

Confidential:

New York City, N. Y.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 14 DECEMBER, 1950 TO DISCUSS FORMATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA - Meeting at office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, at #20 West 40th St., New York, N.Y.

PRESENT:

\*Dr. Max Beer, Miss Cynthia Cannon, Mrs. Winifred F. Courtney, \*Miss Dorothy Detzer, Miss Mary A. Dingman, L. Eloesser, \*Charles Fisk, Mrs. C. Beresford Fox, \*Albert K. Herling, \*John Judkyn, \*Julius Kiano, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Marlowe, Miss Pauli Murray, A. J. Muste, Miss Elizabeth Ogg, Walter P. Offut, Jr., \*John Pearmain, Sartell Prentice, Jr., Mrs. Betsy Graves Reyneau, \*Bayard Rustin, Norman Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. Walter White, and Mrs. Maida Springer.

\*Reverend Michael Scott of South Africa, Guest of Honor.

\*Miss Mary Benson, Secretary to Mr. Scott, took minutes of the meeting.

\*NOTE: An asterisk before a name indicates present, also, at preliminary meeting at Quaker House, #450 East 52nd St., New York, on December 4th.

Besides those noted above, others present at preliminary meeting included following: Dalton McClelland, Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Jackson, Miss Agatha Harrison, Mrs. John Collier.

The following also may be included as being interested in work of the ad hoc Committee. They had said they intended to be present, if they could, at one or the other meeting.

A.A. Berle, Jr., Miss Bobbie Branch, Dr. Gertrude C. Bussey, Miss Frances R. Grant, John Collier, Donald Harrington, Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, Clarence E. Pickett, Mrs. Marian Potter, Miss Gladys Walser (and individuals who came as OBSERVERS, but who, for occupational reasons, cannot be listed here).

The following Organizations are represented on the ad hoc committee:

Fellowship of Reconciliation, by A. J. Muste; International League for the Rights of Man, by Dr. Max Beer; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, by Walter White; the Post-War World Council, by Norman Thomas. (Other organizations with members present as individuals will take up the matter of cooperation with the ad hoc committee.)

\* \* \* \* \*

List of those present (this page) and MINUTES of 14 DECEMBER, 1950 MEETING sent to all listed hereon.

John Pearmain, JUdson 6-1374  
756 7th Ave. Room 303  
New York 19, N.Y.

PORTRAIT OF MICHAEL SCOTT. Reproductions (8" x 10" black and white prints) at \$5.00 each now available of an excellent portrait of Michael Scott, recently completed by Betsy Graves Reyneau. Check should be made payable, and sent, to "Russell E. Dill, Treasurer, for Michael Scott," at 281 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

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CONFIDENTIAL:

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 14 DECEMBER 1950, at NAACP  
TO DISCUSS AD HOC GROUP ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

PRESENT: (See Page Attached)

Michael Scott described the resolutions passed by the General Assembly on the question of South West Africa, and pointed out that there is a necessity for the South African Government to submit reports on the administration of the territory, and that the inhabitants have the right of petition ensured to them over the interim period during which negotiations will take place between the Union of South Africa and a commission of five. Not only will inhabitants have this right, but, under the terms of the Mandate confirmed in this resolution, organisations outside South West Africa may submit petitions direct to the United Nations under certain conditions. This is an important factor in the development of Southern Africa and it will give the Africans great reassurance to know that the UN has some supervision over that territory.

He then mentioned the appeal made to defer the cost of his medical expenses. He had been very touched by the wonderful response. After the expenses had been paid there would be a sum of approximately \$1500 remaining in the fund and this, he suggested, should be kept in trust in America by the Episcopal Church, to be used in the event of any of the African chiefs coming to the U.S. or U.N., or for a bursary for a Herero at an American university for agricultural training. If it were possible for the Africans of South West Africa to send their own spokesmen to the UN it would have a tremendous effect. They could give evidence on the conditions of their territory and would learn a great deal from the visit.

Mr. Scott said that the question before the group was whether these Africans were not entitled to come to the States, and whether an invitation should not be sent to them. He had talked to Dr. Van Kirk who intended urging the National Council of Churches in the United States to take up the General Assembly's resolution, and to ask that the Africans be allowed to attend the next session of the U.N. He mentioned that there had not been any oral petitions heard under the Permanent Mandates Commission, but there was nothing to prevent the Africans from being examined orally.

Mr. Fisk asked about the need for an interpreter and Mr. Scott said that would be a task for the UN, or they could bring their own interpreter. Miss Ogg asked if the South African authorities were likely to allow the Africans to come and Mr. Scott said that if they prevented them, at least the invitation would have had a great effect upon the Africans themselves.

