

1969 REPORT



**AMERICAN
COMMITTEE
ON AFRICA**

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NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

1970 recalls 1960, the great year in African nationalism when 17 different countries won independence. This freedom movement has left only enclaves such as Spanish Sahara and Portuguese Guinea and the bastion of southern Africa still unfree. The early 1960s were hopeful for the whole continent, and the outbreak of guerrilla warfare in Angola in 1961 seemed the beginning of the end. By 1970 a different situation had stabilized. War still wracks Angola although large areas are controlled by African nationalist forces, as they are also in Mozambique and in Guinea Bissau. Armed struggle came when all legal means of opposition had been destroyed. It is only at the beginning in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and South West Africa (Namibia). It is underground in South Africa. Everywhere opposition continues in the face of repression.

The emphasis of ACOA has changed in the past decade. We now concentrate on southern Africa where the liberation struggle is centered. Our work and our resources have expanded throughout the decade. In 1960 the staff numbered 8; now it is 16. Then the office was confined to New York. Now there is a Washington office and a field representative in Chicago. The mailing list has grown by several thousand. Including The Africa Fund, at least \$100,000 more was raised last year than in 1960, and this has been without help from government, corporations, or foundations.

PROGRAM AND PROJECTS

DISENGAGEMENT. The United States is heavily involved in support for the minority regimes of southern Africa through the military alliance with Portugal; the investments of hundreds of corporations, 400 in South Africa alone; the sugar quota and the space tracking system; the Air Transport Agreement which gives South African Airways facilities and promotes tourism; the network of international sports and cultural associations which accept racism.

Disengagement is ACOA's program of trying to end whatever kind of support, governmental or nongovernmental, goes from the United States to strengthen the colonial and racist powers in southern Africa. ACOA has organized many disengagement campaigns.

THE BANK CAMPAIGN. When South Africa announced in December that she would not ask for renewal of the \$40 million credit extended by a consortium of 10 U.S. banks since 1959, disengagement scored a victory. The South African decision followed a campaign headed by ACOA which included: termination of association with the banks by Cornell and Princeton Universities, and raising the issue on many other campuses; similar termination by the United Church of Christ, the United Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church, and the Episcopal Church as well as local church bodies; a threatened break with Chemical Bank New York Trust Company by the United Nations where it is the only bank; and protests by

a group of Congressmen and a New York State legislator. Publicity which contributed to the success of the campaign was secured by such actions, including group withdrawal of bank accounts, stockholder protests, and demonstrations. A full report on the campaign is available. Chase Manhattan and First National City Banks are still deeply involved in South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS. ACOA is leading a continuous protest against permission given by the U.S. to South African Airways (an agency of the South African government) to establish a Johannesburg-New York flight schedule. This SAA expansion is part of South Africa's campaign not only for foreign exchange and profit but also for increased tourism, sympathy, and support in the U.S. U.N. resolutions have requested member states not to extend such facilities to South African aircraft. The initial flight was greeted by more than 200 demonstrators at Kennedy International Airport in a heavy snowstorm, and there were five follow-up demonstrations. A protest advertisement signed by 162 black Americans was placed in the *New York Times* and announced at a press conference by Congressman Charles Diggs, chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Mr. Diggs, who was again this year refused a visa to enter South Africa, also held hearings on SAA at which ACOA testified; was instrumental in securing a Civil Aeronautics Board ruling which limits SAA advertising to their own flights; and in introducing an amendment to the Federal Aviation Act denying U.S. facilities to airlines of nations that would discriminate against any U.S. citizen. Legal challenges are being presented through the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and the New York State and City Human Rights Commissions; thus far only the state has taken concrete action.

SOUTH AFRICA'S SUGAR QUOTA. Because South Africa is in the U.S. sugar system, her sugar producers are subsidized by about \$5,000,000 a year by the U.S. In 1969, important groundwork was laid for removal of South Africa's sugar quota when the sugar bill with allotments comes up for revision in Congress in 1970. ACOA has secured detailed information; printed a study entitled *The Sugar Quota*; and is working with Congress.

OTHER DISENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES. The sports scene was not neglected, although it was less active than in an Olympic year. A leaflet, "Tennis Anyone? Not in South Africa" was distributed at Forest Hills, and contact was maintained with other centers of anti-apartheid activity. Intensive work on U.S. involvement in southern Africa has been undertaken by the research staff.

THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES. As part of a continuing sale of Makonde carvings to benefit the Mozambique liberation movement, a June exhibit-event included a dramatic presentation by the Poor Peoples Theater; the film *Venceremos* about the liberation struggle; and

speakers on the liberation movement. An ACOA Subcommittee on Mozambique has been formed. Early in the year, memorial services for Eduardo Mondlane, assassinated president of FRELIMO, were held in New York and Washington. In March, the Washington office supported a demonstration by Angolan and Mozambican students, and in September the New York office supported a Mozambican demonstration at the Portuguese information office. A leaflet was issued in connection with fall Mobilization activities, entitled "Bring the Troops Home from the Azores Too," explaining the U.S. role in supporting Portuguese colonialism. The research section is producing material about all the Portuguese colonies.

ZIMBABWE (RHODESIA). ACOA protested, circulated petitions, and sent out mailings calling for withdrawal of the U.S. consulate from Salisbury. George Houser testified at hearings of the House Subcommittee on Africa on the whole Rhodesian question in November. In the same month ACOA supported a demonstration of Zimbabwean students against a tour to Rhodesia by a "Friends of Rhodesian Independence" group that supports the Ian Smith government.

