

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

September 25, 1963

MINUTES

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

1. Mary-Louise Hooper: George Houser reported that Mary-Louise Hooper had written to say that she was taking a leave of absence until the first of the year. She needs to do some writing, and also to take a rest.

The Committee requested that the Executive Director write to her expressing appreciation for all she has done, and hoping that she will return to the job as soon as possible. In her absence, the office will keep in touch with Charles O'Brien, the President of the Northern California Committee on Africa.

2. Plan for South Africa campaign: George Houser reported on a memorandum which he had prepared for Victor Reuther outlining a campaign against apartheid. This campaign would envisage raising \$15,000 to \$20,000 in addition to what the budget calls for, and taking on additional staff just for the purpose of promoting the campaign. The memorandum which has been prepared will not be circulated any further until some discussions have been held. The idea of the campaign in the memorandum was approved.

3. Action on South African shipping: Plans for publicity on the occasion of the picketing of the South African ship and the cooperation of the longshoremen in not crossing the picket line was discussed. A preliminary release will be sent out. Also, there will be press conference at the office of Anthony Scotto, President of Local 1814 of the ILA.

4. Persons coming: George Houser reported that among the African leaders who would be here in the next few weeks were Tom Mboya, Holden Roberto, Eduardo Mondlane, and Ahmed Ben Bella. It is hoped that the Committee will sponsor press conferences for Mboya, Roberto and Mondlane. Also it is hoped that a fund-raising event can be held at the time of Mboya's visit here.

Andrew Norman suggested that an event should be planned if possible that would give special recognition to Holden Roberto as the Prime Minister of the Angolan Government in Exile. Hope Stevens will check with the Borough President, Ed Dudley, with J. Raymond Jones and with Rev. James H. Robinson to see if their cooperation would be forthcoming in planning some event.

It was suggested that arrangements should be made for a delegation to call upon Ben Bella if at all possible while he is here.

5. Question of tax-exemption: The sub-committee on the tax-exemption problem has met. There will be more discussion, and a memorandum drawn up, perhaps making proposals and examining carefully the problem of how the formation of a tax-exempt agency taking on some of the functions of the American Committee on Africa would affect the stability of the ACOA itself.