

A M E R I C A N   C O M M I T T E E   O N   A F R I C A

Steering Committee

October 7, 1964

MINUTES

Present: Peter Weiss, Nelson Bengston, Andrew Norman

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

1. Steering Committee:

a. Time of meetings: It was decided to set the first Monday of every month at 5:30 for the regular meeting of the Steering Committee, with the addition of the third Monday whenever it is found necessary.

b. Addition to Steering Committee: Mrs. Elizabeth Landis was unanimously added to the Steering Committee.

2. Africa Defense and Aid Fund:

a. Authorization was voted for an immediate gift of \$1,000 to the South Africa Defence and Aid in Johannesburg, with the prospect of an additional thousand on receipt of further information. It was pointed out that our ADAF has ample funds now to cover this and leave an adequate balance.

b. Authorization was given for ACOA to borrow up to \$2,000 from the Defense and Aid Fund. It was pointed out that such borrowing in the past has always been repaid without delay. If borrowing is necessary, we would expect to repay by the end of the year or shortly thereafter.

c. It was decided that in the future ACOA staff would consult with the Treasurer on larger expenditures. Mr. Bengston expressed his willingness provided that he receives guidelines on donation priorities, etc. from the staff.

3. Action on the Death Sentence for 3 South Africans: It was decided that a letter be sent to all members of the Consultative Council on South Africa urging them to cable the President of South Africa to ask for clemency on behalf of the 3 condemned ex-ANC members: Vuyisile Mini, Wilson Khayinga, and Zinakile Kaba. Request should also be made to Secretary of State Rusk for the U.S. to intercede - even if privately - in their behalf.

Suggestion was made that some of the Senators and Congressmen on ACOA National Committee might be willing to write the South African President, C. R. Swart, on their U.S. government stationery.

4. Luncheon for Ambassador Marof: It was decided to plan a very small luncheon sometime in October, inviting about 10 or 12 ACOA people particularly interested in South Africa to meet the new Chairman of the U.S. Special Committee on Apartheid, Ambassador Marof of Guinea, and discuss with him the strategy of the coming U.N. session in regard to South Africa and what ACOA can do to help.

5. Open Letter to U.S. Corporations Trading in South Africa: The concensus was that nothing should be done about such an Open Letter until after the November election, when it would be discussed again.

6. Handling of ACOA March Conference: (on South Africa) In Mr. Houser's absence, he is leaving a Memo on this subject. The Planning Committee, with Mr. Weiss as temporary Chairman, will carry on.
7. "Touch of Gold": It was agreed to form a very small delegation to visit Warner Brothers and ask whether "Touch of Gold" would continue to be shown. James Farmer, Donald Harrington and someone prominent from Labor were suggested, together with a well-known "show business" figure, if possible.
8. The American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa Follow-up: Mr. Houser reported that the Call Committee of this Conference will summon a meeting of all the sponsoring organizations (of which ACOA is one) within four months of the date of the recent Conference to decide on how a permanent organization can be set up. The chief difficulty is finance.
9. Consultative Council Meeting with South African Leaders: The hope was expressed that when the General Assembly of the U.N. convenes, the Consultative Council will be able to arrange a meeting with some of the South African nationalist leaders: Oliver Tambo, Robert Resha, Nana Mahomo, etc.