NAMIBIA (SOUTH WEST AFRICA). ACOA supported a demonstration by Namibian students at the U.N. on Namibian Independence Day, August 26.

FIELD WORK

Projects and program this year were furthered by the addition to the staff of a new field worker, Ella Wilson M'Timkulu. Several community conferences have been held as well as visits to campuses in the New York metropolitan area. Local groups have sponsored clothing drives to help refugees and have participated in demonstrations. Special mailings have been sent to Black Student Unions including material explaining and urging action on U.S. corporate investment in southern Africa.

WASHINGTON OFFICE

This was the first full year of Washington office functioning with Gary Gappert as director. The office has established liaison with a large number of Congressmen and Senators, although thus far the House has proved more responsive. Items of interest have been inserted into the Congressional Record. Information and special briefings have been supplied on request and in connection with ACOA campaigns. A close working relationship has been maintained with the House Subcommittee on Africa and assistance has been given in the preparation of hearings. Congressional visits have been arranged for representatives of the liberation movements. The work of the Washington office is important in most other projects and campaigns, especially those with legislative aspects.

A working conference for 35-40 people concerned about African affairs was held in June. *Washington Notes on Africa* is issued monthly for workers in the field. Work with the black community in Washington is developing. It has included a teach-in at Howard University on the Sharpeville anniversary and various speaking engagements by the director.

RESEARCH AND LITERATURE

Research work has been greatly expanded with the help of support from The Africa Fund and a research library is being established. Studies of the economies of the southern Africa countries with emphasis on the involvement of U.S. corporations are under way. ACOA publications this year have included: "The Sugar Quota: U.S. Subsidy to South Africa;" "South Africa Scores Again as South African Airways Bids for U.S. Tourists;" "A Black Tourist Guide to South Africa;" "American Bases in Portugal, at What Price?" The Africa Fund has published: "Zimbabwe or Rhodesia — No Middle Ground in Africa;" "U.S. Policy and Portuguese Colonialism — the U.N. Facade;" "U.S. Investment and Economic Involvement in the Portuguese Colonies of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea," and "American Corporate Investments in South Africa." Studies specifically on oil interests are ready for publication. Approximately 500 requests a month for information and literature are received by ACOA.

UNITED NATIONS

ACOA presented testimony before the Commission on Human Rights concerning prison conditions in South Africa and at meetings called by the Special Committee on Apartheid. ACOA documents circulated at the U.N. included papers on economic disengagement, South African Airways, and Chemical Bank (a consortium member) at the U.N. ACOA continued its work in aiding representatives of the liberation movements at the U.N. ACOA and The Africa Fund participated in setting up a register for contributions to the U.N. Trust Fund for South Africa on March 21, the Sharpeville anniversary.

THE AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID FUND

The Africa Defense and Aid Fund was less active this year than in previous years primarily because less funds were available. A little more than \$500 a month was spent to assist various liberation movements and persons connected with these movements. A rough breakdown indicates that almost \$3,000 was spent for Mozambique causes; about \$600 for Angola; \$800 for South and South West Africa; \$700 for Rhodesia; and \$300 for others.

THE AFRICA FUND

More effort has gone into The Africa Fund since it was organized than into D&A. This tax exempt fund has a separate board of trustees. Because of this tax ad-

vantage, The Africa Fund has been able to raise about \$100,000 annually for humanitarian, medical, and educational purposes. (Its fiscal year begins April 1, and therefore a meaningful current report cannot be made in a calendar-year report.) It has thus been able to contribute to the relief of many of the individual emergency cases previously taken care of by D&A. The Africa Fund has made substantial contributions to the Mozambique Institute and has contributed to similar institutions for Angolan refugees; it has aided Rhodesian prisoners and their families, refugees, students, and similar causes.

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE

The size of ACOA's membership-contributor list has grown slowly over the past several years until, as of December 31, 1969, it reached 23,775. The preliminary unaudited figures for 1969 income and expenses prepared on a cash basis are summarized below:

	Membership	Education & Information	Program & Projects	Administration	Total
Income	\$92,228	\$16,077	\$43,673	\$ 472	\$152,450
Incurred Expenses	\$32,145	\$35,417	\$67,486	\$15,136	\$150,184

The excess income indicated by this statement as of Dec. 31, 1969 is more than offset by unpaid bills. The combined indebtedness exceeding cash on hand for the ACOA and the Africa Defense and Aid Fund was about \$8,000.

IN CONCLUSION

As ACOA's emphasis changes to keep pace with the changing pattern of southern Africa, the challenge is to aid the liberation movements. The struggle may be long and hard but it must ultimately succeed, as the expression of the overwhelming majority of the people. That victory will come regardless of actions of the United States and its people. But one of the ways we can help the liberation movements is to stop the manifold aid that goes from governmental and nongovernmental sources to strengthen the racist minority regimes. To do this we must spread knowledge of the liberation struggle and organize those who share our goals to influence U.S. policy and to send increasing aid to the African nationalist movements.

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA
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.....I want to join the American Committee on Africa.

.....Enclosed is my contribution of \$.....

.....Please send literature list.

.....Put me on the action list. I'll write to Congress, join local actions, etc.

Name

Address

City State Zip

