

Minutes ACOA Executive Board Meeting, June 11, 1975

Present: William Booth, President; Robert Browne, Elsie Carrington, George Daniels, Lawrence Henderson, Dorothy Hibbert, Janet Hooper, Jay Jacobson, William Johnston, Elizabeth Landis, Tilden LeMelle, Edgar Lockwood, Gail Morlan, Andrew Norman, David Robinson
Staff: George Houser, Jennifer Davis, Marvin Rich, Richard Knight
Visitors: Tapson Mawere, Theo Ben Gurirab

1. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd of April, 1975 were accepted with the correction that Winifred Courtney's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of those present.
2. Mulder Protest: It was reported that S.A. Minister of Information, Connie Mulder had been visiting the US. There had been a protest at the meeting he spoke to in Los Angeles, involving 100-150 people. He had faced hostile questioning in the meeting and two Black City Councilmen had refused to sit on the podium with him. The Washington protest which had been proposed did not materialize - in general Mulder's schedule had been kept very quiet; an attempt on his side to meet with the Black Caucus failed when Diggs discovered his intention.
Mulder Visit: Nathaniel Davis had met with Mulder despite advice from State Department people not to do so.
3. Plans for Mozambique Independence Celebrations: ACOA received an official invitation to the celebrations in Lourenco Marques. Paul Irish, making his first trip to Africa will be one representative, Janet Hooper the other.

In New York ACOA will hold an informal celebration on the evening of the 25th at the home of Betsy & Bill Landis. We will show slides, have some FRELIMO poetry, play part of a taped interview with Eduardo Mondlane. This will not be a formal reception with long speeches. Board members were asked to help with the planning/work/ mailing involved in organizing the evening.

We had also been in touch with the Mozambican students who were planning an event for the Saturday night following the 25th. ACOA offered to assist, and already helped students contact the OAU and locate resource materials.

4. Report from Tapson Mawere: Z'U Representative: Mr. Mawere reported on the circumstances of his arrest, together with Synos Mangazva in Delaware. It was agreed that ACOA would assist with the organizing of a legal defense, and would issue a strong protest to the Governor of the state, Congressional representatives, etc.

Mr. Mawere then reported briefly on the situation developing in Zimbabwe. He traced the history of the current negotiations involving Smith and South Africa on the one side, several independent African Governments, the Zimbabwe liberation movements and the African National Council (ANC) on the other. He referred to the creation of unity in December under the ANC umbrella, outlined some of the difficulties which had developed between the participants in the new ANC, indicated Smith's growing intransigence since his initial indication of a willingness to negotiate in December, and pointed out that the ANC was moving into a position where Bishop Muzorewa had himself said it could only hope to achieve its aims via armed struggle. There were conflicts between former

ZANU and ZAPU members on issues such as the holding of a Congress inside Zimbabwe, from which Ndabaningi Sithole and James Chikerema would automatically be barred. Forces supporting Joshua Nkomo appeared to be pushing for the holding of an early Congress.

George thanked Mr. Mawere for his report and added some details he had heard on the plans for an early ANC Congress. It was apparently Bishop Muzorewa's view that it was a mistake to rush to an early Congress, as this would have a divisive effect.

Responding to Board member questions, Mr. Mawere said that the purpose of the Congress was to ratify decisions taken by the leaders in December - these had never been presented to the people; also to elect a new leadership. The current problems were a revival of old divisions made worse because most of the ZANU leaders were out of the country, many in detention in Zambia. If Smith's banning of many leaders was lifted they could return and the people could elect their leaders. Sithole was in the meantime trying to build the ANC. Mawere saw the situation as a very difficult one. Others agreed that the next few months would be critical in determining whether the fragile unity established in the ANC could be maintained and strengthened. The role of Mozambique, which could increase pressure on Rhodesia but was itself in a very tough position was discussed. It was agreed that ACOA would have to watch the shifting position very carefully; that theoretically the establishment of a unity in the ANC was sound; the question was, will it work?

