

Minutes of the
Executive Board Meeting
of the
American Committee on Africa

February 10, 1958

Present: Peter Weiss--Vice Chairman: Nelson Bengston, Gilbert Jonas, Elizabeth S. Landis, Elliott Newcomb, George W. Shepherd, Jr., William Sorsby, Robert Trentlyon; Staff Members--Dale Harrison, George M. Houser, John Williams.

New Representative: Mrs. Mary-Louise Hooper was appointed by the Board as the West Coast Representative of the South Africa Defense Fund.

Program for 1958: The Board adopted the Executive Director's report of the ACOA program for 1958. The Program Committee is now dissolved.

ACOA Statement on U.S. Foreign Policy: George Houser has consulted with Harold Isaacs, David Williams, Tom Hughes and others regarding a U.S. Foreign Policy Statement for the ACOA. The Board decided that, rather than take immediate action, the Statement be referred to a Committee of the Board for considering and reporting on to the next meeting of the Board.

Statement on Tunisia: George Houser reported that a telegram has been sent to the State Department urging the government to back the Tunisian position on the Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef bombing, at the U.N. Regrets were telegraphed to Tunisia's U.S.-U.N. Ambassador, Mr. Mongi Slim, and to the Consulate of Tunisia in New York City.

A Statement on the French bombing of the Tunisian village was discussed by the Board and was referred to a committee composed of Gilbert Jonas, Elizabeth Landis, and Elliott Newcomb for implementation of minor changes. A resolution was passed by the Board adopting the Statement as changed by the 3-man committee.

Report of the Organization Committee: Members of the Finance Committee plus others from the Executive Board met with Harold Oram, Jan. 28, to discuss financial arrangements. A suitable arrangement agreeable to both Oram and the ACOA was worked out; the terms follow: There was full agreement that \$3,500 was due and owed to the Oram firm for work done between Oct. and Dec. 1957. In view of the financial position of the ACOA, Oram agreed to accept \$500 down and six subsequent payments of \$500 at two-month intervals. Settlement of an additional \$5,500 owed Oram for services between Jan. 15, 1957, and Oct. 1, 1957 was agreed to on the following basis. Oram will accept 50% of this sum or \$2,750 in full settlement with the understanding that this sum will become due and payable if receipts to the ACOA during 1958 reach \$75,000. In event that \$75,000 is not raised by the ACOA during 1958, the obligation is terminated. Adoption of the agreement by the Board was unanimous but for one abstention.

The Organization Committee recommended that (1) the Executive Board be enlarged to 25 members, (2) the establishment of a Strategy Committee to meet between Executive Board sessions to handle details, and (3) that the Executive Board meet 5 times a year rather than monthly. All recommendations were approved unanimously.

Members were asked to submit recommendations for the expanded Executive Board by Feb. 19.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Executive Board is on March 10.