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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OF THE AFRICA FUND

The Africa Fund has had another extremely busy year, reflecting the growing awareness in the United States that something momentous is happening in southern Africa. Helping to focus attention on the urgency of southern African questions were the unresolved issues of Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The long hoped-for achievement of majority rule in Zimbabwe was again frustrated in 1978. An internal settlement agreed to by whites and some black elements in the country did not meet the demands of the African nationalists and the armed struggle continued. More than one hundred thousand refugees poured into bordering countries. Leaders of the so-called internal settlement, including Ian Smith, visited the United States in the hope that this would be an important step towards international recognition.

In Namibia, United Nations plans for elections for an independent government under international supervision were successfully scuttled by South Africa which then sponsored its own elections. International approval for this action was refused by the United Nations. The struggle continued. Thousands of refugees sought some semblance of security in adjacent countries.

In the United States a great deal of public attention was given to the question of bank loans to South Africa and to the role of American corporations in bolstering the apartheid regime. Particularly on the college campuses around the country, organized actions challenged universities to cease investing in corporations doing business in South Africa. A demand for literature interpreting events was on the increase.

This was the setting for Africa Fund work in 1978.

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

1. Medical and Refugee Assistance. Shipments of medical and educational supplies to assist newly independent areas suffering the aftermath of colonial rule, and to aid Africans working for independence, continued to be a primary focus for the Fund.

1978 began with a large shipment of \$77,000 in medicines, primarily antibiotics, for the work of the Ministry of Health in Mozambique. Following previous shipments of spare parts for hospital boiler and sterilizers, \$5,900 was spent for stethoscopes and spectrophotometers and ~~used~~ shipped to Mozambique in 1978. Additional funds are now being sought to help meet Mozambique's priority requests for medicines, microscopes and simple surgical kits for use in rural areas.

\$10,000 in medicines were sent by air for the Ministry of Health in newly independent Cape Verde in West Africa. Assisting an African doctor now practicing in the United States, The Africa Fund raised the necessary funds urgently needed to transport tons of hospital beds and other equipment made available when a hospital in the U.S. was closing. This equipment, worth about \$1 million, was sent to equip a new hospital in Cape Verde.

Major attention during the year was also given to the plight of refugees who have fled Rhodesia to neighboring Mozambique and Zambia. The number of Zimbabwe refugees has mushroomed to approximately 200,000 in centers administered by The Patriotic Front in cooperation with the United Nations. George Houser and Prexy Nesbitt of the Africa Fund staff visited refugee facilities in Zambia and Mozambique, respectively, during fact-finding trips to southern Africa in 1978. The refugee centers have been subjected to wanton bombings by Smith government forces. Houser was able to effectively refute false charges in the media that these were military bases just after Rhodesian planes killed hundreds of refugees in Zambia.

The Africa Fund made five separate shipments of medicines and equipment during 1978 for Zimbabwe refugees weighing over one ton. Most were rushed by air freight. As part of our program, The Fund helped to coordinate, consolidate and ship medical supplies collected by support groups in places such as Durham, North Carolina, New Haven, Detroit, and Pittsburgh. With our assistance, the chief medical officer for Zimbabwe refugees in Mozambique, Dr. Herbert Ushewokunze, was able to make a national tour of the U.S. in the spring to bring the plight of refugees to the attention of an expanding number of persons. In addition, The Africa Fund compiled and mailed appeals concerning Zimbabwe refugees to more than 125,00 individuals to help educate and build support for the refugees. We received many letters from officials in Africa thanking us for our work, such as the following from Zambia:

"I am happy to inform you that we have received the shipment in good order and we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the efforts you are making to assist us on this pressing human problem of refugees."

And from Mozambique:

"...may I thank you for the consignment of drugs...This thoughtful and welcome gift is much anticipated and will help us immensely in replenishing our supplies which are always exceeded by the demand for medicines..."

The Africa Fund devoted over \$60,000 of its budget in 1978 for aid to Zimbabwe refugees. Already in 1979 shipments of over two tons of medicines, equipment, powdered milk and textbooks are on their way for these refugees. In addition, hundreds of textbooks were rushed for use in training institutes for Namibian and South African refugees during 1978.

2. Research and Publications. Research of The Africa Fund continued to focus on examining the role that U.S. dollars play in supporting white minority and colonial rule in southern Africa. We published two important, detailed studies about critical areas of U.S. investment in South Africa: "Computers in South Africa", by a former staff member, Richard Leonard, and "The U.S. Motor Industry in South Africa", by Africa Fund staff member Karen Rothmyer. Both studies have been greeted enthusiastically and have been recognized as sources of serious analysis and information.

We have been called on constantly for information on corporate questions by students, university trustees, administrators, trade unionists, church, radio, television and press reporters. Many hours of discussion with such people are an important component in building increased consciousness regarding the U.S. corporate role in South Africa and the growing opposition to this role.

In the summer of 1978 we commissioned two Columbia graduate students, Marcia Burdette and Sanford Dumain, to prepare a report on the question of divestment; our aim was both to examine divestment and to deal with many of the arguments raised on the subject, particularly by university administrators and corporate executives. The resulting mimeographed 17-page pamphlet has been in constant demand.

In addition, The Africa Fund sponsored research into the flow of oil to white minority regimes in southern Africa and a brief program to bring educational materials on southern Africa to groups and individuals in the mid-west.

We have continued publishing the 4-6 page very popular "Perspectives" series, with titles in 1978 including:

U.S. Business in South Africa: Voices for Withdrawal - a compilation of quotations from leading Africans and Americans calling for disengagement from South Africa.

