

Minutes
of the
Executive Board Meeting
of the
American Committee on Africa
June 29, 1959

Present! Donald Harrington, Chairman; Nelson Bengston, George Edmund Haynes, Elizabeth S. Landis, William X. Scheinman, Adelaide Schulkind, George W. Shepherd, Jr., Hugh H. Smythe, William Sorsby, Peter Weiss; Robert Delson, Counsel; Dale Harrison, George M. Houser, Homer A. Jack, Ann Morrissett, Staff.

Agenda and Minutes: The agenda for the meeting was adopted by the Board and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Ann Morrissett: A vote of thanks to Ann Morrissett for all the hard work and the successful results in connection with raising money for the South Africa Defense Fund, was passed by the Board.

New Division of Responsibilities: The Executive Director outlined the new division of executive responsibilities between himself and Homer Jack, recently appointed Associate Executive Director, as follows:

1. Publications and literature program
2. Washington program
3. Publicity
4. Speaking and writing
5. Research
6. Visitors
7. Committee administration
8. Areas of shared responsibility
 - A. United Nations activities
 - B. Finances
 - C. Special projects

Responsibilities of GMH:

1. Finance Committee
2. United Nations Committee
3. Steering Committee
4. Organization Committee
5. Executive Board

Also, speaking tours and "major responsibility for speaking tours". Also, "major responsibility for the administration of the South Africa Defense Fund and whatever its successor might be."

Finance Report: The Treasurer announced that as of May 29, 1959, the Committee's expenditures totaled over \$34,000, whereas income was over \$45,000. He noted that the total ACOA budget for 1959 had been pegged at about \$62,000, and that therefore during the first five months of the year over 70% of the budget had been raised.

It was reported that 11,650 people got the recent ACOA appeal mailing. Two letters were sent: One to people who contributed to the ACOA earlier in the year, and to those who have not. The recent contributors were not sent a business reply envelope.

Finance Report Con't: It was observed that between now and September, the Committee had to raise \$17,000 to \$18,000, if it is to stay out of debt. About half of this amount is in sight, the Executive Director reported.

Stock and Bond Sales Authorization: A standard authorization form for the sales of stocks and bonds was approved by the Board:

RESOLVED: That any of the following officers, to wit: President, Treasurer, or Assistant Treasurer of this corporation be, and they hereby are, fully authorized and empowered to transfer, convert, endorse, sell, assign, set over and deliver any and all shares of stock, bonds, debentures, notes, subscription warrants, stock purchase warrants, evidences of indebtedness, or other securities now or hereafter standing in the name of or owned by this Corporation, and to make, execute and deliver, under the corporate seal of this Corporation, any and all written instruments of assignment and transfer necessary or proper to effectuate the authority hereby conferred.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That whenever there shall be annexed to any instrument of assignment and transfer, executed pursuant to and in accordance with the foregoing resolution, a certificate of the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of this Corporation in office at the date of such certificate, and such certificate shall set forth these resolutions and shall state that these resolutions are in full force and effect and shall also set forth the names of the persons who are then officers of this Corporation, then all persons to whom such instrument with the annexed certificate shall thereafter come, shall be entitled, without further inquiry or investigation and regardless of date of such certificate, to assume and to act in reliance upon the assumption that the shares of stock or other securities named in such instrument were theretofore duly and properly transferred, endorsed, sold, assigned, set over and delivered by this Corporation, and that with respect to such securities the authority of these resolutions and of such officers is still in full force and effect.

Signatures on Checks: The Board authorized the signing of Committee checks by any two of the following people: Chairman, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Executive Director, or office secretary. The staff is responsible for getting the signature of at least one qualified Board member on any check greater than \$300.

Defense and Aid Fund: The Board approved a seven-part resolution outlining the structure of the Africa Defense and Aid Fund:

I. Purpose - The purpose of the Fund shall be exclusively to provide charitable and educational assistance to Africans in this country and abroad, including legal aid to persons not able to provide for their own defense. (Passed)

II. Name - The Africa Defense and Aid Fund of the American Committee on Africa would be so named in order (1) to emphasize the legal and humane aims of the Fund, and (2) to indicate its connection with the Committee. Becoming known commonly as the "Africa Defense and Aid Fund", it would in all cases be more fully named in printed material and publicity so that its identification with the Committee would be clear. (Passed, 5-2)

III. Sponsors - There would be a special sponsoring group, as for the South Africa Defense Fund, of respected individuals from various fields. These would include well-known Negro, labor, and religious leaders, etc. The present sponsors of the SADF would be invited to continue their sponsorship on the the new Defense and Aid Fund.

IV. Trustees - The trustees would consist of the ACOA Finance Committee and three others to be designated by the Board, of whom two, Jackie Robinson and A. Philip Randolph were approved by the Board, subject to their acceptance. The function of the Trustees will be to administer the funds, under the general direction of the ACOA Board.

