

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering & Finance Committee

January 29, 1964

JOINT MEETING ON 1964 BUDGET

Present: Peter Weiss, Hope Stevens, Nelson Bengston, Stanley Levison, Andrew Norman. Staff: George Houser, Collin Gonze, James Robinson.

1. The Committee agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Executive Board should take place on March 16 and that it should be held at Hotel Ten Park Avenue, Room 2H. Dinner will be arranged for. It was also agreed that Burudi Nabwera, Kenya Ambassador to the United Nations, should be invited to speak during the early part of the meeting.
2. Discussion of 1964 Budget: George Houser pointed out that the 1964 program is an ambitious one and that it cannot be carried out without spending money for personnel and other expenses. Stanley Levison, Nelson Bengston and Peter Weiss all gave reasons for feeling that the outlook financially is not a rosy one for 1964. Mr. Levison felt that the interest in civil rights in 1963 had had an adverse effect on our fund-raising -- and that this would, if anything, increase rather than decrease during 1964. In addition, he felt that the political campaign would siphon off some potential contribution money.

It was decided that the budget allotments of \$123,200 for Income and \$119,825 for Expense would each be cut by \$7,000 and that the effective cuts would be included in the printed budget to be sent to the membership. However, in March, the \$5,000 cut in personnel will be open to reconsideration should the proposed Tour to Independent Africa (which would net an estimated \$5,000 on the basis of a tour group of 25) become a reality. By mid-March we will also have some idea of response to the budget appeal to the membership.

The \$7,000 cut in anticipated income was taken in toto from the Contributions item, reducing it from \$93,000 to \$86,000.

The \$7,000 cut in anticipated expenses was taken: \$2,000 from Africa Today and \$5,000 from Personnel, reducing Personnel allotment from \$60,825 to \$55,825, and Africa Today allotment from \$13,000 to \$11,000.

In the course of the discussion, George Houser said that the history of the American Committee on Africa was a story of acting on faith that income could be found to meet urgent program needs. Stanley Levison felt that gambling with a \$10,000 accumulated deficit was different in kind from gambling with the present deficit of \$18,000 to \$20,000 -- and that failure to curb the deficit now might mean crippling cutbacks later in the year.

On the Personnel cut, James Robinson pointed out that the discussion had been in terms of dropping one staff member, but that such a cut alone, and particularly if not taken until sometime in March, would not be sufficient to realize a total saving of \$5,000 on the Personnel item in the year 1964. Members of the Committee observed that an absolute cut of \$5,000 was not as important as moving in the direction that may have to be taken.

The cuts were adopted and it was directed that they be included in the printed budget.