The possibility of inviting Hereros from Bechuanaland, if their fellow tribesmen from South West Africa were refused permission, was briefly discussed. Mr. Scott said that a bursary at a university such as Howard College would be ideal in the event of a Herero being able to come over to study.

Dr. Beer mentioned that the next UN Assembly would probably take place in Paris. He said that wherever it was the International League for the Rights of Man would accredit the Herero spokesmen but that it would be essential that Mr. Scott accompany them.

Mr. Thomas did not feel there would be much opposition to their coming as far as the U.S. Delegation was concerned. Mr. Scott felt the immediate problem was to find

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a means to sustain interest in African problems in the States, so that the activity of various organisations could be co-ordinated, and their good-will could be turned to action. A new organisation was not necessary. Perhaps an ad hoc group as had been suggested by Miss Detzer would be ideal. People could come together at certain times when the need arose and could discuss the problems and impart information to different organisations who could help or who might be interested.

Miss Detzer described how this method had worked on a Point 4 Committee and how effective it had been. She recommended that Mr. Pearmain should act as convener, with the IIRM as the spearhead.

Miss Dingman asked whether it was necessary to have representatives or organisations, could it not be a group of individuals. Mr. Thomas pointed out that many organisations were interested in the problems involved, and that the success of such an ad hoc committee would depend on having one responsible person with whom Michael Scott could correspond and who could call together those interested. He felt John Pearmain, to whom a great deal was owed for his work, should continue and this was seconded later. Mr. Pearmain then agreed to act as convener.

After further discussion it was agreed that organisations need not be committed, and that the group should consist of representatives of organisations and of individuals. Mr. Muste said the FOR would regard it as a privilege to join this committee and that Bayard Rustin would be their representative. Dr. Beer said he would himself gladly represent the IIRM. Mrs. Fox said that she was present as an observer and could not yet say whether the YWCA would be prepared to join but that she as an individual would. Other organisations prepared to join were: Post-War World Council, Norman Thomas; Walter White, NAACP; Albert K. Herling and the following said they would join as individuals: Elizabeth Ogg, Julius Kiano, Mr. Fisk, Mrs. Courtney, Sartell Prentice, Ruth Crawford, Dave and Levina Marlowe, John Judkin, Miss Dingman, Betsy Graves Reynoau, Pauli Murray.

Julius Kiano thought it would be much more difficult than anticipated to get the Hereros to the States, and that when they did come, they would need help and guidance from someone like Michael Scott. He said their presence would create a very good impression, and South Africa's argument that Scott did not know South West Africa would be tested.

The possibility of corresponding with the Herero chiefs was discussed and the obstacles pointed out. It was decided that when necessary mail should be sent direct by registered post, and also by some other possible means so that one copy at least should reach them.

America's attitude towards the South West African question in the UN was discussed.

Mr. Herling emphasized the importance of reaching people in South Africa, both to obtain first-hand information and to give encouragement to liberals there. Mr. Scott felt the Trades Union and Women's organisations could help in this, and said that information through Church organisations was already exchanged. It was asked if libraries received UN publications and Mr. Scott felt it was doubtful and that in any event they would never reach the Africans. In South West Africa were very few Africans who could read well enough to understand UN documents.

Pauli Murray had suggested that a booklet should be compiled, outlining the case, and what the ad hoc committee might hope to do.

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Mr. White then suggested that the ad hoc committee be formally authorized. This was agreed to and thereafter several people expressed the opinion that the Fund received on behalf of Michael Scott should be kept for the purposes outlined on Page 1 of these Minutes, and that the committee should make its own way. The Committee could help to make the issue so strong that neither the US, UK nor France could avoid it. Mr. White described it as one of the great moral issues of our time.

Mr. White asked Mr. Scott to take back to Africa the news that America was beginning to wake up to African problems, and Mr. Scott thanked them on behalf of the many hundreds of thousands of Africans who were looking to the UN for help.

Mary Benson,  
Secretary.

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Julius Kiano thought it would be much more difficult than anticipated to get the Bureau to the States, and that when they did come, they would need help and guidance from someone like Michael Scott. He said their presence would create a very good impression, and Scott's argument that Scott did not know South West Africa would be tested.

The possibility of corresponding with the Bureau chiefs was discussed and the contacts pointed out. It was decided that when necessary mail should be sent direct by registered post, and also by some other possible means so that one copy at least should reach them.

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