

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

fib

Steering Committee

May 9, 1962

MINUTES

1. George Houser reported that a preliminary discussion would be held with a number of persons on the possibility of holding a conference of Negro leadership on American policy towards Africa in the fall. This preliminary discussion will take place on Wednesday, May 16th with A. Philip Randolph, Hope Stevens, John Morsell of the NAACP, John Davis of AMSAC, James Farmer of CORE, and others. It was suggested that Clarence Jones, newly-appointed director of the Gandhi Foundation, be invited.
2. The Executive Director was asked to begin preliminary explorations for a person who might be able to join our staff in the fall as Projects Director. It was suggested that we might particularly try to find someone from the South who has had experience in the struggle for equal rights there.
3. In a discussion on sending medical supplies to Angola, it was reported that all we have collected so far has been sent through Dr. Lياهوca, who works with the UPA. It was suggested we also write to the MPLA to find out what their needs are for aid to the refugees inside Angola. It was decided that the ACOA was not restricted to aiding just one organization involved in the Angolan conflict, in line with our policy of neutralism towards political factions in the various countries of Africa.
4. In preparation for the discussion which the June Board meeting will have on program perspectives for ACOA, it was decided that in addition to whatever memorandum might be prepared by the Executive Director, that others might also prepare memoranda. Peter Weiss will prepare one. Also, he will get in touch with Hope Stevens and John Marcum, asking them if they might like to prepare something that would be helpful for the discussion.
5. James Robinson will prepare a memorandum for the next meeting of the Steering Committee on procedure which should be followed in affiliating local chapters to the ACOA.