

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

April 3, 1962

MINUTES

Present: D. Harrington, Chairman; N. Bengston, D. Bernstein, D. Jones, F. Montero, H. Stevens, P. Weiss, S. Levison. Staff: G. Houser, J. Robinson, H. Gray, D. Kallen.

1. Minutes: Paragraph 2 (a) of the minutes of the March 14th meeting was revised to read as follows: "The Steering Committee, meeting as the Organization Committee, placed the names of Maida Springer and John Marcum in nomination for membership on the Executive Board."
2. Africa Freedom Day: Kenneth Kaunda will be coming to speak at the Africa Freedom Day celebration as well as to appear before the UN Committee of 17. All mailings for AFD had been completed; the main task now was to sell tickets. Expenses for Tambo would be covered by speaking engagements arranged for him, and it was expected that several African states would contribute to the expenses incurred by Kaunda.
3. Kenneth Kaunda: Kaunda would probably remain in New York for two weeks. We will arrange a dinner or reception for him with Board members and large contributors. In addition, some television appearances will be set up.
4. Office space: James Robinson reported that our present lease was expiring in October and that many changes would have to be made in the office if we were to stay. We were looking at space on 42nd Street on the third and fourth floors which would be suitable; Stanley Levison had discussed terms with the owner. Mr. Levison recommended that the Committee take the space on 42nd Street. He will act for the Board in negotiations.
5. Basil Davidson: Mr. Davidson had indicated that he will be delighted to come to the US for three weeks some time between the end of January and mid-May, 1963. The staff is now proceeding on arrangements.
6. Jason Sendwe: Mr. Sendwe had written to say that he is prepared to come to the United States on April 15th for a 6-week visit, and would be accompanied by two staff people. It was clear that the Committee could not undertake arranging such a trip, and the staff had therefore communicated with the State Department. Mr. Fredericks' office will write directly to Mr. Sendwe when details for his visit are arranged.

Following a long discussion of the exclusion of African leaders from contacts with Afro-Americans, it was decided that a paper would be prepared based on case histories. Hope Stevens will draw up the report which will then be forwarded to the State Department.

7. Annual Meeting

a. Election of officers: Since Maida Springer was unable to accept the nomination, John Marcum was the only new member up for election.

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b. Question of program perspectives: A regular procedure for program review should be instituted. In this connection, the Steering Committee unanimously decided to submit a motion to the Board asking for a change in the By-laws to provide for the Annual Meeting's being held in June. The budget should be discussed at the same time as the program for the ensuing year.

8. Local chapters: The Northern California Committee on Africa, composed of 32 members, had elected a Chairman and Executive Secretary (Mary-Louise Hooper). They had submitted by-laws for approval by the Executive Board.

The Washington group had been meeting with enthusiastic response. A meeting had been held last night to draw up by-laws which would be forwarded for approval by the Board.

The Organization Committee will recommend that the Board approve these two chapters.

9. Homer Jack: Clarification of the Finance Committee's decision was made.