

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

October 16, 1963

MINUTES

Present: P. Weiss, Chairman; Bernstein, Norman, Stevens. Staff: Gonze, Houser, Robinson.

1. Dan Bernstein reported on the progress on the study he is researching on American investments in South Africa. The basic research has been done, but considerable rewriting is now in progress. This is likely to take some time yet. The Committee urged him to do it as rapidly as possible, since the debate on apartheid is going on at the United Nations now and this material could be useful to a number of delegations.
2. George Houser reported that Adelaide Schulkind had entered the hospital for an eye operation which was performed on the 15th. She is coming along well.
3. A brief report was made on the picketing of the South African Pioneer and the cooperation which was obtained from the longshoremen. It was suggested that a letter should go to the union newspaper thanking the union membership for their cooperation. The staff reported that there was considerable newspaper publicity, although in the daily New York press, the story was found solely on the shipping page. The item received considerable publicity, including television we know about in Africa. We will continue to explore with the ILA whether any follow-up action is possible.
4. George Houser reported on his discussions with Victor Reuther about launching a new campaign on apartheid in South Africa. Reuther was very interested in the plan and said that the UAW would be ready to cooperate. A memorandum is being drawn up outlining the campaign. This will be sent out to a key list of individuals across the country asking for their support. The covering letter will be signed by five or six well-known Americans.
5. A plan for a demonstration at the South African Consulate was discussed. Key organizations in the metropolitan area interested in this action will be contacted for support.
6. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Oliver Tambo and with Eduardo Mondlane, and that in addition to this, we ought to help put these men in touch with others whom it would be strategic for them to meet.
7. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have an informal meeting of persons working most closely with the Committee to examine what the role of the Committee should be in the light of developments in Africa on the one hand, and the atmosphere on the American scene on the other. Some of the questions that certainly need to be dealt with are: (1) How do the developments in the newly-independent states of Africa affect American attitudes toward Africa? (2) Do developments on the civil rights front in the United States affect the practical workings of the ACOA? (3) Given limited resources and manpower, what are the top priorities for the ACOA? It was agreed that it would be helpful if John Marcum would be available for this informal meeting, in order to make appropriate remarks about the effect of American

attitudes towards developments in independent Africa on the ACOA, and that Bayard Rustin might be present to make similar observations on the civil rights situation and the developments in the Negro community as it relates to the ACOA and Africa. It was thought that Mason Sears perhaps ought to be especially invited to attend this meeting and to contribute to it.