



ASSOCIATION OF CONCERNED AFRICA SCHOLARS

Minutes, Steering Committee  
Boston, Dec. 7, 1983

Present: Alpers, Isaacman, W. Johnson, Root, Wallerstein, M.C. Wiley

1. Newsletter. It was decided that the last issue of 1983 be a double issue and include completed reports on the 1983 meetings plus a renewal letter from the Treasurer and a special appeal for funds. It was decided that the 1984 issues be primarily "News and Notes." The Editor will seek to establish appropriate channels to obtain the News and Notes. Three numbers will be issued during the year.
2. Panels at 1984 ASA Meetings in Los Angeles. ACAS will organize three panels:
  - a) Destabilization in southern Africa (organizer: Isaacman)
  - b) Parallels and links between situations in southern Africa and Central America (Alpers)
  - c) Conflict in the Horn of Africa (Selassie)Isaacman and Alpers will coordinate with each other to ensure a national division of papers.
3. 1985 joint ASA/MESA meetings. It was decided that we would not involve ourselves in the organization of plenary sessions, since we could not control the contents. We would organize however appropriate panels, but deferred specific decisions.
4. Los Angeles area, 1984. Given the convergence of events, particularly the Olympics and the ASA Annual Meetings, it was decided it would be useful to have a graduate student working on various projects. Alpers and Thompson will explore whether a work-study student can be arranged.
5. Divestment activities:
  - a) We shall implement a national campaign to get TIAA/CREF to divest. Dennis Cordell will be asked to organize the campaign.
  - b) We shall include in the Newsletter reports on all local divestment activities. Lee Farris and Alan Cooper will be asked to coordinate the collection of information.
6. National political action:
  - a) Chris Root (after consultation) will seek to establish liaison with Central America activist organizations. She will write an official letter indicating our desire to cooperate, and develop appropriate activities (including cross-publication in newsletters, and joint panels at meetings).
  - b) Destabilization: We will investigate ways in which we can cooperate with/participate in a planned publication being organized by Transafrica.

- c) Campaign statement for 1984 elections: Willard Johnson will write an initial draft.
  - d) Letter on Wolpe to members of ASA: Wallerstein will draft letter to be signed by co-chairs. Alpers will try to obtain ASA mailing list. We will inform Wolpe headquarters and ask for their funding of expenses (procedure used in previous election by D. Wiley).
  - e) Western Sahara: Teresa Smith will be asked to alert us to issues and possible actions.
  - f) Political rights in Africa: Nzongola Ntalaja will be asked to alert us to issues and possible actions.
  - g) Defence and intelligence funding: Dave Wiley will be asked to assume responsibility for implementing recommendations of his panel.
7. Research. Details deferred until return of Ann Seidman (expected circa Jan. 1).