

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

November 9, 1964

MINUTES

Present: P. Weiss (Chairman), N. Bengston, D. Jones, Mrs. E. Landis,  
S. Levison, A. Norman, H. Smythe, H. Stevens.

Staff: C. Gonze, M.L. Hooper, G. Houser, J. Robinson

1. Julian Friedman Research Project: It was decided to accept the offer of Professor Julian Friedman to do a complete research job on the involvement of U.S. business in South Africa, and also to ask him to present the paper on "American Business and Financial Involvement" at the coming Washington Conference on South Africa.
2. Small Gatherings or Lunches: The Committee decided to have frequent luncheons (once a month, when practicable) or small gatherings with African U.N. representatives and other 'notables' in order to inform and to create greater interest on the part of ACOA Board members, large contributors and selected friends. Mentioned among those with whom we would like to have such gatherings were: Fwanyanga Mulikita, new Ambassador from Zambia; Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, President of Zambia; Mr. Coulibaly of Mali, Chairman of the UN "Committee of 24;" Nathan Shamuyarira of ZANU, Rhodesia (now studying at Princeton); Eduardo Mondlane of Mozambique, head of FRELIMO; Holden Roberto, President of the Government-in-Exile of Angola; My Lord Caradon (Hugh Foot), British Ambassador to the UN; Oscar Kambona, Foreign Minister for Tanzania; Congressman Donald Frazer of Minnesota; Herbert Matthews, editor of the N.Y. Times; and Lawrence Gander, visiting editor of the Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail.
3. Report of the Executive Director on his latest trip to Africa: George Houser reported on his recent three weeks in Africa, including the Zambian independence celebrations. Among many interesting and significant comments:
  - a) A deep and unfortunate split exists in the Pan-Africanist Congress of South Africa.
  - b) The long-planned East African Federation seems to have been shelved, for the present at least.
  - c) The Tanganyika-Zanzibar union seems tenuously held together only by their respective leaders -- Nyerere and Karume.
  - d) Charles W. Englehard, heavy American investor in South Africa who was appointed leader of the U.S. delegation to Zambian independence, was given a bad time in Zambia. Mr. Houser told of his personal encounter with the industrialist and his plans for a future 'get-together' at Englehard's suggestion.
4. Political Refugee Situation:
  - a) Tanganyika and the Mozambicans - About 7,000 refugees from Mozambique are now in south Tanganyika, coincident with the guerilla fighting in Mozambique.



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Discussion with Eduardo Mondlane showed:

- 1) FRELIMO wants medical assistance furnished by outside agencies: Red Cross, relief agencies, etc. FRELIMO does not hope to deal with the refugee problem itself.
- 2) A Landrover would be the most useful contribution from ACOA now.

AGREED: Specific articles of medical usefulness should be furnished to FRELIMO in this situation.

- b) Lusaka - The International Refugee Council of Zambia, run by Commander G. H. Cunningham of Great Britain, is making plans for handling the anticipated increase in refugees in Lusaka. These will mainly be from S. W. Africa, with some Rhodesians and South Africans. About 8,000 pounds sterling is needed for this program which envisions keeping the refugees in Lusaka for only a short time, testing them for skills, and then passing them on to various schools and institutions in Dar es Salaam.
- c) Leopoldville, Dr. Gilchrist - Mr. Houser made the following recommendations in regard to Dr. Gilchrist:
  - 1) A new home, separate from the Clinic, must be found for the Gilchrists.
  - 2) There must be some reorganization in the Clinic itself, with a more coordinated directorship.
  - 3) A further definition of Dr. Gilchrist's own work is necessary -- time to be spent in nursing instruction, at the border clinics, etc.

In response to a question, the new rent for the Gilchrists was estimated by Mr. Houser at about \$125 a month.

- d) Mozambican Refugees in the Congo - The plight of 32 UDENAMO Party refugees now in Leopoldville who wish to go to Dar es Salaam was discussed. Cost of their transportation was estimated at about \$15 to \$20 a person. Any discussion of assistance by ACOA should wait for Eduardo Mondlane's reply to Mr. Houser's letter on the subject.

5. Aftermath of the Election: The suggestion was made that some newly-elected Congressmen and Senators be added to ACOA National Committee. A communication should be sent to members of the Executive Board asking for proposals from among those in Congress, and especially those with whom they have some personal contact.

6. The Congo: It was decided not to issue any ACOA statement on the Congo at present. Collin Gonze expressed the view that information should be disseminated about who the rebels are in order to have a clearer perspective of actual developments. Chinese intervention on the side of the rebels is reputedly small. At the close of Mr. Houser's report, Peter Weiss suggested that an article be written on the findings of the trip, or something done on the radio, to disseminate the information gained.

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7. Rhodesia: A suggestion was approved to congratulate the U.S. Government on its firm stand in the question of Rhodesian "independence."
8. New "Mini Fund": It was decided that ACOA should send out a Special Release on the executions of the three South African freedom fighters: Mini, Kaba, and Khayingo, and also to set up a special fund for aid to the three bereaved families.
9. Pen-Pal Project: The suggestion was made that a list of banned and "house-arrested" people (like Helen Joseph) be prepared and published in the South Africa Bulletin and/or Africa Today, urging people to correspond with them.
10. Next Meeting: The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 7.