

PEP Task Force

JIM B

To: Southern Africa Committee

Date: 9 July 1976

From: David Sogge

Subject: Southern Africa Program: A Look Ahead

On Thursday, July 8, Frank Loescher, Lyle Tatum, Steve Thiermann and I held a telephone conference to discuss in an open-ended way some possible directions for the Southern Africa Program. At its June 16 meeting the Southern Africa Committee asked that this subcommittee meet to think creatively about program options, especially in Africa itself. We talked for half an hour. The following ideas surfaced:

- The AFSC has, in a sense, an unfinished commitment in Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia) left over from the years of the Quaker Representatives there. We may wish to consider establishing a QUIAR role for that country and be ready to fill such a position quickly after the expected change of government.
- In Zambia we have a rootedness and a store of goodwill that should not be relinquished. Yet it may be time to turn from a technical assistance to an international affairs role. A seminar program or reciprocal exchange program may be possible.
- Bridging the Portugese / English gap among the independent countries of the region may be a useful objective inasmuch as it has been identified by Africans themselves. A seminar program, translation services, or language training -- possibly drawing on indogenous resources -- could help meet needs for regional integration.
- The black / white gap is, of course, the major one now; any international affairs-type effort would have to be framed in light of that. Time is running very short. The possibilities for external intervention mount week by week.
- An AFSC delegation (composed, say, of Lou Schneider, Southern Africa Committee members, TWC representatives, Board members, and British Friends) to the independent and white supremacist countries may be useful. Such delegations to other parts of the world (e.g., China, the two Germanies) have produced widely-read documents and have helped spread understanding of the issues in the U.S.A. The time of the so-called independence of the Transkei (late October, 1976) may be apt. Great care would have to be exercised lest the South African regime use such a delegation for propaganda purposes.
- The suggestion by black and white church leaders for a religious convocation in South Africa may be a proposal meriting AFSC support. A Quaker delegation, or a single representative, could include this as something to investigate.
- Frank Loescher said that his visa for South Africa is a multiple-entry type, so if he were to visit South Africa later this year, he might be able to do so in part on behalf of the AFSC.
- We should be mindful of needs of the Namibia Institute in Zambia. Bill Sutherland's contacts there, and further conversations in the fall should clarify possibiliites for AFSC cooperation.

- Program innovations may also be framed with the policy-makers in Washington in mind. What would a Carter administration mean for southern Africa?
- The Southern Africa Committee's "guidelines" subcommittee should be encouraged to continue refining the points of an AFSC position on southern Africa. Such a set of guidelines could be tested against the views of people in southern Africa by AFSC representatives visiting the area; they could be used in making a case to policy-makers in the U.S.A.

We agreed to give these ideas further staff attention, and to encourage other members of the Southern Africa Committee, and related committee people, to do likewise. Time will be set aside at the next Southern Africa Committee meeting to discuss them.

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