

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

October 24, 1962

MINUTES

Present: Peter Weiss, Chairman, Daniel Bernstein, Hope Stevens. Staff: George Houser, Collin Gonze, James Robinson.

1. ACOA representation at the American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa: It was agreed that the delegates of the American Committee on Africa should be Hope Stevens, Frank Montero and David Jones. George Houser will be present in an advisory capacity.
2. UN issues: George Houser reported that the United States had abstained on a resolution asking for the release of Joshua Nkomo and other nationalist leaders and also calling for the lifting of the ban against the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union. A copy of the letter that George Houser had written on this issue to Jonathan Bingham was sent out to members of the Executive Board and to a number of other concerned organizations. A number of letters have been written to Bingham as a result of this.

George Houser reported on the speech by Ambassador Francis T.P. Plimpton of the United States delegation in the Special Political Committee at the UN on the apartheid question. A draft letter to Mr. Plimpton was discussed and a number of amendments suggested. This letter is enclosed with the minutes.

3. Public meeting on December 10th: It was agreed that there ought to be if at all possible, a public meeting on December 10th in observance of the Appeal for Action against Apartheid. There was general agreement that the meeting ought to try to tie the struggle for justice here in the United States with that in South Africa. Perhaps it might be possible for special recognition to be given by a civil rights leader in the United States to the freedom fighters in South Africa. Also, it was proposed that a message from Chief Lutuli might give special recognition to James Meredith. It was proposed that we make every effort to get James Meredith to New York for the occasion. It was agreed that if this meeting could be held somewhere near the Columbus Circle area, that it might conclude with a torchlight parade to the building in which the South African office is located at Madison Avenue and 60th Street.

4. African Visitors: It was reported that Jason Sendwe, Vice-Premier of the Republic of the Congo, is in the United States. We will try to arrange a small gathering with him if we can get a date in time.

5. Miscellaneous

- a. George Houser reported that Luide Kisosonkole, the Uganda student who did most of the work in preparation for the dinner honoring Uganda's independence, had just had his leg amputated and is in Bellevue Hospital.

- b. Roland Watts has agreed to arbitrate the question of whether the ACOA owes Homer Jack any additional salary.

- c. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will also be a meeting of the Finance Committee in order to do the preliminary work on the budget for 1963.