

Steering CommitteeJanuary 7, 1964MINUTES

Present: P. Weiss, Chairman; D. Bernstein, A. Norman. Staff: C. Gonze, G. Houser, J. Robinson.

1. Mr. Weiss reported that an officer with the United Nations had said that there was a real possibility that American aid to Africa would be greatly diminished under the present Administration. It was suggested that we look into this further by contacting various people in the government to see what possible action ACOA might take. Peter Weiss will be in Washington in a few days and will try to contact one or two people. It was also suggested we contact Ray Wilson of the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

2. The meeting on January 30th with organizations to discuss a campaign against apartheid was considered. A good representation of organizations is expected. Primary emphasis will be put upon American investments and trade with South Africa. One law under which the President could take action is the Trading with the Enemy Act. The staff was asked to look into the question of under what law ships trading with Cuba are prohibited from stopping in American ports. This whole matter will be discussed more thoroughly at the Board meeting.

3. Some time was spent in discussing the report from the Special Meetings of the Steering Committee to the Board, especially as regards the relationship of the ACOA to nationalist organizations in Africa. It was suggested that the sense of the meetings was that the ACOA had not, and does not intend to choose between nationalist organizations in Africa. The base of evaluation is that the nationalist groups must be motivated by the purpose of achieving independence for their country.

On the question of any change in the set-up of the Board or the frequency of meetings, it was suggested that this probably should wait until the Annual Meeting of the Board for further discussion and action.

4. Roger Baldwin had sent a statement to the Executive Director which had been discussed with Oliver Tambo, Donald Grant of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Michael Scott. It was a memo on political rights in new states. It was felt that the statement was not very carefully drawn up and that in its present form there would be very little use in presenting it to the Executive Board for action. Roger Baldwin had not suggested that any necessary action was called for.