

3-month period, Feb. 1 - May 1, 1959

To summarize the financial picture in round figures, at the end of January, 1959, the Defense Fund had a little over \$2200 on hand, with \$2000 having been sent to South Africa on January 19 at the opening of the treason trial of the first group of 30 accused. At the end of April, 1959, the Defense Fund had sent \$10,000 more to South Africa, with around \$3500 remaining on hand and major bills paid. A total of over \$15,300 was raised during this 3-month period, with around \$4000 of this paid out in expenses. Contributions through Mary-Louise Hooper during this period, totalling around \$400, are included in the \$15,300.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 26, the first week of my work for the Defense Fund was spent largely on a general appeal letter for the ACOA, working closely with George House, and on an accompanying leaflet about community action on the Defense Fund. Wordings were worked out for various appeal letters to go to other organizations' mailing lists, newspapers, religious publications, labor groups, community and other organizations. As a result of the ACOA appeal letter enclosure, the Defense Fund received requests for over 5000 brochures which I sent out in quantities ranging from 2 or 3 to 200 or 300, to individuals, churches, colleges, and to Mary-Louise Hooper on the West Coast. There were also requests for other Defense Fund materials, and information about speakers. A few speaking engagements were arranged in this area; several requests from the West were referred to M.L. Hooper.

The Defense Fund brochure was worked out by Hugh Southern and myself and 35,600 were printed. Arrangements were then completed for a general appeal mailing of about 22,000 letters with brochures and return contribution envelopes to go out to partial mailing lists of the American Civil Liberties Union, Spanish Refugee Aid, and the United World Federalists. Signatures for the appeal letters were secured from John Gunther and Bishop Pike. The results of this mailing began to come in around the end of February, reached a peak in March, began to fall off in April but still come in at the rate of several a day. There was roughly an 8% return, with an average of over \$8 contributed per person. Most of these are people never previously contacted, as ACOA contributors were not solicited for the Defense Fund.

Although the main source of income has been this large mailing, a number of responses have also come through additional smaller mailings and through newspaper and magazine editorials and letters to editors. These latter were the results of several hundred letters I sent out (multigraphed and personally typed) to editorial writers, religious publications and other magazines. The New York Post carried an editorial on March 10 and printed a subsequent letter; the Washington Post printed a letter and editorial on March 22; the New York Age carried an editorial on Mar. 21. Fellowship Newsletter, The Living Church, the Christian Century, Springfield Union, Hartford Courant, Boston Herald, Congress Weekly, Community Church News, are among others which have carried editorial comment in the last two months, and the N.Y. Times Magazine Section, the Village Voice, N.Y. Post, New Leader, Liberation, and various newspapers throughout the country have carried letters to the editor. The Progressive will carry a letter and possible article in forthcoming issues; Harpers, the Nation, and the Saturday Review are interested in having articles. A picture and article in the Amsterdam News was the result of a visit Lorraine Hansberry made to the office to make a contribution to the Defense Fund, which she had read about in my letter to the Village Voice. The editor of the Pittsburgh Courier has just written that he will have an article about the Defense Fund appearing May 9. Three South Africans, Lionel Foreman, Ezekial Mphahlele, and Alan Paton, sent articles at my request which have not yet been placed. An article on South Africa by Alan Paton will appear in the May 11 Christianity and Crisis with a Defense Fund appeal; reprints will be made of this. Nadine Gordimer's articles in Holiday and The Atlantic on Apartheid and Chief Luthuli respectively have been called to the

attention of Defense Fund contributors and others, and Miss Gordimer's fee for the Atlantic article went to the Defense Fund in South Africa. She has expressed willingness to inform us in advance of any future articles she may write on the trials, or channel them through us if possible.

The National Student Association's plans for a Student Appeal for South Africa did not materialize, nor did a tentative offer of \$1000 to NSA from Jack Kaplan for this effort; however NSA offered to send out Defense Fund leaflets and other materials on the treason trials and apartheid provided by this office. 600 apartheid leaflets were also sent out to International Relations Clubs through their central office. Meanwhile I have worked with college groups directly wherever possible. After correspondence with the Carleton Student Association, in which they asked for many details concerning the treason trials, their student body sent around \$650 in April as a result of a sacrificial meal on campus. This is the largest single amount from any group or individual that has so far been received. Through the efforts of George Shepherd, over \$150 was sent from St. Olaf College. A few other college and high school groups sent in small amounts, and several students at Harvard are interested in starting a campaign; this will probably have to be done in the fall. The U. of Chicago held a drive in January and raised about \$700 which was sent directly to South Africa. Correspondence with the president of the Collegiate Council for the United Nations, who had earlier expressed interest in the Student Appeal, resulted in a recent letter stating they have sent out materials about South Africa to all CCUN affiliate groups, and that the Defense Fund might follow this up by using their mailing list for an appeal. If this cannot be done in the next few weeks, before the academic year ends, it might be done in the fall.

In response to a request from Cape Town, I asked Ben Shahn, Saul Steinberg, Rockwell Kent, William Gropper, and James Thurber to contribute art works for an auction in Cape Town for the defense fund there. Shahn, Steinberg, and Kent responded and I forwarded their works to Cape Town.

