

F

Minutes, Executive Board Meeting, December 3, 1980.

Present: William Booth (Chairing), Tilden LeMelle, Peter Weiss, Josephine Buck-Jones, Marvin Rich, Isabel Cintron, Edgar Lockwood, Michael Davis, William Johnston, Elizabeth Landis, Dorothy Hibbert, Timothy Smith.  
Regrets: Edward May, Jerry Herman, Leonard Jeffries, Gay MacDougall, Adelaide Schulkind.  
Staff: George Houser, Paul Irish, Jennifer Davis, Gail Morlan, Dumisani Kumalo, Richard Knight, Alexander Boyer, Joshua Nessen.  
Guests: Jean Sindab, Christine Root

1. The meeting was called to order shortly after 6.00 pm.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as received.
3. Dumisani Kumalo summarized his written report to the board concerning his recent speaking tour of the U.S., to over 15 campuses in all parts of the U.S., primarily related to the United Church of Christ, to the convention of the American Lutheran Church where a major divestment struggle took place and meeting with some groups in California concerning legislative initiatives. Discussion ensued on the status of student anti-apartheid actions, which led into an update by Joshua Nessen, ACOA student coordinator. A newsletter mailed soon after the meeting provided a full summary. Josh emphasized that there was considerable educational activity on campuses in preparation for actions, most in the Spring.

Paul Irish reported on progress in the tour of the U.S. and Canada by Thozamile Botha, exiled Port Elizabeth leader of the Ford strikes in South Africa. A heavy schedule was taking him to all parts of the US and Canada, including over 25 campuses. Trade union and church meetings were being held, and he testified before the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Africa. Over \$5,000 in honorarium had been raised to date.

4. New publications in progress were reported by Jennifer Davis including a new issue of "Voices for Withdrawal", a summary pamphlet on US involvement in Namibia, a new fact sheet on South Africa and forthcoming summary of Space Research Corporation arms sales to South Africa. Richard Knight reported that the Fall promotional mailings were doing well.

5. Gail Morlan reported a new "victory" in the State and Local Legislative divestment campaign, a bill for bank withdrawals by the State of Michigan has now passed both houses. In Oregon a divestment bill is being reintroduced and coalitions formed for its passage. The coordinating committee of the Campaign has been meeting to encourage the effort.

After brief discussion of the situation in New York, the board moved to send a letter to Mayor Koch of New York City encouraging him to follow through his letter to the South African prime minister, P.W. Botha, and withdraw city funds.

6. Tilden LeMelle, treasurer, asked George Houser to give a more detailed report on the financial situation. The ten month financial report had been mailed to all board members. George updated the figures, noting income of about \$67,000 for 11 months and expenses of \$73,000. Accounts payable were about 9500, and a loan to be paid was another \$4,000. \$20,000 would have to be received before January 1 to meet outstanding expenses. A deficit of between 10 and \$15,000 was predicted. George reported that the Finance Committee of the ACOA and The Africa Fund met recently, carefully reviewed projections and recommends the 1981 budget presented for the board's consideration. He referred to it as an optimistic budget, with expected income higher than we were able to raise in 1980, in part based on two bequests we know should come due in 1981. Tilden LeMelle raised an issue for future consideration concerning the rôle of the ACOA board itself in helping raise the budget. A theater party for Athol Fugard new play was suggested. It was agreed the finance committee should meet in the future to consider such proposals. On motion of Marvin Rich, the 1981 budget was adopted as presented. (attached budget for 1981)

7. Peter Weiss reported for the Search Committee, whose minutes had been circulated along with a copy of a staff memo on future directions which had been discussed in the committee. It was agreed that discussion should not go further within the committee with out discussion in the full board. A general discussion ensued on the options proposed in the staff memos, about ACOA relations with support groups and their nature, possible conferences and other coordination, the effort involved in fulfilling the proposal and financial implications. A special meeting of the executive board was proposed to more thoroughly review and analyze these issues.

Discussion also took place on the process for receiving applications. Free notices would be sought in related publications, a mailing to the wider ACOA "family" would be made within the week and a deadline for application was set at January 26, the date of the next Search Committee meeting. Suggestions of publications and mailing lists were received.

8. George Houser added a few notes on the changing situation in Guinea Bissau, where President Luis Cabral was ousted in a coup by a long time PAIGC military leader, "Nino" Veieiro. Little new information could be added at this time, except to note that the events were unfortunate and will probably strain relations between Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde.

9. Christine Root reported on the Washington scene, noting a "victory" in language adopted in a House-Senate conference which effectively maintains Congressional accounting called for in the former "Clark amendment" prohibiting CIA intervention in Angola. Speculation on the new chairs for the House and Senate Africa Subcommittees after the Reagan elections and noted the possibilities of Senators Helms or Hayakawa, Congressman Solarz or a member of the black caucus, and Chester Crocker of Georgetown University as the possible Assistant Secretary of State for Africa. No one can be very certain until the appointments are made.

10. Elizabeth Landis reported on new developments in Namibia. The South African sponsored DTA alliance took three of five ethnic "elections" and seven of 18 seats in the white assembly. UN team negotiations in South Africa suggested a preimplementation conference with an unclear agenda at a "neutral" site which may be accepted by South Africa. Speculation on what South Africa would wish from such a conference, "guidelines" for a constitution or preparations for a government of "national unity" to bind SWAPO, were discussed. Mrs Landis also noted that the African National Congress recently filed a declaration with the International Red Cross

accepting the Geneva conventions on prisoners of war.

11. Richard Lapchick mentioned a few new developments concerning sport and apartheid, special note was made of calling off the tennis match in Bophuthatswana by convincing John McEnroe's father that it should not take place there. Also reported was success in the appeal to the second-ranked gymnastic team in the U.S. (The Parkettes of Allentown, PA) in disinviting a South African team from participating in their invitational meet on November 29th. It was called to the Parkettes attention that the U.N. maintained a "black list" of athletes competing with South Africa.

12. The date for the next meeting was tentatively set for March 4th.