

# ACOA NOTES



AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

164 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016  
Washington Office: 110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002  
Chicago Literature & Information Center: 2546 North Halsted, Chicago, Ill. 60657

# 6 - September, 1972

JUDGE WILLIAM BOOTH IS NEW ACOA PRESIDENT. Hon. William H. Booth was elected President of ACOA's Executive Board in May. He succeeds Peter Weiss, who served as ACOA's President for more than ten years. Judge Booth serves on the bench of the Criminal Court in Brooklyn, New York. He is former Human Rights Commissioner of New York City, has served on the Mayor's Urban Task Force, and is former president of the New York State Conference of the NAACP.

Judge Booth went to South Africa last year as an observer for the International Commission of Jurists at the trial of Anglican Dean ffrench-Baytagh, who was accused under the white government's "Terrorism Act". Judge Booth subsequently traveled to Namibia (South West Africa), again as an observer for the International Commission of Jurists, for the trial of 12 Namibian contract workers accused of illegal strike activities under the apartheid laws of the South African occupiers in Namibia. Judge Booth has taken an active role in support of the struggle for freedom in southern Africa. He has appeared on television, presented testimony at the United Nations, and spoken before many community organizations.

EDGAR LOCKWOOD NAMED ACOA WASHINGTON DIRECTOR. Mr. Edgar Lockwood was named in August as the Director of the ACOA Washington office. The office is now located at 110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., in close proximity to Capitol Hill. Ted Lockwood has been active with the Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa, and is a board member of the Institute for Policy Studies and the Center for the Study of Peace and Power in Washington. He was an observer at the trials in South Africa of Anglican Dean ffrench-Baytagh and 13 members of the Unity Movement of South Africa last year. He has worked since May on an interim basis as director for ACOA's Washington activities, focusing on the effort in Congress to block the U.S. sanctions-breaking imports from Rhodesia.

SENATE VOTES TO CONTINUE VIOLATION OF U.N. SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. In spite of a number of protests during the spring the Senate voted 40 to 36 on May 31 to maintain the Byrd amendment passed last year allowing imports of materials from white-ruled Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in open violation of U.N. sanctions. The move to delete the Byrd amendment was led by Sen. Gale McGee (D.-Wyoming). The protests included the refusal by longshoremen from the International Longshoremens Association in New Orleans to unload chrome from Rhodesia, supported by students and faculty from nearby Southern University, to protests at both the Union Carbide and Foote Mineral Company stockholder meetings, which were supported by ACOA. African Liberation Day celebrations were held in many cities on May 27 and a contingent of 10,000 participants in Washington marched in protest past the Rhodesian Information Office there.

GEORGE HOUSER COMPLETES AFRICA TRIP; PAN AM REFUSES TO HONOR U.N. NAMIBIA VISA.  
ACOA Executive Director George Houser returned in July from his fifteenth trip to Africa. A significant aspect of the six-week trip was his attempt to use the first and only visa granted to date by the United Nations Council for Namibia. As a part of his itinerary he held a ticket from Kinshasa, Zaire to Windhoek, Namibia via Johannesburg, with a return leg via Johannesburg to Blantyre, Malawi. While he is barred from entering South Africa, the Johannesburg airport is an international transit point, so he would not have been entering South Africa itself. Pan Am, however, refused him the right to board the plane in Kinshasa, thus serving to enforce South Africa's policy of control over Namibia, which has been declared illegal by both the United Nations and the World Court. A formal protest against the action was made to Pan Am in Kinshasa and a full report has been made to the United Nations. Legal action against Pan Am is also under consideration.

Other stops on George Houser's trip included the International Conference on Namibia organized by SWAPO (South West African Peoples Organization) in Brussels on May 26-28. There were more than 400 participants from eighty countries at the conference meeting in support of Namibian independence from South Africa's illegal occupation. He also stopped as an observer at the meeting of African foreign ministers at the Organization of African Unity conference in Rabat, Morocco in June. After being turned back by Pan Am in Kinshasa, George made stops in Lusaka, Zambia; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and Nairobi, Kenya before re-turning to the U.S.

NEW ACOA STAFF MEMBERS.

Sharon Williams is starting work with ACOA in New York as a projects organizer. She is a graduate student in African Studies at Columbia University and will be working on a part-time basis. She will work on various ACOA programs such as the continuing effort against U.S. corporate involvement in southern Africa and the cultural boycott of South Africa.

Christine Root will be working with Edgar Lockwood in the ACOA Washington office. She is a student at Oberlin College, where she has been active on southern African issues, and is taking time off from school to work with ACOA.

