

DUPLICATE

AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID FUND

**BRIDGE**  
**between**  
**TWO**  
**CONTINENTS**



administered by the  
American Committee on Africa

## WHY A BRIDGE?

"We believe in the self-determination of all peoples," our Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs has stated. Yet only a start has been made in the U.S. to demonstrate this belief to Africans. What can we do to bridge the gap between our words and our deeds, between *our* abilities and *their* needs?

Africans need American help during this troubled time of transition. Americans need African good will as new African nations emerge to take their stand in world affairs and in the United Nations.

Soon all Africa will be free. But the quality of its freedom will depend on the way it is achieved. Will the transition be smooth, as in West Africa, or violent, as it may be in areas where dominant white minorities will not give up privileges? American attitudes and actions can help shape a constructive answer.

Today African leaders are being arrested in their own countries for advocating equal rights and freedom. As in Asia, the prisoners of today will be the statesmen of tomorrow. Will they be influenced towards democratic self-government by Americans who, having long ago gained independence, show only half-hearted concern for those who now seek the same freedom from colonial and minority rule?

There is still a residue of good feeling towards Americans among Africans. Many Africans studied in this country and have been strongly influenced by democratic concepts. "I think that America, Britain, and France must accept some of the credit for opening the eyes of the African peoples to the rights of any nation to govern itself," stated Ghana's first Ambassador to the United States.

Many Africans look to us for sympathy and support. There is still time to help maintain their faith.

## WHAT IS THE NEED?

Some of the recent urgent appeals coming to us are these:

- In Central Africa thousands of Africans were arrested early in 1959 without charges. An official British inquiry found no evidence for an alleged "massacre plot," yet hundreds are still imprisoned, and 50 Africans have been killed by police.

The African Congresses to which many of the arrested belonged were legal organizations advocating fuller African representation in government. Dr. Hastings Banda, imprisoned President of the Nyasaland African Congress, has consistently asked his African followers not to resort to violence.

The prisoners have recourse to one Review Tribunal with power only to make recommendations to the governor. We have been urgently requested to contribute to both family welfare and defense costs.

- In South Africa, unrest grows as racist laws tighten and cost of living for non-whites increases. Police have attacked African women's meetings protesting pass-laws, injuring many, including old women and children. The treason trial goes on which has taken several years out of the lives of hundreds who publicly opposed *apartheid*, the South African government's ruthless policy of total racial segregation. Nearly \$300,000 has had to be spent on legal and welfare costs so far. The courts quashed indictments against many of the defendants, but the end is not yet in sight for the remaining thirty, as the prosecution unrelentingly seeks to prove that open opposition to government racial policies constitutes "treason".

- In Kenya, official inquiries into the Hola detention camp revealed that political prisoners had been beaten to death. Members of opposition parties to the predominantly white government have been arrested under "emergency" measures, and newspapers banned. Tom Mboya, African member of the Kenya Legislative Council, has cabled that 29 of his colleagues arrested are in need of legal and family welfare assistance.

## WHAT CAN AMERICANS DO?

These and similar situations in Africa are little known to Americans, their causes and contexts little understood. The possibility of doing anything about them has seemed remote. To provide a channel for constructive aid, the American Committee on Africa has established the AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID FUND, incorporating the former South Africa Defense Fund which was started at the time of mass arrests of segregation opponents in South Africa in 1956. Americans contributed \$50,000 through the South Africa Defense Fund for the legal defense and family welfare of the defendants, a small sum compared to the need but an important gesture from the United States. The Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, a fund trustee, wrote: "I do not know what we should have done without the generous help of those who contribute to the South Africa Defense Fund."

Letters and cables from many prominent Africans, non-white and white, have urged the Committee to extend its aid throughout Africa. It has become imperative to consolidate such aid into one clear effort. Africans in need should know that they will be able to count on American help in obtaining justice; Americans can no longer afford to give this help piecemeal. African resources are limited; ours are plentiful. Africans must find help where they can—let them find it in the country whose democratic institutions have inspired so many of them.

These are the reasons that the AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID FUND has been started. Similar funds exist in England and in Central and East Africa. It is through these responsible channels and to specific and documented requests that the Africa Defense and Aid Fund responds. The Fund includes legal and charitable aid to Africans. Your contributions may be earmarked, or may go into the general fund to be used where the need is currently determined by the Trustees to be greatest.

*Americans have a vital stake in African freedom. The Africa Defense and Aid Fund is one of the few concrete ways Americans can act. What you invest now is your share in legal justice today, and a bridge to sound African-American relations tomorrow.*

TEAR HERE

**ENCLOSED IS MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID FUND**

\$100 \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 50 \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 25 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Make checks payable to: AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID FUND**

**Mail to: AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, 801 SECOND AVENUE, N. Y. 17**

The American Committee on Africa is a non-profit, non-governmental organization supported entirely by contributions of interested individuals. The purpose of the Committee is to disseminate information about current developments in Africa to the American public, through speaking tours for leaders from Africa and through public forums and publications. The Africa Defense and Aid Fund of the American Committee on Africa provides a unique channel for meaningful expression of American sympathy and support for Africans primarily in need of legal and welfare aid resulting from efforts to achieve democratic rights.

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