

Out no file - #3

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

September 10, 1962

MINUTES

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

1. Arbitration in the case of Homer Jack vs. ACOA: The Steering Committee previously agreed that we would be willing to enter into arbitration in order to resolve the problem of whether the ACOA owes Homer Jack any money for his work with the Committee during the summer of 1959. The Committee agreed that it would be simpler to have one person serve as an arbitor. It was agreed that we would nominate Roland Watts or Roger Baldwin, or Judge Jane Bolin in that order of preference. This would be discussed with Homer Jack, and if agreement is reached the arbitration process will move ahead.
2. Appeal for Action Against Apartheid: George Houser reported that we now had over 40 sponsors for the Appeal for Action campaign. Names are still coming in. It was suggested that perhaps with care, we could invite some people from Eastern European countries to be sponsors if their names were generally known, and that this would not detract from the effectiveness of the campaign in the United States.

A memorandum outlining kinds of actions which might be taken by local groups on and around December 10 was generally approved by the Committee. It was suggested that in addition to other places mentioned in the memorandum, that the U.S. Mission to the United Nations should probably be picketed.

It was suggested that it would add to the effectiveness of the campaign if there was a digest of the recent Sabotage Act prepared for distribution. The recent statement of the International Commission of Jurists might serve as such an opinionated digest. Also, the brief papers which were written in connection with the Declaration of Conscience Campaign in 1957 dealing with "Labor and Apartheid", the "Church and Apartheid", "Education and Apartheid" should be up-dated and used as background material for the campaign.

3. Position papers: It was reported that first drafts of three of the position papers had been completed--the one on Portuguese Africa by Malcolm McVeigh, on South West Africa by Winifred Courtney and on South Africa by Collin Gonze, Perry Sturges and George Houser. These will initially be mimeographed for circulation with the authors' names attached but "Distributed by the American Committee on Africa."

It was suggested that in addition to the groups that might be brought together to consider these papers in the New York area, that others might be brought together in other centers such as Washington, by Lew Carliner; Boston by Bob Manners of Brandeis; Chicago by St. Clair Drake, etc.

4. Appointing Mary-Louise Hooper as ACOA West Coast Representative: The Steering Committee agreed that they would recommend to the Executive Board that Mary-Louise

Hooper have the title of West Coast Representative of the American Committee on Africa, rather than only the representative of the Africa Defense and Aid Fund.

5. Mozambique: Peter Weiss reported that he had been informed that the Selvage and Lee operation was very active on the Washington scene on the question of American policy towards Mozambique. It was agreed that we ought to supply material on Selvage and Lee to the Special Senate Committee that is investigating the operations of agencies working for foreign governments. It was suggested that some time in the future after Eduardo Mondlane, the new President of the Mozambique Liberation Front, returned from his forthcoming trip to East Africa, that the Committee should put on an affair on his behalf. It was further recommended that the Committee look into supporting a possible project relating to education for refugees from Mozambique.

SUGGESTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
APPEAL FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

In order for the campaign "Appeal for Action Against Apartheid" to have maximum effect, it is important that there be wide participation in various kinds of action on and around December 10th, Human Rights Day.

The aim of the action is twofold:

1. to urge the United States Government to see the necessity for dynamic action, including economic sanctions, if justice is to be brought about without wholesale bloodshed in South Africa;
2. to appeal to the South African Government to end apartheid in all its phases, to protest recent apartheid legislation such as the "Sabotage Act," to give expression to the world-wide revulsion against government-by-racism in South Africa.

Suggestions for specific action in various local communities:

1. Send delegations to the South African consulate (Embassy, U.N. delegation) to protest apartheid and appeal for a non-racial policy.
2. Find out if markets or restaurants are selling South African rock lobster and protest if they are. Also check the frozen foods department of your grocery store.
3. Organize public meetings to protest apartheid in South Africa.
4. Devote some portion of a church service on December 9th to commemorate Human Rights Day as a Day of Protest Against Apartheid.

5. Organize picket demonstrations or silent marches at the South African consulate or some other appropriate place. If your city is a seaport with merchant ships coming to the United States with South African goods, organize a protest demonstration.
6. Raise funds for the Africa Defense and Aid Fund to be used for the legal defense of South African resisters who are on trial, or for political refugees who have left the country.

Background literature available from the American Committee on Africa:

- a) ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID \$0.25
- b) SOUTH WEST AFRICA: THE U.N.'S STEPCHILD \$0.25
- c) APPEAL FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

Please send the slip below to the American Committee on Africa, 801 Second Avenue, New York 17, New York, so that we can know what you are planning and how we can help.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ORGANIZATION _____

1. I (we) plan to organize the following activities on or around December 10:
 - (a) delegation
 - (b) picketing
 - (c) public meeting or service
2. We will try to raise some funds for the Defense and Aid Fund of ACOA for and to South Africa _____
3. We can use the following literature: _____
4. Please keep me informed of activities elsewhere _____
5. I cannot be certain of specific plans, but will send word soon _____