

STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 19th, 1965
10 Columbus Circle
5:30 P.M.

Present: Peter Weiss, Elizabeth Landis, Hope Stevens
Staff: George Houser, Wendell Foster, James Robinson
Collin Gonze

1. Follow-up on the Conference on Implementation of the Forthcoming Decision in the South West Africa Case. The Conference was a real success with about 25 lawyers attending, some of them top international lawyers in the country. A draft report of findings is being drawn up by Prof. Tom Franck, Director of the Center for International Studies at New York University. It was proposed that in addition to the report being sent to the Secretary of State, some others who certainly should receive it would include Charles Runyon, Wayne Fredericks, Waldemar Campbell, Ambassador Arthur Goldberg, Senators Fulbright and Mansfield, Congressman O'Hara, and Godfrey Amachree.

Possibly a delegation of those who attended the conference ought to present the report in person to the Secretary of State in Washington and also to Ambassador Goldberg.

Depending on the developments in the Hague, an enlarged conference including not only lawyers, but political scientists, and economists, might be held at a later time to discuss American responsibility in implementing the decision of the court.

Congratulations were expressed to Betsy Landis and Tom Franck for all the work they had done in making the conference a success.

2. The American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa. It was agreed that Wendell Foster along with Hope Stevens should be representatives of ACOA on the Conference. Hope Stevens agreed to set up an appointment with Ted Brown of the Leadership Conference so that he and Wendell might talk things over with him.
3. November 14th Affair at Rockland Palace. Hope Stevens announced the plans for an affair in honor of various ambassadors to the United Nations to be held at the Rockland Palace, November 14th. He proposed that the American Committee on Africa should help to promote it. With this in mind arrangements will be made for Wendell Foster to talk with Mr. Jomo Logan to see in what ways we can be of assistance.
4. Wendell Fosters Work. Wendell Foster proposed a reception in the Harlem community to be held at the Freedom National Bank some time soon to introduce a few of the Ambassadors from African countries to the United Nations to leaders in the community. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

It was also agreed that a larger public meeting might be held at one of the churches in Harlem, perhaps built around the Southern Rhodesian crisis. Several key clergymen in the Harlem community might be the prime movers for

- *. this meeting. Speakers at the meeting would include some of the African ambassadors and representatives of the African freedom organizations.

It was suggested by Peter Weiss that we might look into a meeting with Bob Parris when he gets back from his current six weeks trip to Africa.

5. Meeting of the Consultative Council on South Africa. The meeting will take place on Wednesday afternoon, November the 3rd at the Church Center for the United Nations. It will be proposed at that time that there be a special Emphasis Week around the Sharpeville date next March. It is hoped that this Emphasis Week will be followed up by a leadership conference in Washington mainly for lobbying purposes.
6. Follow-up on the Summer Research Project Work. Judy Bennion has returned and is at work on the reports that are coming out of the Summer Research Project. She is marrying Kim Bush on November 6th (Kim was the director of the summer project) and therefore she will not be available for as long a period as we had hoped to follow-up on the work of the Summer Research Project. Further discussion on how we best follow through on the summer work was postponed until the next meeting.
7. The Question of UDI in Rhodesia. It was agreed that we should have a statement ready in case Rhodesia unilaterally announced its independence. Some of the points which should be in such a statement would include:
 - a) Approving the US announced position of non-recognition
 - b) Breaking of economic relations with Rhodesia
 - c) A demand for a new constitution to take the place of the one adopted in 1961
 - d) Aid to Zambia if the Rhodesian Government takes retaliatory action against Zambia
 - e) Action through the United Nations because of the violation under Article 73
 - f) Contributions for welfare by our government
8. Speaking Tours. It was agreed that we should invite both Mary Benson who is at present in South Africa, and Ezekile Mphahlele, a South African who is headquartered in Nairobi, to come to the United States for an ACOA sponsored speaking tour, perhaps in the spring.
9. Board Membership. George Houser announced that Professor Richard Stevens of Lincoln University was prepared to accept membership on the Board. He had been invited last spring but because he was to be absent in Africa for a period of time, felt that he ought to postpone his decision until he returned. He could give special attention to policy on the High Commission Territories. The Steering Committee agreed that his name should be put in nomination at the next Board meeting.
10. Library for Depository of ACOA Files. George Houser reported that responses had come from Lincoln University, Boston University, and Northwestern University of their eagerness to be the depository for old files of the ACOA. It was agreed before making a finale decision, we ought to check with the Schomburg Collection and the New York University Center for International Studies. The purpose would be to explore depositories in New York where the files would be more accessible to ACOA.
11. Next meeting of the Steering Committee was set for Tuesday, November 16th, 5:30 P. M., 10 Columbus Circle.