

# 1963 REPORT

(January 1, 1963 through December 31, 1963)

## *American Committee on Africa*



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# 1963

marked the Tenth Anniversary of the American Committee on Africa (ACOA). Both membership and activities continued to grow.

This report follows the major lines of ACOA work: (1) Program and Projects; (2) Public Information and Education; (3) Membership and Finance; and (4) Administration. Financial data is now organized under the same headings.

## (1) PROGRAM AND PROJECTS

*Action Against Apartheid:* Following the 1962 *Appeal for Action Against Apartheid*, initiated by Albert John Lutuli and Martin Luther King, the American Committee on Africa continued its campaign against the only country in the world today that practices racism as a matter of governmental policy. ACOA worked closely with the UN's new Special Committee on Apartheid, which called Executive Director George Houser as one of its first witnesses. Mr. Houser proposed that a study be made of South Africa's international trade. ACOA was in frequent touch with U.S. officials both at the UN and in Washington. One part of the Committee's program—an embargo on American arms shipments to South Africa—has been adopted by the U.S. Our campaign is thus now focused on awakening Americans to the extent of their economic involvement with South Africa.

In the fall, a petition was widely circulated demanding an embargo on American trade with South Africa and asking for action to dry up the flow of American investment. The petition, signed by more than eight thousand Americans, was presented to Ambassador Stevenson for transmission to President Johnson.

ACOA organized symbolic, one-day picketing of a South African ship at a Brooklyn dock. Longshoremen refused to cross the line, and handling of cargo was delayed. A month later, more than 200 people turned out to demonstrate at the South African Consulate, protesting the trial of eleven anti-apartheid leaders facing the death sentence.

As 1963 wore on, South African repression increased in intensity. ACOA policy discussions late in the year placed action in the U.S. against South Africa at the top of the organization's 1964 agenda.

*Africa Defense and Aid Fund:* This special fund of the American Committee on Africa is responding to the worsening South African situation: By the end of 1963, its grants were concentrating on anti-

apartheid groups, which it was assisting with funds for legal defense and refugee aid. Two appeals late in the year—one of them a newspaper letter signed by five prominent clergymen—are helping to replenish the nearly depleted Fund. Defense and Aid grants to organizations engaged in the freedom struggle in other parts of Africa, including Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea, Southern Rhodesia and Swaziland, continued to be made throughout the year.

*Emergency Relief to Angola (ERA):* Early in January, 1963, Dr. F. Ian Gilchrist arrived in Leopoldville as ERA's volunteer doctor. Shortly thereafter, the station wagon purchased by the American Committee in late 1962 reached the Congo. Based at the Angolan clinic in Leopoldville, Dr. Gilchrist now sees an average of 80 patients a day when at the clinic. But he gives major blocks of his time to trips to the scattered refugee settlements along the extensive Congo-Angola border. Even on short stops of two or three days, hundreds of patients are treated. Simple medications are left behind for dispensing locally. Medical volunteers go to Leopoldville for a few days training—so that local treatment, while still far from a professional level, has greatly grown in range and efficiency.

ERA issued and distributed 180,000 copies of its 1963 brochure. Fund-raising efforts continued to be modestly successful. One grant of \$4,000 enabled ACOA to purchase and equip a large Land-Rover station wagon for use as an ambulance. It will facilitate carrying much larger supplies of medicines to the border; and patients needing hospitalization will be more adequately accommodated for the rough trip back to Leopoldville.

*ACOA at the United Nations:* The United Nations is the focus for debate on most of the critical issues relating to independence and equality in Africa. During 1963, ACOA has been closely in touch with these debates, particularly on South and South West Africa; Angola, Mozambique, and Portuguese Guinea; the British High Commission Territories; and Southern Rhodesia. Our task is to keep up to date on developments in these areas, to supply information to various missions to the UN, to aid African petitioners who appear at the UN, and never to let the U.S. Mission to the UN forget that, remote though these areas are, they confront our government with policy issues which are of vital concern to significant numbers of Americans. African leaders assisted by ACOA in 1963 include: Holden Roberto and Carlos Gonçalves of Angola; Eduardo Mondlane

and David Mabunda of Mozambique; Nana Mahomo, Patrick Duncan, and Oliver Tambo of South Africa; Marcus Kooper, Jacob Kuhangua and Michael Scott of South West Africa; Joshua Nkomo and Ndabaningi Sithole of Southern Rhodesia. Last year, ACOA again prepared its annual voting chart on African issues at the UN, with particular emphasis on the U.S. position. This annual compilation has come to be regarded as a valuable research tool by diplomats, journalists, and scholars.

## (2) PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Marking ten years of work against colonialism and racial oppression in Africa, the American Committee printed two hundred thousand copies of the anniversary report, "Ten Years Towards African Freedom." By year-end, most of these had been distributed.

*Africa Today*, the ACOA magazine, also noted the Tenth Anniversary with a special triple-sized issue focused on the next ten years. Feature articles dealt with the future for South Africa, the Congo, the High Commission Territories, Nigeria and Ghana. ACOA's President, Peter Weiss, highlighted the functions of the American Committee on Africa, and such African personalities as Kaunda, Nyerere and Mboya sent greetings. In regular issues, *Africa Today* continued its reports on, and analyses of, the contemporary African scene. Particularly important articles dealt with the Addis Ababa Conference, the Clay Report on foreign aid, and the East African Federation.

*Africa Today's* circulation dropped sharply with the discontinuance of membership subscriptions. But paid subscriptions, in spite of the price increase from \$3.50 to \$5 in late 1962, continued to grow, and 1963 income was up about 40% over 1962. By year-end, the circulation was again rising.

