

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Executive Board

June 11, 1962

MEMORANDUM ON

APPEAL FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

Purpose

To organize united action against apartheid through the distribution of an appeal signed by international figures culminating on Human Rights Day, December 10, 1962. This would be similar to the Declaration of Conscience campaign which the committee initiated in 1957. With the deterioration of the situation in South Africa, some such campaign as this could be very important.

Elements in the Campaign

1. Complete drafting of statement calling for individual, organizational and governmental action against South Africa, including sanctions and boycott.
2. Initial signers -- Lutuli, King and Roosevelt.
3. Invite several hundred international figures to join in signing the Appeal.
4. Hold statement for announcement on Human Rights Day, December 10.
5. Have signed Appeal used in labor, church and student groups and community groups, culminating in meetings and demonstrations on December 10.
6. Publicize the Appeal through media of mass communication -- radio, press, television.
7. Organize an event in New York on December 10 -- demonstrations and delivering of message to the South African Mission to the United Nations.
Public meeting if a public personality of importance is available.
8. A section of the Appeal, asking only for signatures of Americans, will call for United States sanctions against South Africa and commit those who sign it to boycott South African goods. This would be presented to United States officials on December 10.

MEMORANDUM ON SPEAKERS

1. We should aim at two country-wide tours a year of three weeks to a month's duration.
2. It is increasingly difficult to get top African personalities on such a tour because they are either in official government positions or have leadership positions in political organizations soon to gain power. They cannot spare large blocks of time out of the country. Therefore, some shorter-term speaking tours should be arranged for leaders who are here for the United Nations sessions, as petitioners, for example.
3. Minimum effort should be given to a speakers bureau in filling engagements requested by miscellaneous groups.
4. Partial list of possible speakers:
 - a) Basil Davidson
 - b) Michael Scott
 - c) Dr. Parerenyatwa (Deputy Pres. of Zimbabwe African Peoples Union of Southern Rhodesia)
 - d) Oliver Tambo
 - e) Kenneth Kaunda
 - f) Joshua Nkomo
 - g) Mbyiu Koinange

MEMORANDUM ON
AFRICA FREEDOM DAY, 1963

A. Three Possible Approaches

1. A program similar to the ones we have had for the past four years, i.e., renting a large hall and building a program around an African leader and American personalities and talent; selling tickets.
2. A program not too dissimilar to the ones we have had, except that it would be less formal. No admission charge, but take up a collection for whatever project is most current.
3. No emphasis on a large public meeting, but rather organization of a large public demonstration on whatever issue is most current.

B. Planning for Africa Freedom Day should begin well in advance. A committee should be set up during the Fall. It is hoped that the project will not take as much staff time as it has in the past.

MEMORANDUM ON
REGIONAL CONFERENCES

The plan envisaged would be to hold at least two conferences outside the New York area in cooperation with a local group or working through an individual who has been interested in the work of the Committee. The theme of the conferences would be the crisis in southern Africa, giving special attention to South Africa, Angola, and perhaps Southern Rhodesia.

The purposes that could be fulfilled through the conferences would be:

1. Draw attention to the urgency of these issues.
2. To attract new members to the ACOA and its program.
3. Stimulate action on this issues.
4. Organize local groups affiliated with the Committee.

Places such as Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, Portland, Detroit, San Francisco and Los Angeles should be considered when organizing the conferences.

MEMORANDUM ON PETITIONERS

- A. Help with housing
- B. Introduce to some United Nations, United States and African representatives.
- C. Assist in preparing and distributing documents.
- D. Assist through Africa Defense and Aid Fund.
- E. Press conferences.
- F. Speaking engagements and radio appearances.

MEMORANDUM ON
VISITORS AND HOSPITALITY

- A. Organize a visitors hospitality committee and keep this committee informed on who is coming to New York.
- B. Through this committee, arrange to have visitors invited into homes.
- C. Organize an occasional small luncheon or evening discussion.
- D. Arrange some entertainment for visitors, but on a restricted budget.
- E. Organization of an occasional reception.
- F. Develop contacts between Africans and the Afro-American community through informal parties, etc. Organize at least some events for French-speaking Africans who have been neglected to a large extent.

MEMORANDUM ON THE
PREPARATION OF POSITION PAPERS
ON US POLICY TOWARD AFRICA

Among the most important issues at the forthcoming Seventeenth Session of the United Nations General Assembly will be those involving southern Africa. The United States will have to take a position on these questions. The American Committee on Africa could perform a very useful function by preparing study papers of some depth on these issues and trying to reach some consensus on approach among groups concerned about United States policy.

Topics for the study papers would include:

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| 1. South Africa | 3. Portuguese territories |
| 2. South West Africa | 4. Central African Federation,
particularly Southern Rhodesia |

The types of questions to be dealt with in the papers would be as follows:

1. What is the direction in which events are going inside the territory?
2. What is the background of the discussion of this item in the United Nations?
3. What has been the United States position?
4. How will the issue shape up in the Seventeenth Assembly and what should be the United States position?

A part of the plan would be to call a small working conference of a few specialists and organizational representatives prior to the debate on these issues at the General Assembly to:

1. Discuss the papers.
2. Try to work out agreement on what United States policy should be.
3. Suggestions for follow-up action.