U.S. Dollars in South Africa: Context and Consequence - a study by Jennifer Davis of the size and impact of U.S. economic involvement in South Africa.

General Motors in South Africa - an analysis by Jennifer Davis of GM's contingency plans in the event of African "civil unrest".

We have begun the 1979 series with two titles:

Carter's African Policy by George Houser - a critical review of U.S. policy which also makes important policy proposals.

South Africa Fact Sheet - updated, and perhaps our most widely used publication.

Literature sales for 1978 continued to grow at a significant rate to over \$16,500, as compared with \$12,000 for 1977 and \$8,400 for 1976. At the end of the year accounts receivable were \$2,294.34, as compared with \$2,253.32 for 1977. Inventory increased to \$7,917.93 at the end of 1978 from \$5,390.85 for 1977.

With the growth of the anti-apartheid movement, especially on college campuses, significant new efforts have been made in promotion. Over \$1,400 was spent on promotion in 1978, which is more than ever before.

We issued a South Africa Information Packet in 1978, containing 12 of our Southern Africa Perspectives/series. Approximately 3,000 copies of the information packet were sold, reflecting both the value of research and the need by student, church and community groups for informative yet inexpensive materials.

Approximately 100 titles of books and pamphlets, are carried on our Southern Africa Literature List, which is constantly updated. The Africa Fund is the major source for this material, including many publications produced by other organizations primarily in Europe. For example, in 1978, The Fund became the sole U.S. distributor for a series of pamphlets, From Rhodesia to Zimbabwe, issued by the Catholic Institute for International Relations, London. This series examines difficult issues that will confront an independent Zimbabwe, in health, manpower, education, etc.

Again in 1978 we produced in 1979 South Africa Freedom Calendar, printing some 10,000 copies as opposed to 7,500 in 1977. There will be limited proceeds from the sale of the 1979 calendar. This is partly due to the office move in early December and the fact that this move made consistent promotion of the calendar difficult. Orders are still coming in at this time. The cost of the calendar was \$16,179.21. The sales probably will not amount to more than \$1,000 above this.

Research staff have helped prepare material for congressional testimony and international conferences - most recently on the dangers of U.S. involvement in Ian Smith's April elections and on the U.S. role in strengthening South African nuclear capability. There have also been many requests for speakers this year, and although this is not an area we can afford to devote much time to, Jennifer Davis, Research Director, spoke at meetings and conferences, appeared on The Advocates, an hour long national PBS television program, and done several radio interviews (including 30 minutes beamed to Australia on our work in the U.S.) During the year other staff members--George Houser, Prexy Nesbitt and Paul Irish spoke widely.

We continue to monitor, clip and file information from many sources, and this material is also drawn upon very heavily by a wide range of people outside our organization.

3. Emergency Assistance. During 1978 The Africa Fund spent \$16,580.73 in response to emergency requests. There were 42 individuals and organizations to which The Fund was able to give help. Because of limited resources it was impossible for The Fund to respond to the many other urgent requests which came to us. Virtually all of the funds were used in response to requests from South Africans and Zimbabweans - more than \$6,000 to South Africans and more than \$9,000 to Zimbabweans. Most of this assistance was given here in the United States. The type of aid requested was similar to that of previous years. Medical books and some equipment were sent to a Zimbabwe student studying for his medical degree in Liberia. Contributions towards rent and travel expenses were given to the cast of "Survival", all of whom are political exiles from South Africa who have been struggling to make a go of it through their theatrical presentations in various parts of the United States.

Contributions were made to a student needing to reach a university in Indiana. Bus transportation was provided for a student who needed to go to Canada to apply for a student visa from outside the United States in order to continue studies here. A small amount was contributed for a publication by South Africans on "The Voices of Women". A contribution was made for the wife of a student here who needed to return to South Africa because of an emergency family situation. A contribution was made for a shipment of books for Zimbabwe political refugees in Zambia.

Each appeal which comes to us deals with an urgent situation and usually a student or a refugee gets in touch with us when they know of no other place to turn.

FINANCES AND MAILING LIST

For the second straight year The Africa Fund spent more money than it took in. In 1978 we received \$214,889.52 and spent \$244,054.33. Since we had a balance or more than \$11,000 on hand, we ended with a deficit of about \$20,000.

There were 19 major donors to The Africa Fund including individuals and organizations. They contributed a total of \$102,800. This does not include the value of medicines that were contributed for the work of The Africa Fund. The organizational donors include the Fund for Tomorrow, Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ, Lutheran World Ministries and the Lutheran World Federation, the Newland Foundation, George Soros Fund, Normandie Foundation, and the Lillian Boehm Foundation.

As a result of mail efforts, 1,312 names were added to The Africa Fund list in 1978. The list at the present time is 5469. The efforts made through direct mail in the last four years have resulted in a slow growth and an increase in the number of contributions.

STAFF

The staff of The Africa Fund consists of nine persons, some of whom work on a part time basis. Four work directly on research and literature. Two work on projects and three are involved in administrative functions part time such as bookkeeping, mailings, etc. Our work is augmented tremendously by interns who work with us for a portion of the year. Usually we have two or three interns during the summer months. We also have interns working with us on a work-study program during other portions of the year. Obviously, we need additional staff in order to increase our efficiency and effectiveness. We certainly need to have two full time people who are involved exclusively on the research and writing portions of the program. We hope we may manage this soon.