

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

August 19, 1963

MINUTES

Present: Peter Weiss, Chairman; Daniel Bernstein, David Jones. Staff: George Houser, James Robinson.

1. It was agreed that a special account should be set up for the Gilchrists, into which funds would be put from time to time pending the day when Dr. Gilchrist will no longer be working for ERA. All funds which are sent to Dr. Gilchrist now are for expenses in connection with the work and the maintenance for himself and his family. It was agreed that this account should be opened with an initial \$500. Periodically an assessment will be made of what additional amount can be added, but there will be no stipulated amount agreed upon at this time.
2. It was agreed that the staff could look into the possibility of transferring the Defense and Aid account to another bank if Chase Manhattan, in violation of its agreement when our account was first established there, insists on a service charge.
3. Of 12 items for discussion under the topic "Strategy on South Africa" there was time only to discuss a few. The idea was approved of starting an informational and action bulletin on southern Africa, including the Portuguese territories. This would be a brief bulletin giving attention primarily to United States relations to southern Africa. The plan is to mail it to a relatively small group of most concerned individuals and to organizations and with an emphasis upon suggesting lines of action. It was suggested that although a definite schedule for publishing the bulletin did not need to be set, it should be done at least every two months.

Dan Bernstein agreed to look into the details of buying stock in the American-South African Investment Trust so that questions about American investments in South Africa could be raised at stockholders meetings. Also, Dan Bernstein agreed initially to contact an economist who might be willing to do initial research on the question of American investments in South Africa. This material, when prepared, might appear in pamphlet form, or in a special article in "Africa Today" that would later be printed. This information would be used to give background information as guidance to demonstrations, ^{which} might be organized against companies doing significant business with South Africa.

4. On the Tenth Anniversary, it was reported that plans for the special anniversary issue of "Africa Today" are proceeding well and that testimonials to the work of the Committee had come in from such persons as Governor-General Azikiwe, Vice-President Kawawa, Tom Mboya, Oliver Tambo, Kenneth Kaunda and a number of others. It was agreed that the Special Events Committee for the Tenth Anniversary should have a meeting soon.

5. The next Steering Committee meeting was set for Tuesday, September 10. The next Board meeting was set for the evening of September 16.