

Annual Meeting of the Executive Board  
April 22, 1971

Present: Winifred Courtney, George Daniels, Jay Jacobson, Alan Kellock, Andrew Norman, David Robinson, Adelaide Schulkind, Richard Stevens, Tim Smith, Robert Van Lierop, Peter Weiss, Lydia Williams.

Staff: George Houser, Janet Hooper, Charles Hightower, Ben Peterson, Dick Leonard.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. and was chaired by President Peter Weiss.

1. The minutes of the December 3, 1970 meeting were accepted.

2. Staff Reports:

a) Janet Hooper gave a brief report on ACOA literature. New literature in the office now includes six pamphlets from the Liberation Support Movement on MPLA in Angola, Tim Smith's report on U.S. business in South Africa, and a pamphlet on Polaroid in South Africa prepared by the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement and ARG. The sale of the two special issues of Africa Today have been brisk. Janet and Jennifer Davis have just produced an ACOA Fact Sheet on G.E. and Cabora Bassa. Reprints of George Houser's article on Polaroid in South Africa are also available.

b) George Houser reported on his plans to take a leave of absence for the month of May at half salary to work on his handbook on the liberation movements. This was approved by the Board.

c) George also reported on invitations sent to Amilcar Cabral, Agostinho Neto, and Oliver Tambo to come to the U.S. for speaking tours next fall or winter. A positive response was received from PAIGC and details will be pursued.

d) George reported on the annual meeting of the Trustees of the Africa Fund. A summary report of the 1970 activities of the Fund showed, in round figures, \$97,000 raised, \$107,000 disbursed and a remaining balance of \$22,000. It was agreed to affirm the appointment of Carol Bernstein and Frank Montero as Trustees of the Africa Fund. Mason Sears has resigned as Trustee due to inability to attend meetings.

3. Election of Board Members. It was agreed that the election of officers should be postponed until the next Board meeting, after the election of new Board members at this meeting.

Richard Stevens added a new nomination to the four received before the meeting: Roderick Willis, who is the newly elected president of the student government at Lincoln University. After discussion, Gregory Harris, Dorothy Hibbert, Martin Mensch, Gail Morlan, and Roderick Willis were voted in as new Board members. Elsie Carrington, Winifred Courtney, George Daniels, Jay Jacobson, Alan Kellock, Dana Klotzle, David Robinson, Richard Stevens, and Lydia Williams were re-elected to the Board.

Peter Weiss, Lydia Williams, Elizabeth Landis, Andrew Norman, Tim Smith, Robert Van Lierop, Robert Browne, George Daniels, and Frederick Schwarz were selected as the Steering Committee. It was also agreed, following the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, that four staff members, chosen by the staff, will serve one-year terms as Board members unless they leave the staff during that

period or are recalled by the staff. These four are now George Houser, Janet Hooper, Charles Hightower, and Karen Whitmore.

It was pointed out that the Nominating Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Personnel Committee have a large number of members in common and it was agreed that the Nominating Committee should bring in nominations for the Personnel Committee and the Finance Committee to the next Board meeting with this problem in mind. It was also agreed that the Nominating Committee should bring in recommendations concerning the National Committee to the next Board meeting.

4) Finance Report. Jay Jacobson gave a brief finance report, noting that due mainly to a drop in special contributions, planning for the 1971 had initially shown a possible \$13,500 deficit (income \$140,500 and expenses \$154,000). Budget cuts have been made totaling \$11,000. The amended budget calls for \$143,000 in expenses and \$140,000 in income. Even with the present cuts, there is still the prospect of a \$3000 deficit and new wage demands by the union could increase this.

It was agreed that the Board would work on raising \$5000 through special events.

5) Chicago Report. George Houser reported on Prexy Nesbitt's victory in court in the case from last summer stemming from his arrest at a Portugal - Poland soccer match. Prexy also recovered his copy of the film "Venceremos" from the police.

Prexy is planning to spend about four months in Africa this summer and early fall (July - October). Support for the trip will come from outside the regular ACOA budget. The trip should enhance his work greatly.

6) Washington Report. (Charles Hightower)

a) Charles reported that he has been working with a group of Congressional staffers from several offices on the Sugar Quota issue. The Kennedy-Bingham Amendment to the Sugar Act will be introduced to the House Agriculture Committee in May and will call for the reallocation of the South African Sugar Quota to majority-ruled African states.

b) Rep. Diggs will be having hearings on U.S. corporate involvement in southern Africa in May and will be calling executives from several corporations, including Polaroid, IBM, and G.E. to testify. Charles Hightower will testify for ACOA.

c) American Airlines has informed Charles that they will stop carrying South African travel promotions in their material to avoid antagonizing their growing black American market. The decision grew out of the protests of a black stewardesses' group organized at American.

d) Charles reported difficulty in getting information on the licenses for the proposed sale of two 707's to Portugal from the Department of Commerce. Peter Weiss noted that such information must be available under the Freedom of Information Act and that ACOA should be prepared to file suit for it.

e) Charles reported that he has been delayed in getting out Washington Notes but that he hoped to getting an issue out soon.

f) Charles has been invited by the Zambian ambassador to visit Zambia for the month of June under the auspices of the Zambian government as a representative of ACOA.

7) Projects.

- a) Tim Smith discussed plans for the Gulf stockholders meeting. The Southern Africa Task Force of the United Presbyterian Church will have four resolutions on the proxy ballot dealing with Gulf's operations in Angola and have gotten support for them from 20 Congressmen and from many other quarters. Janet Hooper, Dick Leonard, and Jennifer Davis will be going to Atlanta for the meeting on April 27th.
- b) George Houser mentioned Polaroid's stockholders meeting, also on April 27th. ACOA will have a leaflet prepared supporting the demands of the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement calling for Polaroid to get out of South Africa.
- c) The Episcopalians have a single proxy resolution on the GM ballot calling for them to wind up their operations in South Africa. The resolution is supported by Rev. Leon Sullivan, who is on the GM Board.
- d) Janet Hooper reported on G.E.'s application to the Export-Import Bank for financing for the sale of \$55 million in transformers for the Cabora Bassa Dam in Mozambique. An ACOA fact sheet has been prepared on the issue and letters written to Secretary of State Rogers and a number of Congressmen demanding that the application be denied.
- e) Janet also discussed plans for a new Fact Sheet on U.S. - South African military systems, which now include such items as Bell "Huey" helicopters, Beechcraft light planes, and the Cactus missile developed by French and South African efforts and now reportedly to be tested by the U.S.
- 8) There was a proposal to explore having a fund-raising dinner. This dinner might be in honor of Charles Diggs and Jonathan Bingham. Adelaide Schulkind and Jay Jacobson volunteered to serve on a committee to look into this.
- 9) George Houser reported on the recommendations from the special Board meeting on March 26th on ACOA policy and the liberation movements: that ACOA recognize that primacy of MPLA at this time in Angola. This recommendation was ratified by the Board. Reports on implementation of this will come up before Steering Committee and Board meetings.
- 10) George Houser also brought up a suggestion that ACOA arrange a meeting with George Bush, the new U.S. ambassador to the U.N. It was agreed that George could handle the details of such a meeting as he sees fit.

The next Board meeting was set for Thursday, July 8th, at 5:45 p.m. at the ACOA office.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.