN 1928 AND THEN... WENT ON TO HOWARD U. THIS TIME HOWEVER, HE WENT AS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, NOT AS A STUDENT.

THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE THEN, CAN BE SUMMARIZED BRIEFLY THIS WAY...

SOON MADE A FULL PROFESSOR, RALPH, STILL HARD AT WORK, DECIDED THAT THE ONLY WAY TO GET HIS PH.D. WAS TO STUDY IN THE FIELD! THIS FIELD WORK TOOK HIM TO AFRICA

THE ONLY WAY I CAN DO MY THESIS IS TO DO RESEARCH, NOT FROM BOOKS, BUT ON THE SPOT!

HIS ROUTE LEAD THROUGH WEST AND NORTH AFRICA... EVERYWHERE HE SAW CONDITIONS THAT SICKENED HIM.

RETURNING TO AMERICA HIS REPORT SHOWED HIS DISSATISFACTION.

FOR HIS THESIS, RALPH BUNCHE GOT, NOT ONLY HIS DOCTOR'S DEGREE IN GOVERNMENT, BUT THE TOPPAN PRIZE FOR THE BEST ESSAY IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES...

THIS IS MORE, MUCH MORE, THAN I EXPECTED...



HONORS DESCENDED ON THIS MODEST MAN IN GREATER AND GREATER NUMBERS... IT WOULD TAKE PAGES TO SHOW THEM ALL... A FELLOWSHIP IN ANTHROPOLOGY... ANOTHER FELLOWSHIP THAT GAVE HIM A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD AS A STAFF MEMBER OF THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION.

BY 1940 HE WAS CHIEF ASSISTANT TO GUNNAR MYRDAL, THE SWEDISH SOCIOLOGIST WHO STUDIED NEGRO-WHITE RELATIONS IN AMERICA... THESE STUDIES WERE NOT MADE IN ANY UNIVERSITY... THE TWO MEN WENT OUT AND MET PEOPLE...



IN 1941, AT THE OUTBREAK OF WAR... HE WENT TO WORK FOR THE O.S.S.



AS A RESULT OF HIS EARLY O.S.S. WORK HE ENDED THE WAR ATTACHED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HE WAS THE FIRST NEGRO TO HOLD AN IMPORTANT "DESK JOB" WITH THAT DEPARTMENT!



IT WAS A FEW MONTHS AFTER THIS THAT THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID OF HIM, "THIS MEANS THAT HE KNOWS ABOUT ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ON THE SUBJECT OF COLONIAL TRUSTEESHIP..."



THEN CAME STILL ANOTHER "FIRST" FOR THIS REMARKABLE MAN. HE BECAME THE FIRST NEGRO TO HOLD THE POST OF ACTING CHIEF IN A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE...



AT THAT HISTORIC CONFERENCE RALPH WAS BUSY BEHIND THE SCENES... HE SET SOME KIND OF UNOFFICIAL RECORD FOR ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES... NINE OF THEM WITHIN FOUR YEARS!



RECOGNITION CAME FASTER AND FASTER NOW... PRESIDENT TRUMAN APPOINTED DR. BUNCHE TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE IMPORTANT ANGLO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN COMMISSION.



I'M SURE YOU CAN CARRY ON FROM HERE, DR. BUNCHE!

ADVISOR TO THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN LONDON IN 1946 ... ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DELEGATION AT THE HISTORIC DUMBARTON OAKS CONFERENCE.... ADVISOR TO THE U.S. DELEGATION ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCES IN PARIS AND PHILADELPHIA... THE YEARS WERE CROWDED ONES.

THEN... IN 1946...

IT SEEMS, MR. LIE, THAT I AM NOW "ON LOAN" FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT AT YOUR REQUEST.

WE NEED YOU HERE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, DR. BUNCHE.



WHEN THE APPOINTMENT WAS MADE, THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE SAID, "HE IS AS WELL QUALIFIED AS IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE FOR THE POST! AMERICANS MUST REGARD HIM WITH PRIDE AND HUMILITY!"

THAT WAS WHEN DR. BUNCHE, AT SECRETARY GENERAL TRYGVIE LIE'S REQUEST, JOINED THE U.N. SECRETARIAT AS DIRECTOR OF THE TRUSTEESHIP DIVISION...



THEN IN SEPT., 1947...

WE'LL MISS YOU WHEN YOU'RE OFF ON THIS NEW ASSIGNMENT, DOCTOR.

I'LL MISS ALL OF YOU... BUT THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO SEE PALESTINE PROPERLY.



WITH WAR IN PALESTINE, A UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION WAS APPOINTED TO STUDY THE PROBLEM...

YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE HAVE PROGRESSED FAR!

WE MUST... FOR THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME...



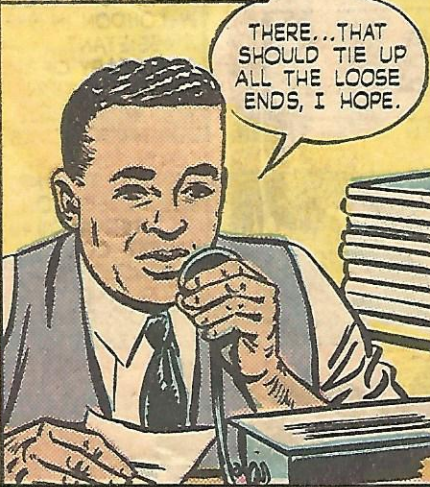


AS A RESULT OF THE STUDY OF THIS COMMISSION WHICH RECOMMENDED PARTITION...



THE COUNTRY MUST BE DIVIDED INTO JEWISH AND ARAB STATES. IT IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION.

DR. BUNCHE IS CREDITED WITH HAVING DRAFTED THE LION'S SHARE OF THAT HISTORIC REPORT...



THERE... THAT SHOULD TIE UP ALL THE LOOSE ENDS, I HOPE.

THIS SHORT BIOGRAPHY LEAVES NO ROOM TO MENTION THE MANY ARTICLES THAT HAVE Poured FROM DR. BUNCHE ON COLONIAL POLICY, RACE RELATIONS, TRUSTEESHIP... AND THE LIKE... THEY HAVE APPEARED IN ALL KINDS OF PUBLICATIONS AND BOOKS.

MARRIED FOR NINETEEN YEARS HE HAS ONLY ONE BESETTING WORRY...



LOOK AT ME... ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY POUNDS... I'M SLOWED DOWN SO THAT ABOUT THE TOUGHEST EXERCISE I CAN STAND IS BILLIARDS.

UMMM... YOU DO HAVE ONE OTHER OUTLET... LETTING OFF STEAM WHEN JACKIE ROBINSON HANDLES SECOND BASE FOR THE DODGERS!

THE FATHER OF THREE CHILDREN, THIS BUSY MAN'S ONE COMPLAINT IS THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO READ, TO GO TO THE THEATRE... AND FISH...



WELL... MAYBE NEXT YEAR THERE WILL BE MORE TIME.

AND SO, NOW YOU KNOW JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THE BACKGROUND OF THE MAN WHO MORE THAN ANY OTHER ONE PERSON WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE.



RALPH J. BUNCHE, GREAT AMERICAN, ATHLETE, SCHOLAR AND PEACEMAKER EXTRA-ORDINARY IN A WORLD THAT NEEDS SUCH MEN DESPERATELY...