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MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA,
Held at 198 Broadway, 4:30 pm, March 23, 1983.

Present: William Booth, Jean Sindab, Jerry Herman, William Johnston,
Dorothy Hibbert, Timothy Smith, Elizabeth Landis, Jennifer
Garvey, Josephine Buck-Jones.

Apologies: Richard Lapchick, Peter Weiss, Stephanie Urdang, Leonard
Jeffries (in Geneva), Tilden LeMelle

Staff: Jennifer Davis, Richard Knight, Dumisani Kumalo, Paul Irish

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of December 16, 1982
having been circulated were adopted on a motion
by Elizabeth Landis and seconded by Bill Johnston.

I. The Current Situation

Jennifer Davis briefly reviewed current situation, failure of
progress on Namibia, SouthAfrica's increased regional aggression,
internal difficulties being faced by the front line States con-
stantly exacerbated by South African acts of destabilization.
Problems in Zimbabwe complex and difficult to interpret in U.S.

Jerry Herman reported briefly on information received from the
NGO meeting with Mugabe.

Jean Sindab referred to a recent letter from Ted Lockwood re.
Angola, which described the presence of more than 100,000
displaced persons.

Elizabeth Landis circulated copies of a recent EEC resolution
designed to "aid refugees" in Namibia--seen as a deliberate
attempt to ignore SWAPO, legitimize internal forces and under-
mine the Angolan government.

Bill Johnston pointed out the continuing flow of misinforma-
tion re. developments in southern Africa. Angolan Foreign
Minster Paulo Jorge had specifically disclaimed ceasefire
reports--but the rumors continued. He also noted the disturbing
talks recently held in the U.S. by South African security and
military high ranking officials. Jean Sindab pointed out that
rumors of "ceasefire" had originated in stories by Leslie Gelb
and St. Jorve.

II. A. The Divestment Campaign

25 states and 20 cities had introduced legislation to date. South Africa was now countering campaign intensively, had hired a new lobbyist, Steward Spencer, a close Reagan campaign aide. Reports indicate that companies were also meeting, planning joint strategies, etc.

Kumalo, one of two coordinators, along with Lee Ferris of Mass Divest, was working hard on organizing the Legislative Conference to be held in Boston on the 15 and 16 of April. Conference would be preceded by a special hearing before the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid.

Jean Sindab reported on the DC Bill--which was moving along slowly, with some possibilities of amending language involving Sullivan Principles.

B. Student Report

Touring of the play by Selaelo Maredi was going well, as were plans for student action on April 6--which ACOA had designated National Armband Day, and for the weeks following.

C. Namibia Institute

The Administration has dropped the request for an appropriation for the Institute from the Foreign Aid Bill. ACOA, along with WOA and others had been active in working with the relevant congressional committees to have the appropriation restored.

D. Material Aid

The shipment of medical equipment for Namibian refugees was on the sea. We had clothing shipments in preparation for Namibian and Western Sahara refugees.

E. Washington Report

Jean Sindab reported on details relating to the attempted cut off of funds for the Institute; the Foreign Aid Bill appropriation for Zimbabwe was \$60 million. She also outlined composition of the new Africa subcommittee in the House, and reported on progress being made in the campaign against Nuclear collaboration with South Africa. 8 Congressional people, along

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(cont.)

with 150 other people, had attended a congressional Luncheon on the issue.

Rangel's bill would hopefully form an organizing focus.

F. Research Report

As Gail Hovey was unable to be present she had prepared a written report which was appended. Jennifer commented that the pamphlet on U.S. involvement in Namibia had generated extensive interest and many major newspaper stories.

Tim Smith commented that we needed a piece analysing the claims that things are getting better in South Africa.

G. International Concerns

We had been invited to a number of international meetings, would seek to attend April meeting on Solidarity with Front Line States in Lisbon and the Paris Conference on Namibia.

H. Other Business

Brief reports on continuing work on sports and cultural boycott; there is continuing attempt to get asylum for Dennis Brutus; we were supplying city and state officials, individuals and groups with information on South Africa, Bantustans, Southern Sun Corporation, operations in Boputhatswana as a result of that corporation's efforts to open up a casino in Atlantic City; Tim Smith circulated a letter from the American Chamber of Commerce stating its opposition to the Orderly Movement Bill in South Africa, on the grounds that such legislation would strengthen the divestment movement! Jennifer asked for ideas on scholarships for outstanding students who were not from Africa, also circulated a recent small development project from Ghana typical of many received in office. Discussion of 30th anniversary was postponed.

I. Board

A nominating committee composed of Bill Booth, Dorothy Hibbert, Rich Lapchick, Tim Smith and Marvin Rich was appointed. First meeting tentatively set for 19th May.

J. Finance

The 12 month report on ACOA finances and the Africa Fund finance reports were accepted as presented, adopted on a motion by Josephine Buck-Jones and seconded by Elizabeth Landis.

K. Having set the next meeting date for May 26, the meeting was adjourned.