*Literature Distribution:* Each day brings requests for information about Africa. ACOA thus sends out a steady stream of pamphlets, brochures, maps and mimeographed material.

*Other Means of Mass Communication:* Committee spokesmen appeared on several television broadcasts during 1963. Radio spots, both for ACOA representatives and for Africans secured through ACOA, have been frequent. In fact, the Committee has become a familiar source of information for radio, television, and the press. Of the many press releases, one feature release on Angolan refugees and ERA received particularly wide coverage, both here and abroad.

*African Freedom Day:* Because most of Africa is now independent—and the problems of achieving

freedom in Southern Africa are enormous—ACOA's Africa Freedom Day dropped its old atmosphere of celebration. Instead, it featured a serious panel discussion on April 16th with Sithole of Southern Rhodesia, Kalulu of Northern Rhodesia, Chiume of Nyasaland, Kozonguisi of South West Africa, and Mondlane of Mozambique. More than 600 people attended.

### (3) MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE

Despite a massive Portuguese publicity campaign within the United States to discredit the American Committee on Africa, new members and donors swelled our lists in 1963. However, resignations and non-renewals also rose, and our net membership increase was approximately 10%—down from about 30% in 1962. The financial report below, based on preliminary, unaudited figures, follows the functional categories instituted with the 1963 budget:

#### 1963 INCOME

Detail Heads (below)	Member- ship	Educa- tion	Program	Admin- istration	TOTALS
Contributions and Memberships	\$82,700.04				\$82,700.04
Contributions from ERA & Defense & Aid in lieu of sharing salaries, rent, etc.			\$9,097.78		9,097.78
AFRICA TODAY Literature & Books		\$13,902.21			13,902.21
Honoraria & Help on Travel		2,329.76			2,329.76
Meetings; Confs.	956.00	383.27	2,323.03		2,323.03
Miscellaneous				\$51.32	51.32
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>83,656.04</b>	<b>16,615.24</b>	<b>11,420.81</b>	<b>51.32</b>	<b>111,743.41</b>

#### 1963 EXPENSES

Detail Heads (below)	Member- ship	Educa- tion	Program	Admin- istration	TOTALS
Personnel	\$17,413.97	\$15,105.47	\$14,373.06	\$14,728.92	\$61,621.42
Mailing	20,374.60	3,064.36	530.43	24.30	23,993.69
Literature & Books		377.97			377.97
AFRICA TODAY Travel		10,773.40	2,190.91		10,773.40
Meetings; Confs.	500.44	517.60	966.80		1,984.84
Printing	283.25	1,598.05	3,584.73		5,466.03
Rent & Electricity	1,036.68	777.49	777.48	2,596.37	5,188.02
Tel. & Tel.	421.61	310.55	300.55	1,086.35	2,119.06
Stationery; Supp.	673.97	136.55	100.00	1,001.83	1,912.35
Postage	626.35	549.09	343.98	1,179.88	2,699.30
Audit				1,000.00	1,000.00
Membership List Maintenance	1,262.66				1,262.66
Office & Equipment; Moving				2,582.16	2,582.16
Miscellaneous	8.00	22.46	3.87	1,776.24	1,810.57
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>42,601.53</b>	<b>33,232.99</b>	<b>23,171.81</b>	<b>25,976.05</b>	<b>124,982.38</b>

For the first five months of 1963, our financial experience was excellent: we cleared off most of the overhanging deficit from prior years. But the rest of the year—when American interest was almost necessarily focused on the struggle for racial equality within the United States—was extraordinarily diffi-

cult. Not only was all the previous ground lost, but a deficit of \$13,236.97 was added for 1963 operations alone.

Africa Defense and Aid Fund (of which Emergency Relief to Angola is a part) maintains a separate account:

AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID AND EMERGENCY RELIEF TO ANGOLA (ADAF-ERA)	
Income	\$31,732.51*
Expenses—	
for Public Information and Mailing .....	\$14,730.64
for Administration and General .....	9,862.25
to Africa and Africans .....	<u>10,746.06*</u>
	<u>\$35,338.95</u>
DEFICIT	\$ 3,606.44

\*Does not include the \$4,000 grant for an ambulance nor does it include medicines contributed directly to Angolan refugees; in neither case, did the money pass through our books.

Unlike the operating account, ERA-ADAF ended the year with no debts. However, it spent \$3,606.44 more than it received during the year, and its balance on hand was reduced to less than \$5,000 at year end compared with \$8,500 a year earlier.

#### (4) ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL

There were few changes in the National Committee and the Executive Board. Mason Sears and James Roosevelt joined the National Committee; National Committee member Van Wyck Brooks died. Frank Montero went to the staff of the U.S. Mission to the UN and regretfully left the American Committee on Africa, of which he was a vice-president. Peter Weiss and William X. Scheinman of the Executive Board attended the Kenya Independence celebration in Nairobi. The scholarship set up by several Board members in memory of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was awarded to two students from South Africa.

Mrs. Mary-Louise Hooper took an extended leave of absence as West Coast Representative early in the year. Otherwise, the staff remained the same: George M. Houser, Executive Director; James R. Robinson, Assistant Director; Collin Gonze, Publications Director.

#### IN CONCLUSION:

1963 marked the end of a decade for the American Committee on Africa. The period of political independence for many new countries each year has come to an end. The struggles in Southern Africa are intensifying. 1963 was a year of difficulties, both programmatic and financial. But it was also a door opening to a new decade of opportunity to serve Africa.