

ACOA

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 1961

Present: Hope Stevens, Acting Chairman; Hugh Smythe, Elizabeth Landis, Nelson Bengston, Stanley Levison, Cleveland Robinson, William Scheinman, John Murra;
Staff: George Houser, Dale Harrison, Barbara Harrison.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read.
2. The Committee's U.N. voting record analysis was considered. Houser stated that copies would go to Dean Rusk, to Bowles, and to Stevenson, as well as to appropriate committees in the Senate and the House, to ACOA's National Committee and to organizations interested in Africa and international affairs. It was agreed that it should be given publicity and distributed as widely as possible, after the report was amended, 1.) to include mention of the fact that the period of transition between administrations may have affected the U.S.' voting pattern at the U.N., and 2.) to include mention of why our government's position vis a vis Africa was as important as our position, say, vis a vis NATO.
3. Plans for a conference in March. Houser discussed plans for a leadership conference--at the time of the beginning of the General Assembly--to draw together all organizations and individuals concerned with American policy as it relates to Africa. Houser reported on results of preliminary discussions with A. Philip Randolph (present also at these discussions were Levison and Stevens); Randolph has agreed to be chairman of the proposed conference and to take part in the program. The Steering Committee expressed agreement with Mr. Randolph's chairing the conference.
4. Africa Freedom Day. After a prolonged discussion of Africa Freedom Day, the Steering Committee voted unanimously to observe the occasion this year in mid-April, and the Executive Director was directed to go ahead with plans for an Africa Freedom Day celebration, which would, however, be on a smaller scale than we had originally anticipated because of the demands of time and other pressing projects. Staff to explore the use of Hunter College for AFD, and to evaluate staff time and possible addition of temporary staff member(s) to work on AFD. (Separate report on AFD has gone to S Committee members.)
5. Cable from Vu@umzi Make to Scheinman. Make has asked for help (the kind of help was unspecified) for Philip Kgosana, 19-year-Old leader of the march on Capetown, who has escaped from South Africa. Houser to discuss matter with South Africa United Front in London, to explore possibility of having Kgosana accredited as petitioner to U.N., to consider bringing him here as a speaker under Committee auspices, and to discuss sending money with Finance Committee.