



# *Celebrate Black History*

## *Ralph Bunche*

**Ralph Johnson Bunche** (1904–1971) was an American political scientist, academic and diplomat who received the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize for mediating a cease-fire between Israeli and Arab forces in the Palestinian region in the late 1940s. He was the first African-American to receive the prize.

Involved in the formation and administration of the United Nations, Bunche was offered the post of U.S. assistant secretary of state by President Harry Truman. Citing the segregationist policies of Washington, D.C., at the time, he declined the offer. Bunche actively supported Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s non-violent tactics, participating in the 1963 March on Washington and the Selma-to-Montgomery Voting Rights March in 1965.

Marking a lifetime of distinguished accomplishments, Bunche received 69 honorary doctorates. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

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