George Houser has spoken several times on the radio about the Defense Fund, but to our knowledge there has been no money response to these. Peter Weiss appeared on the Fannie Hurst showcase April 14 as a result of negotiations by Bill Kent, a public relations man who offered to help publicize the Defense Fund and Africa Freedom Day as a result of the letter in the Village Voice about the Defense Fund. Previewings of Lionel Rogosin's film on South Africa are still going on, mainly arranged by him, with some invitations, such as that to Mrs. Roosevelt, going out from the Defense Fund. A showing for UN officials is being worked on. Brochures have been distributed at several showings, and mention made of the Fund. A premiere in the fall might be arranged as a benefit performance for the Fund if a theatre is secured.

Recent weeks have been spent on Africa Freedom Day matters (with some time spent on the ACOA brochure, much time spent answering phones), and on sending out some 1500 receipts to Defense Fund contributors, with a report which is attached. March receipts were typed outside, but not satisfactorily, and after checking these with our bookkeeper, stuffing and sending them all out, I have begun to type all succeeding ones myself when I have the chance. A list of 600 names in the U.S. sent by a South African minister to Ronald Segal was recently sent Defense Fund appeals; some 3 or 400 letters have also been sent to miscellaneous personal lists. Labor groups have not yet been approached on a systematic basis. A letter signed by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, Father C. Kilmer Myers, Rev. James Robinson, and Monsignor Cornelius Drew is being worked on, to be mailed to about 3000 churches and synagogues in the N.Y. area.

The summer will probably be a slack time for the Defense Fund, and if the Africa Freedom Fund is launched with an ACOA appeal in the fall, arrangements should probably be worked out during this time for absorbing the Defense Fund into the larger fund. I would personally like to free-lance during the summer months with occasional work for the Defense Fund if needed, with the question mutually open as to whether or not I would return to work with ACOA in the fall, and on what basis. I have enjoyed doing this work, and the freedom I have had in handling it.

Ann Morrisett

A REPORT TO DEFENSE FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks to the concern and generosity in these past few months of you and many others like you, we are very happy to report that we are sending a check now for \$10,000 to Bishop Ambrose Reeves of Johannesburg, trustee of the fund in South Africa. With the \$2000 the Defense Fund sent Jan. 19 when the new trial began for 30 of the 91 accused, this makes \$12,000 we have sent in the first four months of this year, and more than \$40,000 in the past two years.

The trial of the second group of apartheid opponents is being postponed pending an appeal by the defense for the first group on the grounds that (1) since "treason requires an element of violence to overthrow the established government," the words alleged in the indictment are therefore not "capable in law of constituting treason", and (2) because no more than several of the accused were linked with any particular meeting or speech, they could not "all be joined together in the one indictment." The first trial will resume after the decision of the Appeal Court, with May 18 fixed as the date of resumption "with leave of the Crown to anticipate on notice."

Many of you have very kindly asked what else you can do on behalf of the defendants. As this trial is being so unfortunately prolonged and may well drag on until fall or later, the need still exists for moral and material support. As you know, the defendants and their families are now almost entirely dependent on the Fund. Bishop Reeves has written that about 2/3 of all the money that has been spent has had to go to legal costs (even though all the lawyers have been working at minimal fees during these years), and about 1/3 to family welfare. Much of the money has been raised in South Africa itself. Our fund has set the relatively modest goal of \$50,000 as our contribution to the ongoing costs. If we hope to raise even this before autumn, we must increase our efforts to reach people and inform them of these trials which are the focal point of the tragic and explosive South African situation in the new setting of a rapidly changing and aware continent.

You can help by working through local groups or organizations with which you may be in contact. Churches and unions have made contributions, student bodies in high schools and colleges have held meetings, drives, and sacrificial meals to help. Can you take the initiative in your group or community to inform others through discussions and conferences, and by distribution of appropriate information materials and taking up of collections? The new interest in Africa among Americans does not need to stop with talk--there is much that we can actually do to demonstrate our concern for African hopes, and the Defense Fund is one of the most positive channels for such action. It may be pointed out that the American Committee on Africa, sponsor of this Fund, is studying the possibility of expanding it to include legal defense for other African leaders who are being arrested by colonial powers for seeking independence of their countries or equal rights within them.

Please let us hear from you. The ACOA staff is small (only one works on the Defense Fund) and we need interested volunteers everywhere to take the initiative in gaining American interest in and support for responsible African leadership, especially in such blatant cases of its repression as in South Africa. We would like to call your attention to the April issues of Holiday and The Atlantic. Nadine Gordimer has excellent articles on apartheid and Chief Luthuli, head of the African National Congress who was among the 156 first arrested by the South African government for opposing its apartheid policies. Other articles and editorials related to South Africa and the treason trial have appeared and will be appearing; anything you can do to call these to the attention of others, and to encourage comment in local publications, will be helpful. A few of you have asked that we not send you receipts. Because we must make these out anyway for our records and separation is time-consuming, we hope that you will understand our taking this opportunity to send you a report as well.

Ann Morrisett
Acting Secretary