

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA ✓
211 East 43rd Street
New York, New York 10017
TN 7-8733

1964
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

PROTEST PORTUGUESE PRESSURE ON FORD FOUNDATION

New York, December 21: The American Committee on Africa today protested to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Ford Foundation at the recent disclosure that the Ford Foundation has agreed to consult the Salazar Government before supporting projects relating to Portuguese Africa.

In a telegram to Henry T. Heald, George Houser, Director of the American Committee on Africa, wrote that "the Ford Foundation is being used for political purposes by the Ford Motor Company and tax status should be open to examination by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The fact that a grant for educational aid to Mozambique refugee students was recently terminated by the Ford Foundation is interpreted as willingness of the Foundation to yield to pressures of the Motor Company and Portugal."

To the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Committee wrote: "Strongly urge you to investigate the independence of the Ford Foundation from pressures and political decisions of the Ford Motor Company..."

A New York Times report from Lisbon, dated December 18, read in part:

"The Ford Foundation is reported to have assured the Government of Premier Salazar that it would be consulted before any future grants are given to African areas of particular interest to Portugal..."

"The Ford Assembly plant here has been under heavy pressure since September, when the Portuguese Foreign Minister Alberto Franco Nogueira, attacked the Ford Foundation as one of three American organizations allegedly financing the Liberation Front of Mozambique, a Portuguese possession in southeast Africa."

The Ford Foundation granted \$99,700 last year to help establish a school for young refugees from Mozambique who have fled to Tanganyika.

The American Committee on Africa is an eleven-year-old private American organization concerned with African affairs and U.S. policy. Many prominent Americans are on its Board and National Committee. The co-chairmen are A. Philip Randolph, Vice-President of the AFL-CIO, and the Reverend Donald Harrington, minister of the Community Church of New York.

The text of the telegrams follows:

Sent to: Henry T. Heald, President, Ford Foundation

"Deeply shocked at the disclosure (according to N.Y. Times, Dec. 18) that the Ford Foundation has agreed to consult Salazar's Government before supporting projects relating to Portuguese areas of Africa. This will be interpreted by African leaders in Angola and Mozambique as a decision to impede their right to independence. Further, it contradicts the stated independence of Ford Foundation from Ford Motor Company. If the Ford Foundation is completely independent institution, why was the concession announcement made by the Ford subsidiary in Lisbon? It appears that Ford Foundation is being used for political purposes by Ford Motor Company and tax status should be open to examination by Internal Revenue. The fact that a grant for educational aid to Mozambique refugee students was recently terminated by Ford Foundation is interpreted as willingness of Foundation to yield to pressure of Motor Company and Portugal."

Sent to: Director, Internal Revenue Bureau

"Strongly urge you to investigate the independence of the Ford Foundation from pressure and political decisions of the Ford Motor Company. The recent disclosure, in N.Y. Times story datelined Lisbon, Dec. 18, that the Ford Foundation has given in to pressures of Ford Motor Company not to support projects involving areas where Portugal has interests in Africa without "consulting" Portugal, raises serious questions about the freedom of the Foundation from Ford Motor Company policies. If the Ford Foundation is completely independent institution, why was the concession announcement made by the Ford subsidiary in Lisbon?"