

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be held on Monday evening, May 13 at 5:45 p.m. in the office of the ACOA at 211 East 43 Street. Elections of Board Members will take place at this meeting. We hope it will be possible for everyone to attend.

A M E R I C A N   C O M M I T T E E   O N   A F R I C A

Executive Board

March 11, 1963

MINUTES

Present: P. Weiss, Chairman; N. Bengston, D. Bernstein, E. Carrington, W. Courtney, C. Jones, D. Jones, F. Jones, S. Levison, J. Murra, H. Smythe. Staff: Houser, Gorze, Kallen, Raymond, Robinson.

Regrets: J. Farmer, D. Harrington, S. Jacobs, F. Montero, A. Norman, J. Robinson, A. Schulkind.

1. Minutes of the last meeting: Adopted as circulated.

2. Gift for Eduardo Mondlane: George Houser reported that the gift for Eduardo and Janet Mondlane of an airmail subscription to the International Edition of the "New York Times" was going to cost considerably more than had originally been expected. The Chairman expressed the hope that all Board Members would find it possible to contribute towards the cost of the gift, which would be \$102.

3. Africa Freedom Day Plans

a) Public Meeting: George Houser presented a draft outline for a public meeting, explaining that this year no attempt had been made to rent a hall and sell tickets because of the limited number of personalities who would be "drawing cards." It was felt, he said, that a symposium on the theme "The Unfinished Struggle for Freedom in Africa" would draw a different and more serious crowd than in the past, and that personalities who would be in the United States for the AMSAC conference, such as Holden Roberto, Jariretundu Kozonguizi and Oliver Tambo, would be invited to participate. A number of suggestions were put forward of persons to fill the crucial role of moderator. The Board felt that the questions suggested for discussion fell into two distinct categories: the areas still under colonial domination, and the shape of freedom in independent Africa today, and that considering the makeup of the panel, emphasis would naturally be placed on the former. Each of the two categories would certainly be of interest and the Board referred the matter back to the Steering Committee for final decision. However, it was decided that the meeting be held on Tuesday evening April 16th, and that James Baldwin be invited to be a panel member.

b) Picketing South African ships: George Houser reported that an attempt was being made to organize the picketing of ships carrying South African goods coming in to the harbors of Boston, New York and Baltimore sometime after mid-April and that to this end a meeting had been arranged with Mr. Anthony Scotto of the International Longshoremen's Association through James Farmer at CORE. CORE itself was interested in cooperating in this project. The idea of obtaining a boat which would carry protest signs was being looked into. It was suggested that talks also be undertaken with Joseph Curran of the NMU.

4. Letter to Salazar: George Houser presented the draft of a letter which might be sent to Premier Salazar on March 15, the second anniversary of the start of the Angolan revolt. The Board was of the opinion that the letter should be redrafted to make it stronger and more reflective of the indignation felt at Portuguese colonial policy, that responsibility for the violence should be placed squarely on the shoulders of Salazar, and that the letter should be addressed to the Portuguese people. It

could be circulated in Portugal by opposition groups with whom the Committee would be in touch. Signatures of prominent Americans should be obtained to impress the fact of the growing disgust of public opinion in this country with Portuguese colonial policy. The letter might also contain an expression of sympathy with the Portuguese people in their own struggle.

In addition, the Board agreed that on March 15 a cable be sent to all Angolan nationalist groups expressing the solidarity and unshakeable faith in their ultimate victory felt on the part of all liberal Americans.

5. Tenth Anniversary plans -- report from the committee: A committee consisting of Daniel Bernstein, Stanley Levison and Peter Weiss had been constituted by the last Board meeting to look into ways of celebrating the ACOA's Tenth Anniversary year and to report back to the Board with suggested plans. Peter Weiss said that the idea of holding a large dinner in the fall had been abandoned in favor of a small gathering, which would take place at a town house in New York. The major attraction, drawing wealthy friends of the Committee, would be Miriam Makeba who will be available some time in May.

A second fund-raising affair charging a lower admission might be held in the fall.

A special issue of AFRICA TODAY, containing testimonials from African leaders, and also designed to raise money through advertisements, will come out in the fall.

6. Miriam Makeba benefit: The Committee will hold a benefit in connection with the Miriam Makeba concert on April 20th in Carnegie Hall. A mailing on this had already gone to Board Members, and the Chairman wished to point out that the success of the benefit depended largely on the members since no direct mailing was planned. If we were successful this time, we could build a theater and concert benefit list and plan other such events for the future.

7. Board Elections: Because the necessary number of Board Members was not present, elections were postponed for the next meeting.

Since a quorum was not necessary for the nomination of National Committee members, the Board proceeded to approve unanimously the inclusion of Mason Sears on the National Committee. Mr. Sears had long been a friend of the Committee and had alone fought for an enlightened policy on African affairs during the Eisenhower Administration while he served on the Trusteeship Council at the United Nations.

8. Recommendation on financial relation of ADAF and ACOA and payments to Mary-Louise Hooper: James Robinson reported on the recommendation of the Steering Committee to transfer 25 per cent of the proceeds from ADAF to the ACOA which was designed to permit large mailings as have been done in the case of ERA. This recommendation would in fact enable us to send more funds to Africa each year. The resolution was moved and approved unanimously. It was further agreed that the \$100 per month now being paid to Mrs. Hooper from ADAF will be paid from ACOA. Both recommendations were made retroactive to January 1, 1963.

9. Annual Report

a. General Discussion of Committee Role: The American Committee on Africa has a unique role to play on the American scene in the field of African affairs. There are very few organizations working in the field at all, and the Committee is alone in taking a critical look at American policy towards Africa. To the present time the Committee has generally limited itself to the political aspect of developments in Africa, and the Board recognized that there was much to be done in the social and economic fields as well. There is, for example, no group primarily concerned with American policy in regard to the independent African states, or programs of aid to peoples from non-independent territories.

The Board felt that it would be worthwhile to explore the role the Committee might in the future play in the field of education, for example, an area of utmost importance to developing Africa, and in this connection, how we might cooperate with such places as the Highfields School in Southern Rhodesia, Patrick van Rensburg's school in Bechuanaland, and the correspondence courses for African students sponsored by the National Union of South African Students.

Another idea to be examined is the publication of a critical analysis of American aid to Africa. This might be written by an American economist with special knowledge of Africa, or by an African economist in the United States or coming here to pursue advanced studies in his field. Hugh Smythe was appointed a Committee of One to investigate the possibilities in this regard.

b. Finances: James Robinson reported that the deficit had been reduced to \$10,000 which was considerably better than had been projected for this time of year. The Annual Budget Appeal mailing was doing very well and should be bringing in \$22,000 within six weeks.

c. ADAF: Disbursement figures for 1962 were distributed to the Board. It was pointed out that the bank balance was being maintained at a high level in order to pay for the expenses of Dr. Gilchrist in the Congo.

George Houser reported that the Methodist Board of Missions had raised the question of offering a medical doctor to us to work together with Dr. Gilchrist under our Emergency Relief to Angola program.

d. Literature: The report which had been circulated to the Board was self-explanatory. It was clear that AFRICA TODAY was continuing to gain subscribers and that income was increasing.