ACOA ISSUES POSITION PAPER ON THE 1972 CAMPAIGN

ACOA has issued a position paper on southern Africa for the 1972 campaign. The paper was circulated in mimeograph form before the party conventions and will be available in a brochure in October. The paper reviews the sharpening conflict in southern Africa in terms of the growing strength of the liberation movements in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau and the strong African protests that have been mounted in the past year in Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa against white minority domination. There is also documentation of the increasing U.S. economic and political stakes with the oppressive status quo. The position paper makes concrete policy recommendations for steps reorienting U.S. policy in support of the struggle for freedom in southern Africa.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACTS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN ADVERTISING. Fly to South Africa to join a "Rhino Roundup" invites one advertisement. Another ad offers "Cape to Kampala. The Ultimate Adventure". An advertisement placed by a South African university lists openings for professors in its graduate school of business. For a number of months ACOA has been keeping track of such advertising for tourism or employment in South Africa and keeping the New York City Human Rights Commission informed about them. The Commission acted in June when Eleanor Holmes Norton, Human Rights Commissioner, announced that complaints had been filed against travel agencies that have been placing advertisements for South African travel. The advertisements violate the city human rights law because they offer services, accommodations, or employment which are available only on a racially discriminatory basis under South Africa's apartheid system. ACOA has also been investigating the possibility of legal action against The New York Times and other publications which have been accepting and publishing discriminatory advertising relating to South Africa.

AFRICA FUND SUMMER PROJECTS.

Legal Research. Douglas Wachholz, a 1971 graduate of Virginia Law School worked in Washington this summer researching the legal aspects of the importation of goods from South Africa. His work focused on a little-known U.S. statute which prohibits the importation of goods made under conditions of forced labor and the applicability of the law to U.S. trade with South Africa.

Corporate Research. Zemoria Rosemond, who will be a senior at Barnard College this year, worked as a research assistant with The Africa Fund this summer. She assembled and studied the annual reports of many of the more than 300 U.S. corporations with investments in South Africa and also did research on the importation of coffee from Angola to the U.S. Angolan coffee is widely used in instant coffee and is an important source of foreign exchange for Portugal.

PROTESTS CONTINUE AGAINST IMPORTS FROM RHODESIA. Efforts by several corporations to import materials from Rhodesia under the 1971 Byrd amendment in violation of U.N. sanctions have continued to encounter resistance here. ACOA has identified ships with cargo from Rhodesia arriving in the U.S. and notified the U.N. Sanctions Committee and the International Longshoremens Association of the violations. ACOA alerted a number of groups about the impending arrival of the "Moormaccove" in Baltimore on August 1 carrying 22 tons of nickel cathodes from Rhodesia for a subsidiary of Engelhard Minerals, Inc. Baltimore longshoremen boycotted the cargo and were supported by more than 100 demonstrators, including students and workers from the African Liberation Support Committee in Washington, D.C. Both Rep. Charles Diggs and Rep. Parren Mitchell of the Congressional Black Caucus issued statements supporting the longshoremens' action.

ACOA BACKS OUSTER OF RHODESIA FROM OLYMPICS. ACOA supported the protests in August led by African sports bodies, the O.A.U., and ICARIS (International Campaign Against Racism in Sport) which were successful in ousting Rhodesia from the Olympics in Munich. ACOA issued a short background paper on the question and submitted a statement to the U.N. Sanctions Committee calling for U.N. action in support

of the moves to exclude Rhodesia from the games in conformity with the U.N. sanctions. The protests centered on two important issues regarding Rhodesia's status: its system of white minority rule has promoted a sports system which does not meet Olympic standards of nonracialism, and the racist Smith regime has never been diplomatically recognized and should not be considered eligible for Olympic recognition, even under the colonial status proposed by the Olympic Committee. The protests were successful when the International Olympic Committee voted two days before the start of the games to revoke the invitation to Rhodesia.

NEW LITERATURE

Namibia: U.S. Corporate Involvement, by Winifred Courtney and Jennifer Davis (The Africa Fund and the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches, 1972, 33 pp., \$ .50). This is the first available study of the U.S. role in Namibia - an indispensable work for those wanting a complete picture of U.S. interests in southern Africa.

Portugal and NATO, by S.J. Bosgra and C. van Krimpen (Angola Comite, Amsterdam, 1972, 80 pp., \$ .75). This is a third and revised edition of an essential study with extensive documentation of how NATO arms and other forms of support are used by Portugal in its colonial wars.

American Policy on Zimbabwe: The Economic and Political Context of Recent Policy, by Dr. C. Munhamu Botsio Utete (ACOA Fact Sheets, 1972, 7 pp., \$ .10). Originally presented at the conference on the U.S. and southern Africa in Washington in March, this paper analyses the overall context and implications of the U.S. breach of U.N. sanctions against the Smith regime.