

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

April 21, 1964

MINUTES

Present: P. Weiss, Chairman; N. Bengston, S. Levison; H. Stevens. Guest: D. Bernstein. Staff: Gonze, Houser.

1. Report on Gilchrist tour: It was reported that Dr. Ian Gilchrist had arrived in the country and that his tour had gotten off to a good start. There is a full speaking schedule which will keep him busy until the end of May. He will be visiting all sections of the country and Canada. He will be spending several days in New York toward the end of his trip, from about the 25th to the 28th of May. Suggestions were made to try to get him on a number of radio and television programs, and to invite some newspaper columnists and others to some of the events in this area. It was suggested we might inquire about the Overseas Press Club for a meeting. More details on his schedule will be sent out to the mailing list as the time approaches for his being in New York.

2. A decision was taken that we should not affiliate with the Greater New York Council for Foreign Students because their work was a little out of our area, and it was hardly worth our paying \$35 a year for affiliation.

It was decided that we should affiliate with the Conference Group of United States National Organizations on the United Nations.

3. The date for the next Board meeting was fixed for Monday evening, June 15.

4. Peter Weiss will attend the all-day meeting of the Catholic Commission on Intellectual and Cultural Affairs on Saturday, April 25, to be held at the Church UN Center.

5. Most of the meeting was taken up with a report and discussion of the recent London conference on economic sanctions against South Africa. Daniel Bernstein, Collin Gonze and George Houser were three of the five ACOA representatives there. The other two were Elizabeth Landis and Mary-Louise Hooper. It was agreed that it was an important conference and that the study papers would be of special use. A report on the conference will be sent out by the staff shortly.

It was agreed that the findings of the London conference should be made available to concerned organizations, and that there should be a meeting soon of the Consultative Council on South Africa for a report by others who attended the conference, such as Dr. Henry Pitney Van Dusen who represented the National Council of Churches, and Gloster Current who represented the NAACP.

5. The staff has been busy informing various organizations about the urgency of the Rivonia trial in South Africa. A memorandum has been put out about this case which carries the possible death penalty on the charge of sabotage for nine leaders of the opposition to apartheid. If a death penalty should be handed down, it will be a matter of major importance and the Committee will have to organize a demonstration here.