

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

May 23, 1962

MINUTES

Present: Peter Weiss, Daniel Bernstein. Staff: George Houser, James Robinson.

1. Perspectives on ACOA program: It was agreed that the staff's memorandum on ACOA program should be sent out to the Executive Board. Also, other memoranda submitted by P. Weiss, H. Stevens, J. Marcum and L. Carliner, should be in the mail to the Board by June 4th. Furthermore, the staff will work out more detailed memos on particular projects and assignments which are theirs and these will also go out to the Executive Board prior to the meeting on June 11th.
2. Kenyatta: It was reported by George Houser that the African-American Institute also had invited Jomo Kenyatta to come to the United States. It is not known whose invitation to come to the United States Kenyatta may finally accept. A letter from Tom Mboya indicated that Kenyatta may be coming towards the end of June or sometime in July, and that he was giving consideration to the Institute invitation. George Houser reported that he had written to Mr. Kenyatta proposing that regardless of the over-all sponsorship of his trip to the United States, that the ACOA be given the responsibility of organizing at least one and perhaps more than one public meetings for him.
3. Afro-American leadership conference: George Houser reported that a meeting had been held in the ACOA office, attended by Hope Stevens, John Morsell, John Davis, James Farmer and Frank Montero, to discuss this conference. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to try to hold such a conference in October. Another planning meeting will be held, if possible, around June 15th, to which will be invited 10 or 15 additional persons who would be key factors in putting on a successful conference. George Houser will follow up on this next meeting. After that, it is not known just what the mechanism will be for putting on the conference.
4. Memo on ACOA chapters: James Robinson had prepared a memorandum defining aspects of the relationship between national ACOA and any local or regional chapters. It was agreed that Jim Robinson would make certain amendments in the draft, and that it would be sent out for further discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting and also put into the hands of the Executive Board for discussion on June 11.