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Board Members: William Booth, Edward May, Isabel Cintron Cintron, Gay McDougall, Elombe Brath, Ted Lockwood, Bill Johnston, Josephine Buck-Jones

Staff: Jennifer Davis, Richard Knight, Paul Irish, Gail Hovey, Dumisani Kumalo, Josh Nessen, Annie King, Crystal Mapp

Apologies: Peter Weiss, Elizabeth Landis, Moe Foner, Tim Smith

1) Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:20, and the minutes were accepted as distributed.

2) Reports

Bill Booth reported that he had testified on US policy towards South Africa before the United Nations General Assembly's Special Political Committee. The speech was well received by the African delegates, several of whom asked for copies of the text. The US delegate walked out in the middle of the testimony.

Jennifer Davis reported on the archives project. Several libraries including Yale, Northwestern, Schomberg and the Amistad Research Center are interested in receiving the records of ACOA. Clifton H. Johnson from Amistad in New Orleans has looked at the archives and is very impressed by their value. If they were to go to Amistad, they would be microfilmed and thus available to African libraries and governments. The Board of Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ has given George Houser office space to work on the archives and prepare reserved files. Criteria for choosing the recipient of the archives would include their availability and financial remuneration to ACOA.

Gail Hovey reported on publications. A speech by Theo-Ben Gurirab, "Namibia: For Freedom and Independence," just off the press, was distributed. "Questions and Answers on Divestment," is about to go to the printers. "Legislative Action Against Apartheid: Connecticut Case Study," and "Black Unions in South Africa," are about to go to the typesetter. A new film list is also about to be completed. Work in progress includes a study of the Anglo-American Corporation and the Namibia pamphlet. Plans for next year include a piece on women under apartheid and a case study of a Bantustan.

3) Report from Theo-Ben Gurirab

Theo-Ben Gurirab, SWAPO Permanent Observer to the United Nations came to bring the Board up to date on developments in Namibia.

1. South Africa is working to "Namibianize" the conflict, transforming the DTA into the actual government, setting up a local army, distorting the situation so that it is no longer viewed as a colonial situation by the outside world.

2. The conflict has been extended to include the whole of southern Angola. The level of attack has been stepped up with overkill of men, women and children. Territory taken by South Africa is handed over to UNITA.

3. Negotiations have been going on for four years. The Western Five have taken the right to be the political brokers in Namibia, undermining the authority of the UN. The process produces papers and more papers, and "non-papers."

4. The US under Reagan has an attitude of complete disregard for previous work. They have made their position clear: open hostility to African people and open embrace of South Africa.

After a period of lively discussion Bill Booth thanked Theo-Ben for giving so generously of his hard-pressed time.

2-cont.) Reports continued

Dumisani Kumalo reported on his recent trip to ten states. He said there is more interest in South Africa among students, more concern about Reagan's policy. Legislation dealing with South Africa is pending in Minnesota, Michigan, California, Wisconsin and Oregon. He attended the National Black Caucus of State Legislators in Baltimore. In AFL-CIO unions, control of pension funds can be linked to South Africa, and the issue of control is becoming more and more important. Finally, he reported that Diana Ross is scheduled to go to South Africa to sing, and a campaign is under way to keep her from going.

Gail Hovey reported that a resolution has been introduced in the New York City Council calling for city pension funds to be removed from banks and corporations that operate in South Africa. The resolution has been sent to the Finance Committee, and ACOA plans to testify when hearing are held.

Jennifer Davis reported on a mailing to US trade union leaders calling on them to take action in response to the arrests of South African trade union leaders. She stressed the recent escalation in the level of internal terrorism, especially the recent butchering of lawyer Mlungisi Griffiths Mxenge.

Paul Irish reported on material aid to SWAPO. A local support group in Minneapolis is contributing glasses and medical supplies. ACOA received an excellent collection of books on African history and political science which will be given to the Namibian Institute.

There was an announcement that the Clark Amendment had been rescued. Ted Lockwood stressed the importance of beginning the fight early. Gay McDougall urged us not to minimize the organizing effort. She was involved in daily calls to legislators. Reagan wanted the Foreign Aid bill passed and the Clark Amendment could have slowed that down. We can claim a real victory.

Richard Knight reported that the US seems ready to get more involved in supporting Morocco at the expense of Polisario. He has written a piece describing this in detail, and it is a situation that needs watching.

Jennifer Davis attended a high level conference on South Africa at Silver Springs where ACOA was categorized as the "romantic deviationists."

4) Forthcoming

Jennifer Davis reminded Board members that January 8 is the 70th Anniversary of the African National Congress. ACOA will participate in this very significant year of celebration.

Staff: Bill Robinson is leaving. Bhagwaite Dwarika is leaving. Gail Morlan is changing her name to Gail Hovey.

Josh Nessen reported on student work. There will be regional conferences in January in Berea, Kentucky, and at the University of Illinois, to plan for the spring week of action. There will also be a New York City planning meeting January 16 held in cooperation with the Black United Front. The weeks of action will highlight SWAPO and it is hoped that there will be a SWAPO speaking tour with two people, one on each coast. There will be an event in New York on March 21.

Ted Lockwood began a discussion on US policy, noting the need to watch the regulations that implement the arms embargo. South Africa is an ally and restrictions may be slowly eroded. Four nuclear experts just visited South Africa. Twenty South African scientists are studying here; the South African railway police head visited here as did the head of the South African Veterans Association.

After some discussion it was agreed that ACOA should prepare a public statement on US policy to gather nationally prominent signatories for release and possible use as an add.

5) Finances

The financial figures for ten months of the ACOA and The Africa Fund were presented for the board's consideration. Paul Irish noted that the large deficit ACOA entered the year with had been considerably reduced, but ACOA was left with a very low cash position and difficulty meeting payroll.

A proposed budget for 1982, including expenditures of approximately \$100,000 was presented, noting that this presumed some drop in paid staff time.

The budget was approved as received.

6) Board

Jennifer Davis noted the difficulty in arranging a meeting of the nominating committee. One addition was made to the committee, Timothy Smith. The resignation of Michael Davis from the board was accepted with regret.

A motion to accept the nomination of Jean Sindab, executive director of the Washington Office on Africa to membership on the board was moved by Edward May and unanimously approved.

A tentative date for the next board meeting was set for Monday, March 22.