

Minutes, ACOA Executive Board Meeting, December 11, 1975

The meeting began shortly after 6:00 p.m.

Present: William Booth (Chair), Elombe Brath, Marshall Brown, Robert Browne, Elsie Carrington, Michael Davis, Collin Gonze, Dorothy Hibbert, Janet Hooper, Jay Jacobson, William Johnston, David Lampel, Oseye Mchawi, Andrew Norman, David Robinson, Herbert Shore, Robert Van Lierop, Peter Weiss
Staff: George Houser, Paul Irish, Jennifer Davis, Raphael Gould, Richard Knight, Marvin Rich

Apologies: Elizabeth Landis, Timothy Smith, Moe Foner, Edgar Lockwood, Winifred Courtney

1. The minutes of the September 24th meeting were approved as received.
2. **Finance Report:** Jay Jacobson, who had to leave early, presented the finance report, noting that we were doing about as expected for the year, no better, and projecting that we will do slightly worse in mail appeal in 1976, an election year. The new budget calls for only a slight increase. The budget was approved.
3. **Brief Reports**
 - a) **The Supremes:** Ray Gould reported that the Supremes apparently protested their status as "honorary whites" and conditions for Africans in South Africa, and were given four hours to leave the country. They felt deceived. Only 2 out of 24 performances were before integrated audiences. ACOA will issue follow-up release when information is confirmed. David Lampel added that the executive board of NATRA, a black broadcasting group, had endorsed a motion calling for stations not to play their records, which had earlier been adopted by stations WLIB-WBLS.
 - b) **Human Rights Committee:** Paul Irish reported that the appeal of this South Africa group for letters of solidarity had been widely circulated, and response received at the office from church and other southern Africa groups was encouraging. ACOA helped arrange a special tape from Angela Davis.
 - c) **Gary, Indiana Action:** Jennifer Davis reported that after hearings by the City Council where she testified, attended by hundreds of citizens, the Council adopted a selective purchasing policy towards IBM, ITT, Control Data and Motorola products, overriding Mayor Hatchor's veto and overcoming heavy pressure from corporate interests. Vernon Jordan, of the National Urban League supported IBM at the hearings.
4. **Report on Mozambique:** George Houser reported on his recent trip, about which a report shall be issued shortly. He was favorably impressed saying that FRELIMO leaders knew what they were doing, particularly in organizing the rural economy along cooperative lines, building on their experience in liberated zones. He said they are quite practical in knowing what they can and cannot take on right now, noting that schools, the legal & medical professions, the Bank of Mozambique and funerals had been nationalized so far, and other things would be nationalized on a case by case basis. Major questions to be dealt with were plantations, rails & harbors, and Mozambiquans working on South African mines, which if halted would produce

150,000 unemployed now. They are working to relocate these persons, and the refugees from Tanzania, Zambia, and Malawi in the rural regions, in part using the aldeamentos locations (without the barbed wire); they are studying Rhodesian goods, presently being exported through Beira, to fulfill sanctions. FRELIMO is winging the support of those people not directly in the liberation struggle, through the "grupos dinamizadores", residential and work groups. He held extensive discussions with Marcelino Dos Santos, now Vice President and Minister of Economic Development and Planning, on ways the Africa Fund can continue to relate to agricultural and health programs.

Robert Van Lierop, who has just returned from months of filming in Mozambique, agreed that persons were not forced to become part of the villages, and stressed that they would nationalize industries when they were prepared to administer them; the stress was on productivity.

5. General discussion of program and projects for 1976 was the next item on the agenda, George Houser's memorandum having been circulated prior to the meeting. A wide ranging discussion ensued on the nature of issues in Africa (anti-colonialism vs anti-imperialism) relations with other organizations working on Africa issues and ACOA's proper role, and the contribution of The Africa Fund. There was not sufficient time to discuss this important topic, and William Booth suggested that the Steering Committee might meet to develop a set of proposals to be taken to a special session of the Board. This proposal was later adopted. The suggested date for the Steering Committee was the second week of January, and the next Board meeting the last week of the month.
6. Report on Angola: George Houser opened discussion on this issue stressing that Angola was a prelude to the eventual struggle in South Africa; that charges of Soviet "control" in Angola did not take Africa seriously; his article should appear in the Sunday December 14th issue of the New York Times op-ed section. Everyone saw the invitation to the "consultation" on Angola ACOA was calling. George hoped that a coalition of groups opposing U.S. intervention might emerge from the session. Discussion ensued among Board members on the issues and American response - in the black community, about the CIA operations, Congressional action, organizing constituencies. At the conclusion of the discussion, Peter Weiss proposed that ACOA communicate with board member F.A.O. Schwarz, Jr., chief counsel to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, urging that he use whatever means at his disposal to see that the CIA's current activities in Angola become a matter of Congressional inquiry. The motion carried. It was agreed that major time should go into the Angolan issue.
7. Moynihan: George Houser read portions of his letter to Roberta Cohen, executive director of the International League for the Rights of Man, protesting their Human Rights reception honoring the U.S. representative to the U.N., Daniel P. Moynihan. After discussion Elsie Carrington moved and the Board adopted a resolution to endorse the statement and communicate the Board's endorsement of it to the League prior to their reception the next day, December 12th.
8. Legal Cases: Peter Weiss reported on the South African Airways case. We are now back in District Court with the case, which is being handled by Rod Boggs of the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. On the New York Times case, he reported that Doug Wachholz was handling the case, and was seeking leave to appeal to the State Court Appeals (Note: which has been granted). On the Mangazva case, ACOA fulfilled its support by paying the fine and court costs, though unfortunately it appears that other organizations may not be taking up the appeal, despite the outrages of Delaware law. \$4,000 was raised and spent by The Africa Defense and Aid Fund of ACOA on the case.

William Booth expressed special thanks to all Board members who assisted in the office's move to its new location.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after nine p.m.