

Italy Pays Tribute To Amelia Boynton Robinson

In Milan and Rome, she was received as a head of state—in Milan by the President of the Lombardy region, and in Rome by the Human Rights Committee of the Italian Senate. It's what she deserves: Amelia Boynton Robinson, 91 years old and heroine of the American Civil Rights movement and close collaborator of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is now vice-chairman of the U.S. Schiller Institute. She came to Italy with an urgent mission to help stop an Iraq war, but also to tell the story of her life-long fight against discrimination and for Black Americans' right to vote.

That fight led in 1965 to the historic "Bloody Sunday" march to Montgomery, Alabama, when she was beaten and left for dead on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, as mounted police attacked the demonstrators. The Voting Rights Act was the result of that fight, which she had led in Alabama with her husband S.W. Boynton for 35 years before Martin Luther King came there.

As she told official meetings, public conferences, and press and TV interviews, today she continues this fight with Lyndon LaRouche, whose movement inherited Dr. King's dream, "encompassing, this time, peace and development for the whole world."

Honored in Milan

Mrs. Robinson's Italian tour began September 24 in Milan, where she was officially received by Roberto Formigoni, the President of the Lombardy region. He awarded her a medal in memory of her fight for Civil Rights and in memory of Martin Luther King.

In the evening, she met students from Milan and Bologna, Roman Catholic priests, nuns, and some journalists, at a meeting organized by the university group of the Solidarity Movement in Santa Maria Liberatrice parish. There she was also interviewed by the major Catholic magazine, *Famiglia Cristiana*.

September 26 saw the first of three public meetings in Rome, at the Sala delle Letterature, organized by the City



Regione Lombardia, Ufficio Portavoce del Presidente/Gianni Congiui

Mrs. Robinson receives medal honoring her Civil Rights battles from Roberto Formigoni, President of Italy's Lombardy region.

of Rome. Mrs. Robinson was introduced by the director of the center, Maria Ida Gaeta, who brought the greetings of Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni, and of the City Commissioner for Cultural Policy.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Robinson was received by the Human Rights Committee at the Italian Senate. The president of the Committee, Sen. Enrico Pianetta, and the vice-chairwoman Sen. Patrizia Toia, thanked her for the honor she was doing the Italian Senate by addressing their Committee.

After she had spoken on her lifelong fight for human and Civil Rights, some women Senators expressed their appreciation that Mrs. Robinson is a very good example for women in politics, who fight for human rights, but "under totally different conditions, since you risked your life at your time," as Sen. Patrizia Toia said. Another Senator interjected: "When I come home today, I will tell my 19-year-old daughter that I met history this afternoon, and that young people should do the same."

Public Mass Meetings

A public meeting was held at the Libreria Paesi Nuovi, in front of the Italian Parliament, where Dr. Nino Galloni,

economist and director of the Labor Ministry; Marguerite Lottin, a journalist and politician from Cameroon; and Lucio D'Ubaldo, editor-in-chief of the magazine *Nuova Fase*, spoke along with Mrs. Robinson.

The audience of 80 people included the Hon. Giovanni Galloni, former Minister at the time of the Christian Democracy in the 1970's; Tommaso Fulfaro, leader of the Association for the Left; and Father Ulisse Frascali, founder of the Nuovo Villaggio del Fanciullo in Rimini.

On September 28, Mrs. Robinson embodied the dialogue of cultures at a meeting of 1,000 at the Soka Gokkai Buddhist Cultural Center near Rome, which had just inaugurated an exhibition on "Three Men of Peace: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and Daisaku Ikeda"—the last being the leader of the Buddhist Center.

On September 25, *Corriere della Sera* and *Libero* published the picture of her meeting with Lombardy President Formigoni. A full-page interview was published on September 27 by the Italian daily *Il Manifesto*, under the headline "But America Is Not Bush."