

SOUTH AFRICA DEFENSE FUND

Annual Report of the West Coast Representative

March 9, 1959

During the past year on the Pacific Coast your West Coast Representative devoted most of her attention to becoming acquainted with the various organizational and church groups in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and laying the ground work for what is hoped will be an effective, permanent organization, of Pacific Coast people interested in Africa. The activities during this period were confined to the state of California as it was proved almost impossible to do more than service the Los Angeles-San Francisco areas, and adequately respond to the demands in these areas for information and speaking engagements.

During the 15-month period (January 1958 - March 1959) 33 lectures were given by the West Coast Representative on South Africa to various groups, including churches, women's organizations, interracial clubs, labor groups, and two political rallies of the Convention People's Party in Ghana. Four meetings were arranged for Ronald Segal, Editor of Africa South; four for Violaine Junod, Professor of the University of Natal, who travelled to the Pacific Coast during her stay in this country. Seven additional meetings were arranged for Manoah Chirwa of Nyasaland (cancelled because of his non-appearance).

Four hundred forty-four pounds of good winter clothing was gathered by Defense Fund assistants and sent to South Africa for the defendants in the Treason Trial and their families.

Several antique objects of art were sent from Defense Fund supporters to the Johannesburg auction for the benefit of the Treason Trial Fund in February 1959.

A cable campaign was inaugurated which resulted in the sending of at least 200 cabled messages of support and encouragement at the opening of the Treason Trial in August 1958 and again in January 1959. Messages from the recipients in the trial gave assurance of their appreciation at this sign of solidarity and how Americans sympathize with them in this long drawn out ordeal.

The West Coast Representative arranged two radio appearances for Miss Junod, one for Ronald Segal, and appeared on two radio programs herself. She also planned and took part in a debate on television in San Francisco at which she and an African student from Ghana took the African viewpoint of the question, "Apartheid in South Africa," and two white South African students took the white supremacy side. The Very Reverend C. Julian Bartlett, Dean of Grace Cathedral of San Francisco, was the moderator of this half-hour program.

The West Coast Representative wrote 292 official letters during this period and interviewed 103 community leaders on behalf of the Defense Fund. This activity resulted in an editorial by Royce Brier on the Defense Fund in the San Francisco Chronicle and the formation of Advisory Committees for the South Africa Defense Fund in both Los Angeles and San Francisco, as well as the beginning of a significant Sponsors List on the Pacific Coast. At present the Los Angeles Advisory Committee numbers 17; the San Francisco Committee 12; and the Sponsors List 10, with promise of

an additional member, Bishop Gerald Kennedy of Los Angeles, as soon as he returns from his present African tour.

California endorsement of Mrs. Hooper's work includes the Southern California Episcopal Diocesan Department of Christian Social Relations, the Community Relations Conference of Los Angeles, West Coast Region of NAACP, Palo Alto Society of Friends, Los Angeles Central Labor Counsel AFL-CIO, and the Southern California Association of Liberal Rabbis.

Thirty-five press releases were sent out, and an article written on the "Rural Clothing Factories in South Africa" for the New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco branches of the ILGWU.

An article on the "Political Situation in the Congo" was written for the British Broadcasting Corporation in London.

A speech, "South Africa Today," was mimeographed by the First Unitarian Church of Claremont, California, and copies are being sold by that church.

A memorandum on "South African Economic Conditions in Labor" was written for the use of Mr. A. Philip Randolph at his request, as well as two memos on "Apartheid in South Africa" (totalling 21 pages) at the request of, and for the use of, the Indian Delegation to the United Nations.

The recently issued fact sheet on South Africa was compiled at the request of the New York Office of the Defense Fund.

As Secretary of the South Africa delegation of African National Congress to the Accra Conference, Mrs. Hooper wrote a 2-page summary of events in the Treason Trial, had it translated into French, and circulated 500 copies (in both languages) to the delegates at the December All African People's Conference.

The West Coast Representative inaugurated in October 1958 a mimeographed news sheet which will appear every two or three months to keep people on the West Coast informed on progress of events in South Africa, especially as they affect the liberatory movement and the Treason Trial. The mailing list is over 600 at present, which does not include the ACOA mailing list, but only people with whom Mrs. Hooper has come in contact personally.

In addition to attendance at the All African People's Conference in Accra as an official delegate for the African National Congress of South Africa, the West Coast Representative attended the Regional United States Foreign Policy Institute in May at Claremont, California, and the Whittier Conference on Interracial Realations in July, 1958.

Approximately 17,800 miles were traveled by the West Coast Representative during the period covered by this report, at her own expense. (This figure includes one trip to New York but does not include the trip to Ghana and back by way of England.) All travel on the West Coast is done by car so expenses are relatively light: approximately \$200 travel expense for six trips to Los Angeles during the 15 months (about 18 weeks were spent in Los Angeles), plus \$700 hotel expense during Mrs. Hooper's periods away from her home in San Francisco. This total expense has been borne by the West Coast Representative personally, as well as approximate

expenditures of \$100 for postage, \$800 for secretarial assistance, \$150 for printing of literature and stationery, business cards, and two issues of the Freedom Call.

A total amount of \$4,725.60 was sent during the period covered by this report through the West Coast Defense Fund to the New York office of the Fund. No penny of any contribution was deducted for expenses of any kind.

The West Coast Representative realizes that this is not a large sum for 15 months of work but submits that most of her time and energy, as mentioned in the beginning of the report, had to be spent on establishing the identity of the Fund on the West Coast, and circulating information about South Africa in general, and the Treason Trial in particular. Most people -- even the well-informed on interracial affairs -- often have had little or no knowledge of details of the fight for freedom in South Africa. Nothing can be accomplished in the way of securing financial support or giving of assistance until an informational foundation has been laid.

Mary-Louise Hooper