

# George Padmore's Name Cleared

The name of George Padmore, life-long African socialist and determined fighter for African Freedom from Imperialism, has been smeared in the Braimah Commission of Enquiry now taking place in the Gold Coast. We publish below important correspondence on this matter between Mr. Padmore and the Commission.

22, Cranleigh House  
Cranleigh Street,  
London, N.W.1.  
January 3rd, 1954.

The Honourable Mr. Justice  
Korsah,  
Chairman: Commission of  
Inquiry,  
Accra. GOLD COAST.

**My Lord:**

I have just returned to London from abroad and have had my attention drawn to certain aspersions which have been made about me before your Lordship's Commission, and I am accordingly compelled to address this letter to you.

2. In a Reuter's despatch from Accra published in "The Times" of December 30, 1953, and other British newspapers, the following statement appears:—

"Mr. Koi Larbi, Mr. Braimah's counsel, asked if it were true that a Mr. George Padmore, in London, had negotiated a contract with a Dutch housing firm at 5 per cent commission and then offered to split the commission with Dr. Nkrumah's Convention People's Party. The Prime Minister denied this."

3. I wish to state quite categorically that this is a malicious and wicked innuendo, and a baseless lie.

4. That my name should be drawn into this inquiry with its implications of bribery and corruption, can have only one interpretation. As a close friend of

Dr. Nkrumah and supporter of his cause for Gold Coast independence, it is an attempt to smear my name and reputation and, by association, to besmirch the honour and reputation of the Prime Minister.

5. That Mr. Larbi, a member of what is supposed to be an honourable profession, should use his privileged position as Counsel for Mr. Braimah to cast aspersions upon the character and reputation of others, is disgraceful. It is particularly reprehensible in the actual context of the terms of reference

**Reply to George Padmore's letter to the Gold Coast Commission.**

Office of the Braimah  
Enquiry Commission,  
c/o, Private Post Bag,  
Accra.  
12th January, 1954.

Sir,

## BRAIMAH ENQUIRY COMMISSION

I am directed by Mr. Justice Korsah, Chairman of the Commission of Enquiry into Mr. Braimah's resignation, to acknowledge your letter of January 3rd, 1954, the contents of which have been noted by the Commissioners.

2. I am to inform you that no affirmative evidence has been ad-

duced before the Commission in support of any allegations made against you; it is not therefore the view of the Commissioners that they would be justified in calling upon you to present yourself before the Commission.

6. I want to state that if your Lordship's Commission thinks it will serve any useful purpose, I am prepared to present myself before the Commission.

7. In view of the fact that Mr. Larbi's innuendo has been distributed throughout the world by Reuter's News Agency, I reserve the right to publish this statement in the Press.

In attending upon your reply,

I have the honour to be, My  
Lord,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) **George Padmore**

duced before the Commission in support of any allegations made against you; it is not therefore the view of the Commissioners that they would be justified in calling upon you to present yourself before the Commission.

3. A further communication will be addressed to you should these circumstances alter to any material extent.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,  
E. B. S. ALTON,  
SECRETARY TO THE  
COMMISSION

The Chairman of the Commission has now warned counsel that he will not tolerate Mr. Larbi using the Commission as a means of making false allegations against people. Good though it is, it is a pity it was not done before the false allegations against George Padmore were sent out to the press of the world.