

Negro Middle Class 'Revolution' Subject of Negro-Made TV Show

By ROBERT E. DALLOS

The Negro middle class—five million Americans in the throes of a "mental revolution"—will be examined on Monday night at 9 P.M. in a 90-minute National Educational Television documentary entitled, "Still a Brother: Inside the Negro Middle Class." The program will be seen here on Channel 13.

"Still a Brother" was conceived, photographed and produced by William Branch and William Greaves, both members of the Negro middle class and both with long careers in the theater, journalism and television. Mr. Branch and Mr. Greaves spent a year preparing the documentary. Ossie Davis, the actor, will be narrator.

The program offers a view of the daily and social life in the Negro middle class: its homes, jobs, vacation spots and beauty contests. It also delves into their "revolution" — choosing between their white-oriented goals and the needs of the Negro in the United States.

These Negroes who have the same, though largely segregated, standard of living as their white counterparts, are being condemned by civil rights militants for allegedly having hindered the struggle for equality.

Though many are becoming Africa-oriented and increasingly sympathetic with the militants, many also remain committed to the basically white aspirations.

The program shows that there is still very little communication between whites and blacks. The Negro middle class entertains the Negro middle class. The Negro middle class vacations with the Negro middle class.

"Man, when I take my family

on vacation," one man interviewed on the program says, "we want to relax. We don't want any problem with prejudiced white folks. So we go where we won't be bothered." Oak Bluffs, Mass., on Martha's Vineyard, is cited as one such summer retreat.

A woman attending a Negro party talks about Negro-white relationships:

"We meet together on a certain basis, but I don't expect to be invited to their parties, and I'm sure they wouldn't enjoy coming to mine.

Dramatically, Horace Morris, associate director of the Urban League in Washington and former football player at Syracuse University, recounts his presence in Newark during riots last summer, when the police opened fire on his car and mortally injured his stepfather and injured his brother.

Until then, Mr. Morris says, he had accepted "the fallacy that ability is enough." But, he continued, "no matter how far up the economic ladder you climb, there's still the oppressive prejudice of the white man ... you're still a brother."

"To my mind there is no black middle class," says Ralph Fratherstone, an official of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. "It's impossible for it to exist in this country.

"We have those who aspire to be middle class, and to that group I would say that they have been almost totally, 99 per cent, negligent in their response to the struggles of the masses of black people in this country and they have in many instances in fact hindered that struggle by moderating the genuine and legitimate radicalism of the masses."