5. Report from Theo Ben Gurirab: SWAPO Representative: Reviewed recent events at the United Nations, leading up to the triple veto in the Security Council. He pointed out that South Africa had not responded to previous UN requests that it affirm support for the national territorial integrity of Namibia, and indicate its sincerity by releasing all political prisoners. The South African response to 1974's Security Resolution 366 had indicated no shift at all from its previous position; South Africa had no intention of really withdrawing from the area or recognizing UN authority.

In SWAPO's view the UN and South Africa were talking about different things when they discussed self-determination and independence. Thus SWAPO saw a danger in continued UN contacts with South Africa.

SWAPO, formed in 1958, had always assumed that liberation was the responsibility of the Namibians. Referring to the current Odendaal plan, a plan to divide Namibia into twelve areas, (the 12th tribe being the white population(!)), he pointed out that a new element had been introduced with the proposed establishment of a "multi-racial council". There were plans afoot to hold a fraudulent "constitutional conference", and Vorster was determined and was finding allies among 'leaders' such as Herero Chief Clemens Kapuuo, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ to undermine and discredit SWAPO. There had been other political organizations in Namibia - SWANU, SWANUF, NUDO, some were not around any more, others were weak; SWAPO had contributed to their disappearance only by its greater effectiveness, Gurirab said. SWAPO was committed to national unity; it wanted UN supervised elections, with time (12 months) to go back and organize. It was not prepared to compromise on the illegality of the South African occupation, the only issue to be debated was when withdrawal would occur. Nor would it compromise on the question of UN authority. The next step at the UN was not clear, particularly if South Africa went ahead and created a number of puppet Namibian "states". Board members pointed out that this was similar to the problem that might arise in relation to the Transkei. Ben Gurirab said no puppet

regime would be able to survive except with military help from South Africa.

6. Finances: The finance report for five months of 1975 was distributed. Treasurer Jay Jacobson introduced the report. It shows that incoming expense is about up to the budget adopted for the year. About \$6000 more has been received than has been spent through the five months. The problem of financing in the immediate future will depend on what contributions come during the summer.

Jay Jacobson urged board members to do all they could to support the Seed Money Program to make it possible for ACOA Direct Mail to be sent out. Approximately \$1700 had been contributed to the loan fund. Thus far some 90,000 pieces of mail have been sent out under the program at a cost of \$13,160. The income has been \$9,213. Marvin Rich has prepared a report on the outside mailings.

7. Election: A ballot for the election of board officers and membership, and for The Africa Fund Trustees was distributed. New nominees for the board included Michael Davis, Collin Gonze, Herbert Shore, Robert Van Lierop, Moe Foner, and Goler Butcher. In addition Les Campbell had suggested three possible additions to the board. They were: Elombe Brath, Art Director and consultant with WABC-TV; David Lampbell, Director of news at WLIB-AM; Oseye Mchawi (Mrs.), writer and community organizer for the Committee to Aid African Independence.

Les Campbell sent a letter of resignation from the board because he said he just did not have time to give it the attention it warranted. His resignation was accepted with regret. It was also agreed that Allen Gregory Harris should be dropped from the board inasmuch as he has not been able to attend meetings. Incumbent board members as follows were re-elected for two year terms: Elsie Carrington, George Daniels, Dorothy Hibbert, Gail Morlan, Richard Stevens, Andrew Norman, William Booth, Winifred Courtney, Jay Jacobson, David Robinson, Tilden LeMelle, and Edgar Lockwood.

The slate of officers was re-elected: William Booth as President, Elizabeth Landis and David Robinson as Vice Presidents, Jay Jacobson as Treasurer and Dorothy Hibbert as Secretary.

The Africa Fund Trustees were renominated including Isaac Bivens, Sophia Yarnall Jacobs, Peter Weiss, Jacob Clayman, William B. Landis, Charles Pratt, Edler Hawkins, Frank C. Montero, John L.S. Holloman, Jan Van Hoogstraten, Andrew Norman, & Edwin L. Crosby.

It was decided to appoint a nominating committee to meet and make recommendations regarding the new nominees, including those whom Les Campbell had suggested and that the election of new board members would take place at the September meeting. The nominating committee appointed by William Booth was as follows: Dorothy Hibbert, Chairperson, George Daniels, Elsie Carrington, Tilden LeMelle, with William Booth and George Houser ex officio.

