

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

January 9, 1963

MINUTES

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

1. Summary of 1962 finances: The Committee considered the basic figures in the finance report for 1962. When the budget for 1963 was adopted, it had been thought that there might be as much as a \$27,000 deficit at the end of 1962. Actually the deficit is \$15,300. Therefore \$2,500 was authorized to be added to the personnel item in the budget for 1963. This means that no drastic personnel change would have to be made at this moment, but that this could be reconsidered again in mid-year as we see how fund-raising is progressing.

2. American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa: It was agreed that the Committee should keep closely in touch with developments regarding the American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa. If the Leadership Conference is having difficulty in maintaining itself on a permanent basis, perhaps new discussions can take place about a relationship between the Conference and the Committee at a later time.

3. Congo situation: It was reported that a statement on the Congo had been sent out to Steering Committee members, some National Committee members, to key Congressmen and Senators, to some State Department and UN personnel as well as to heads of interested organizations.

It was suggested that all statements such as this should go out to all members of the Executive Board, and if possible, to all members of the National Committee.

4. Washington trip and US policy toward Portugal: The Steering Committee agreed that it was important for some work to be done in Washington regarding American policy toward Portugal and Portuguese territories in Africa. The key problem seems to be negotiations on the Azores. It was suggested that the staff seek to find some military expert who would have information about the negotiations on the Azores bases and independent judgement on the value of the Azores as a military base. Contact should be made with a number of Congressmen and Senators with the hope that some speeches could be made in Congress on American relations with Portugal. Senator Morse, as a key member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is one person who might be approached and who perhaps could use some of the material the Committee has available.

5. ACOA associated groups: Mary-Louise Hooper has reported that the Northern California Committee on Africa has agreed to abide by all of the conditions stipulated for affiliation of local or regional groups with the American Committee on Africa. The Steering Committee recommended that the Northern California group be accepted and this will come up before the next Board meeting.

6. It was decided not to continue payments of the premium for the special insurance which had been taken out for George Houser prior to his trip to Angola last year. It was decided that the question of any insurance for staff members should be considered on its own merits at a later time and that this should be a total policy arrived at in this regard.