V. Relation to ACOA - The Fund's relation to the ACOA would be similar to that of the SADF in that it will continue to be administrated by and work closely with the ACOA, subject to its control in both policy decisions and fund-raising. The latter, however, would be more integrated with the Committee's fund drives than the SADF has been so that ACOA could use each new situation arising as a point of special appeal both for itself and the Fund, and could in turn give a certain established percentage of its income to the Fund. While the monthly financial calculations in this arrangement would have to be carefully figured, it would minimize the present difficulties of competing appeals and confusion in contributors' minds (e.g. those who have thought when they give to one they were giving to the other; those who give to the Fund and are astonished to find themselves on the ACOA list, etc.) As a working basis, the ACOA would put 25% of monies raised by it into the Defense and Aid Fund, this percentage to be assessed quarterly.

VI. Staff - The Administrative Assistant for the Defense and Aid Fund would work closely with the Committee's Executive Director, especially on working out of financial appeals (timing, wording, emphasis, etc.). They would also work together on public information and reports, and on research and background material relating to these and to Fund projects. The Assistant would also oversee the mailing lists generally, in addition to handling most routine matters relating specifically to the Fund, including general correspondence and day-to-day decisions. The Assistant would be paid, therefore, partly out of the Fund and partly out of the ACOA account.

VII. Immediate plans for action - In addition to the present continuing needs of the South Africa Defense Fund, there are several requests for immediate legal aid from South Africa, Kenya, and the Central African Federation totalling around \$10,000. If the Defense and Aid Fund is immediately set up, incorporating the SADF, these requests can be met to the best abilities of the Committee and appeals can be made to Negro, labor and other organizations in the immediate future on the basis of these specific needs and the interest that has been expressed by such groups in the Africa Freedom Fund proposed by Tom Mboya on his recent tour.

The Fund would be launched early in the fall by a new brochure explaining the purpose and set-up of the Fund; a possible advertisement in the New York Times; campaigns through campus and other groups; an appeal mailing to ACOA (and possibly other organizations!) mailing lists.

ACOA National Committee Nominations: The Board approved the Organization Committee nominations for the National Committee. Nominations to the Executive Committee could not be considered for lack of the special quorum required for that purpose:

Claud Barnett	Sen. Kenneth B. Keating
Daisy Bates	Gov. David L. Lawrence (Pa.)
Rep. Chester Bowles	Rep. John V. Lindsay
Gov. Edmund G. Brown (Cal.)	David MacDonald
Elmer Carter	Benjamin E. Mays
Gov. Michael V. DiSalle (Ohio)	Sen. Gale W. McGee
Justice William O. Douglas	Judge Sam Pierce
David Dubinsky	Jacob Potofsky
Cyrus Eaton	P. L. Prattis
Sen. Clair Engle	Sen. William Proxmire
E. Franklin Frazier	Clarence Randall
Gov. O. L. Freeman (Minn.)	Victor Reuther
Gov. Foster Furcolo (Mass.)	Walter Reuther
Lester Granger	Gov. A. A. Ribicoff (Conn.)
Averell Harriman	Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller (N.Y.)
Sen. Philip A. Hart	Sen. Hugh Scott
Judge William Hastie	John Sengstacke
Gov. Mark Harfield (Ore.)	Michael Straight
Ralph Helstein	Roy Wilkins
Stanley Isaacs	Gov. G. Mennen Williams (Mich.)
Rep. Byron Johnson	Sen. Harrison A. Williams
John E. Johnson	Sen. Stephen M. Young
Sen. Jacob K. Javits	Arnold Zander

Also:

Robert Benjamin	Thomas K. Finletter	Mrs. Alice Pollitzer
Edward L. Bernays	Lloyd K. Garrison	Whitelaw Reid
Mrs. John S. Bowman	Mrs. R. V. Ingersoll	Philip Rose
Cheryl Crawford	Dr. William Manger	Eustace Seligman
Alfred de Liagre, Jr.	Mrs. Dorothy Norman	Henry Siegbert
Eliot Eliofson	Frederick O'Neill	Mrs. Ronald Tree

Chiume and Nkomo: The Board was in general agreement that Kanyama Chiume and Joshua Nkomo should be invited by the ACOA to tour the United States this fall.

Haldane Roberto: The Executive Director recommended that the ACOA sponsor a U. S. trip for Haldane Roberto. The Board gave its conditional approval; the decision must be subject to Steering Committee satisfaction that the Committee will not be saddled with an unwieldy financial responsibility.

Africa Freedom Day, 1960: The Board approved the Steering Committee's recommendation that the ACOA sponsor an Africa Freedom Day celebration in 1960. The Steering Committee is to set up an Africa Freedom Day Committee.

Azikiwe and Sekou Toure: The Associate Executive Director announced that both Prime Minister Azikiwe of Eastern Nigeria and President Sekou Toure of Guinea would be visiting the U. S. later in the year. Azikiwe is due in July, and the Board agreed that the Committee should make an effort to meet with him. Sekou Toure is due sometime in October and the Board agreed that the ACOA should try to arrange a dinner for him, possibly in collaboration with the American Society of African Culture.

Office Space: The ACOA's present lease on office space expires on Sept. 1. The Associate Executive Director announced that the Committee was checking into several new office possibilities, the best one being at 801 Second Ave. Consultation with the Steering Committee is to be made before coming to a final decision. (We have taken the space at 801 Second Ave., Ed.)

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, September 14.