8. Washington Report: Ted Lockwood gave a brief report on the Paris Anti-Apartheid Conference sponsored by the UN and thanked the ACOA for assisting with funds making the trip possible.

Sanctions, he said were still an issue, although progress was slow, and there had been delays because the Commerce, Treasury and State Departments had all objected to the recent amendment that would have led to an examination of the origins of steel imported. (The amendment has support from those who fear the import of cheap Japanese steel). A compromise is being sought.

9. Arms Embargo: The Washington Office on Africa (WOA) felt that there was a continuing erosion of the embargo, as indicated by the US Security Council vote against a mandatory arms embargo. Other indicators included the information contained in the documents released by the Anti-Apartheid Movement in the UK which indicated increasing SA/NATO links. Diggs and others were attempting to develop support for a bill which would end nuclear technological aid.

Senator Clark was holding hearings on Southern Africa, in an attempt to familiarize himself with the situation in the region for which he has now assumed responsibility in the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee.

10. Conference of local action groups: Ted Lockwood and Chris Root were working with others on a proposal to hold a conference of local groups working on Southern Africa. Several groups had already expressed support. The Conference was seen as a "working conference", aimed at strengthening links and increasing effectiveness of action. ACOA was asked to sponsor the Conference and to have representation on the planning committee to meet in the summer.

The Board approved ACOA's sponsorship for the Conference.

11. General: Board members felt that the contribution of the two liberation movement representatives had been very valuable. The desirability of having a southern Africa representative to report at future Board meetings was agreed to.

William Booth had attended the ITT Annual General Meeting in Charlotte in May: questions had been asked of ITT Chairman Harold Geneen, and the confrontation had been given extensive press coverage.

The next meeting was set for September 24th.

American Committee on Africa
164 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016

September 5, 1975

American Committee on Africa Financial Report

January 1, 1975 to August 31, 1975

Income

Source

		('75 budget)
Contributions		
Mailings and Lists	24733.28	35000.00
Special	42396.62	45000.00
Miscellaneous		
(Loan '75 - 2200)	2319.00	1500.00
Africa Fund share of overhead expenses	11277.84	16666.73
Travel and Honoraria	683.10	1000.00
Literature	<u>383.65</u>	<u>300.00</u>
Total	81793.49	99466.73

ACOA checking 6312.11

Africa Defense and Aid Fund

Source

Contributions	
Special	1730.00
Mailings	14.00
Other (interest)	31.96

Miscellaneous Projects

Tapson Mawere Case	<u>2015.75</u>
Total	3791.71

Africa Defense and Aid Fund	checking	660.11
"	"	
"	"	
"	"	
	cert. of dep.	<u>2500.00</u>
		3160.11
Total		<u>9472.22</u>

American Committee on Africa

Expenses

Source

			('75 Budget)
Personnel and Fund Raising	31417.41		51707.69
Mailings and Lists	17134.90	7 one	10400.00
Printing	551.92	acc't.	7800.00
Postage	1787.82		2500.00
Literature	113.34		200.00
Special Projects	53.00		1500.00
Washington Office	1500.00		1000.00
Stationery and Supplies	266.91		600.00
Equipment and Supplies	1320.61		2440.00
Equipment Service Contract	503.80		600.00
Messenger Service	7.80		100.00
Miscellaneous	12.20		250.00
Office Maintenance	661.05		1000.00
Rent and Electric	4712.79		7500.00
Accounting	1615.04		1500.00
Telephone and Teleg.	3617.85		5500.00
Travel and Honoraria	539.27		1600.00
Meetings, Demon. etc.	35.00		
Total	65850.71		96197.69

Accounts Payable	6874.54
Taxes Due	1038.02
Fund Raising Due	4400.00
Total	12312.56

Seed Money Loan 2400.00

Africa Defense and Aid Fund

Foreign Remittances:	
Organizational Assist.	2904.47
Refugee Aid	845.00

Miscellaneous - Tapson M. Case:	
	1453.98
Total	5203.45