

American Committee on Africa

F-ACOA

Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting held September 25, 1969

Committee members present: Peter Weiss, President; Nelson Bengston, Elsie Carrington, Herschel Halbert, Farrell Jones, Elizabeth Landis, Robert Van Lierop.

Staff: George, Janet, Ben, Karen

1. Rhodesia/Zimbabwe

a)Hearings - George Houser reported that Congressman Charles Diggs plans to hold hearings on the Rhodesian question within the next three weeks. ACOA will provide the Congressman with a list of suggested persons to testify including representatives from the universities, private organizations, business, and Zimbabwe.

Robert Van Lierop urged that ACOA include as many Afro-Americans as possible.

b)Sanctions - Peter Weiss has received word that the Rhodesian government is beginning to issue mandates to Rhodesian subsidiaries of American companies either to import strategic materials or get out of the country.

It was agreed that Gary Gappert should 1)investigate the mechanism of the licensing program (Treasury Dept.) which polices trade with Rhodesia, 2)acquire a full list of any exemptions granted and 3)discover whether the above rumor concerning mandates to American companies is true.

2. Personnel

a)Washington Office - George Houser stated that we have received a number of applications; he has interviewed 8 or 10. The procedure is that George will interview all candidates and narrow the choices to a few likely prospects who will then meet with other Board members.

SUGGESTIONS: 1)use Art Waskow as an interviewer in Washington; 2)contact Bill Scott for possible candidates; 3)put announcement of Washington job out at African Studies Association conference.

b)Field Work - Karen Whitmore, a trainee with the Experiment in International Living, has assumed receptionist duties making it possible for Ella Wilson to concentrate on field work.

3. Finances

a)Where we are - Ben Peterson reported that ACOA is in a more difficult financial situation than it has been in many years. He felt that in part, this is a reflection of a greater concern over domestic issues. The facts are as follows: Both the number and amount of contributions are down from last year. A \$10-12,000 deficit for 1969 is projected if we continue at our present rate. To complete the year's financial needs, we must raise approximately \$40,000; \$20,000 may be raised from

mailings. The remainder must come from special contributions. It was noted that to meet the last two payrolls, it was necessary to borrow from the savings account, and from funds earmarked for specific programs.

Ben reported that Frederick Schwarz will send a special fund-raising letter to Board and National Committee members.

He suggested that Board members who have friends with large businesses inquire whether an ACOA employee might be put on their payroll.

b) FRELIMO - The Committee has received a letter from Marcelino dos Santos asking how much ACOA will be able to contribute towards the maintenance of the office here. George has responded that we will try to match our commitment for last year, \$3,000. It was noted that there is no immediate problem for Khan.

SUGGESTIONS:

1) ACOA and the Methodists have maintained Khan's apartment during his absence. We should let the Methodists, who enjoy a tax-exemption, pay the entire rent, and ACOA should use its non-tax-exempt monies for other activities associated with the FRELIMO office.

2) Khan's budget should be updated.

3) A group of representatives of organizations should be formed which would meet regularly with Khan to discuss both program and fund-raising. George stressed that this should be approached very carefully because this idea was misunderstood in the past to mean a strategy group for FRELIMO and was consequently refused. Robert Van Lierop pointed out that Khan has several different functions here including dealing with the UN, US policy, student and black groups. He suggested the addition of movement representatives as part of Khan's group.

4) If possible, it should be arranged for Khan to attend the African Studies Association meeting to make contact with black studies groups.

5) Board members should arrange activities for Khan in their respective communities.

It was agreed to hold a special Steering Committee meeting on Mozambique with Khan attending to put these suggestions before him for an in-depth discussion.

It was also agreed that Khan should attend the next Board meeting.

4. Projects

a) South African Airways/Tourism - A demonstration was held at Gaynor & Ducas, the new ad agency for SAA, and several staff members met with the president of the organization. Janet mentioned the possibility of a "Rampartian" article on Mr. Gaynor/Pentagon/South Africa/business ties. She will send a page of background information to Peter Weiss who will

forward it to Andy Kopkind.

b) Sugar Quota - a research paper including policy recommendations, written by Sallye Steiner of the staff, has been circulated to the Board.

c) Chemical Bank at the UN - George Houser has met with Ambassador Toure of Guinea, Chairman of the African Group for September, and has subsequently sent a letter to him requesting a meeting with the African Group.