

## ANNUAL REPORT

### SOUTH AFRICA DEFENSE FUND

by  
Mary-Louise Hooper  
West Coast Representative

Period Covered: March 1959 - March 1960

During the past twelve months, from March 1959 to March 1960, your West Coast Representative has been busying herself with informing the people of California about Africa; and whenever possible, obtaining funds for the South Africa Defense Fund.

During this past year 35 lectures were delivered by the West Coast Representative, 13 of these to churches, Councils of Churches, and United Church Women. Other groups addressed included high school and college classes, Democratic and Young Republican Clubs, the Encampment for Citizenship, the Friends Pacific Yearly Meeting, the League of Women Voters, Berkeley Women's Town Council, American Association for the UN, American Association of University Women; the keynote speaker at the annual conference of CORE, a major speech at the Biennial Conference of the Los Angeles Diocese of Episcopal Church Women, and the Oakland Public Affairs Forum.

A meeting for Tom Mboya was put on in May in San Francisco by a Citizens Committee, assisted by your West Coast Representative, which nearly 2,000 people attended, and which netted \$800 for the South Africa Defense Fund.

Three meetings were arranged in November for Joshua Nkomo: at Stanford University, S.F. State College, and St. Mary's College. Your Representative put on in addition a public meeting in San Francisco which was attended by approximately 400 people who heard Mr. Nkomo, and which netted \$194.80, which was divided between the Rhodesian Detainees Fund, Mr. Nkomo personally, and the South Africa Defense Fund.

The first of this year's fund-raising projects was a luncheon in Los Angeles on April 22nd, at which Bishop James A. Pike was the speaker. This was a small invitational affair, the expenses of which were generously met by two members of our West Coast Sponsors: Mrs. H. H. Kodani of Los Angeles, and the Reverend John Burt of Pasadena. Five hundred ninety dollars was realized for the South Africa Defense Fund by this luncheon.

Another California South Africa Defense Fund fund-raising activity was the mailing in June of a thousand appeal letters, signed by Bishop Pike. From this small mailing we received \$714.25 in 74 gifts (an average of almost \$10 a gift from those responding). These letters were not sent to the ACOA California mailing list but to a list developed by your West Coast Representative.

Through July and August a fund-raising campaign was presented for the benefit of Dr. W. Z. Conco, African Treason Trialist, who had been flooded out of his home and medical office toward the end of May at Umzimkulu, South Africa. He had lost not only his own household furniture and most of the clothing for himself, wife, and four children, but what is more important, all his medical equipment, surgical instruments, and entire drug supply. Letters

were sent out to selected doctors, appealing for funds and/or instruments and drugs. Many responded generously. To date a total of \$900 cash has been received and sent direct to Dr. Conco, as well as four boxes of medical instruments, three boxes of good used clothing for the family, one small crate of medical books, 500 recent medical magazines, and four boxes of drugs. In addition to the money sent, \$111.84 was spent in buying a few instruments which he particularly needed, and for expense of freight and mailing.

Our latest venture for the South Africa Defense Fund was the benefit performance given by the Festival Theatre of their production, "Lost in the Stars," on September 5th. The management and cast donated to the Defense Fund all its net proceeds including all remuneration to the actors and to the financial backers who gave their consent to this donation. The net sum realized by the South Africa Defense Fund from this benefit was \$1,100.37.

Dozens of press releases on the South Africa Defense Fund and Treason Trial were sent to western newspapers. A letter to the publisher was published in the San Francisco Chronicle, and articles about the South Africa Defense Fund and your West Coast Representative were published in: The San Francisco News (two articles), The San Francisco Chronicle, The San Francisco Examiner, and The San Francisco Call Bulletin. A summary of the present status of the Treason Trial was written by your West Coast Representative at the request of the African National Congress delegation to the All African Peoples' Conference in Tunis, and 500 copies of the summary circulated at Tunis in both French and English.

The following articles written by your West Coast Representative were published during the year: a series of two articles on the December 1958 Accra Conference published in the S.F. Sun Reporter; a three-part article on the independence of the Cameroun published in January 1960 in newspapers over the country affiliated with the Associated Negro Press; and an article on Chief Lutuli published in the Southern California Methodist Journal (ACTION).

Only two issues of the West Coast mimeographed sheet, the South African Freedom Call, were put out this year due to the extreme pressure of other work. Copies of these issues are available in the office in New York. The Freedom Call is now being sent without charge to a mailing list of well over 1500: again not people on the ACOA mailing list, but people who have heard your West Coast Representative speak or have written to request our little publication.

Your West Coast Representative appeared on three television programs of one-half hour each, all on the subject of South Africa and the Treason Trial.

The West Coast Sponsors list (appended to this report) has been expanded this year from 10 to 14 members, the additions being:

Mr. W. J. Bassett, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor  
Dr. Leonard Beerman, Rabbi, Leo Baeck Temple, Los Angeles  
Bishop Gerald Kennedy, Methodist Bishop, Los Angeles Area  
Bishop Donald Harvey Tippet, Methodist Church, San Francisco Area

The Northern California Advisory Committee has been increased from 12 to 18 members, the Southern California Committee remaining at 17.

Eighty-five interviews with important new contacts have been conducted this year with the aim of obtaining wider community cooperation in both Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Approximately 22,000 miles were travelled by your West Coast Representative, which includes a trip to Cameroun, Nigeria, Ghana, and Tunis, where she represented the African National Congress of South Africa as official delegate at the Second All African Peoples' Conference. All expense of this travel, as well as that for office equipment, supplies, postage, publicity, and secretarial assistance, has been borne by your West Coast Representative in the following amounts:

Misc. Supplies	\$ 337.43
Equipment and Repair	715.42
Postage	389.17
Printing	269.44
Travel and Expense (Calif.)	300.01
Conference Expense	23.00
Telephone answering service (8 months)	80.00
Secretarial Expense	<u>1815.58</u>

Total (excepting travel expense to Africa) \$3930.05

(Of this sum, however, \$700 approximately has gone into permanent equipment: an electric typewriter, a letter file, and two Stenorettes.)

The total sum sent to the New York office of the South Africa Defense Fund in this 12 months was \$5,404.94, not including the \$900 cash sent directly to Dr. W. Z. Conco for South Africa flood relief, or the supplies in kind sent to him.

In closing, your West Coast Representative would like to re-state her whole-hearted concurrence in the broadening of the South Africa Defense Fund into the Africa Defense and Aid Fund, and her appreciation of your confirmation of her as the West Coast Representative for the new Fund. I assure you that I will continue to do my best to spread information on the West Coast about Africa and its problems, and to obtain as much financial aid as possible to help alleviate its needs.

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West Coast Sponsors, South Africa Defense Fund

Mr. W. J. Bassett  
Dr. Leonard Beerman  
Rev. John H. Burt, D.D.  
Mrs. Frank B. Duvoneck  
Mrs. Georgiana Hardy  
Bishop Gerald Kennedy  
Mrs. H. H. Kodani

Mr. Loren Miller  
Dr. Max Nussbaum  
The Right Reverend James A. Pike  
Mr. Edwin Sanders  
Mr. Franklin H. Williams  
Bishop Donald Harvey Tippet  
Reverend Gilbert Zimmerman