

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

March 26, 1963

MINUTES

1. Brief Reports

a. Mason Sears: It was reported that Mason Sears had responded with a very cordial note indicating his acceptance of his election as a member of the National Committee. He also said that he would be willing to try to make Board meetings from time to time if this was agreeable.

b. Chiume and Chipembere: It was reported that Kanyama Chiume, Minister of Education, Social Development and Information in the Nyasaland Government and Masauko Chipembere, Minister of Local Government and Treasurer-General of the Malawi Congress Party were visiting this country under a State Department grant. A small dinner with a few interested members of the Board is planned for March 27th.

2. Makeba Benefit: Benefit tickets for the Makeba concert at Carnegie Hall have not been going very well so far. It was suggested that a number of the Board members who had not yet been reached about contacting their friends to interest them in buying tickets for the benefit, should be called.

3. Africa Freedom Day: The Africa Freedom Day program is now pretty well arranged. The speakers include Holden Roberto, Oliver Tambo, Jariretundu Kozonguizi, Kanyama Chiume and Eduardo Mondlane. It was agreed by the Board that Hope Stevens should act as Chairman for the evening and make the fund appeal on behalf of the Committee.

4. Ship picketing: George Houser reported that Hope Stevens, Collin Gonze and James Farmer had met with the President of the longshoremen's local in Brooklyn, Anthony Scotto, to discuss a demonstration against South African ships coming into harbor. Mr. Scotto had indicated his approval of the project and wanted more detail. It is hoped that a demonstration with the cooperation of the longshoremen can be arranged for some time in late April or early May.

It was agreed that this event should be co-sponsored with CORE.

5. Tenth Anniversary: Collin Gonze had prepared a draft letter to various African leaders inviting them to give testimonials to the work of the American Committee on Africa for use as part of our Tenth Anniversary Issue of "Africa Today." A list of the African leaders who will be invited to give such testimonials includes Chief Hosea Kutako, Ntsu Mokhele, John Nquku, Holden Roberto, Agostinho Neto, Joshua Nkomo, Kamuzu Banda, Julius Nyerere, Rashidi Kawawa, Milton Obote, Emperor Haile Selassie, Cyrille Adoula, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Kwame Nkrumah, Felix Houphouet Boigny, Sekou Toure, Leopold Senghor, Habib Bourguiba, Ahmed Ben Bella, Hassan II, Tom Mboya, Jomo Kenyatta, Ronald Ngala, Kenneth Kaunda, Chief Lutuli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Oliver Tambo, Michael Scott, Eduardo Mondlane, William Tubman, Jariretundu Kozonguizi, Mburumba Kerina, Potlako Leballo, etc. It was agreed that a form letter in and of itself would not get the desired response. The approach to the various leaders will have to be made by individuals who know them, or through contacts that we have with those close to the leader. It was suggested that we ought to look in our own files to see what statements have been made by such leaders as Kwame Nkrumah and Sekou Toure and Emperor Haile Selassie at one time or another which perhaps could be used.

6. Speakers

a. Duma Nokwe: Letters have come indicating that perhaps Duma Nokwe, the last Secretary-General of the African National Congress of South Africa prior to its banning may be able to come to the United States for some speaking in the fall. This will have to be looked into further.

b. Basil Davidson: Basil Davidson has also written that he may be able to come during the latter part of November and early December this year. Details on this will have to be worked out to see what it means for us financially in view of the fact that Basil Davidson wants to spend quite a bit of time not just lecturing, but in talking with various people in the field of African affairs.