



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
TWIN CITIES

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October 1, 1982

Professor James Turner  
African Studies Center  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14850

Dear James:

After several sleepless nights (it is now 2:30 a.m.), I have come to the conclusion that I am unable to continue as Executive Secretary of ACAS. When I agreed to accept the position in May, 1981, it was with the understanding that both I and the Board would reevaluate the situation after my first year. During the past sixteen months I have devoted about 10 hours a week to ACAS matters and, with the help of several Board members, I think we have made some tangible gains. Over this period, however, it became clear that for ACAS to have any significant impact, or even to be more than just reactive, would require a much greater level of involvement on the part of the entire Board, the membership at large, and the Executive Secretary (which probably should be a part-time paid position). The fact that most Board members are deeply committed and involved in a number of other activities makes it extremely unlikely that many would be able to assume a substantially increased role in ACAS. Unfortunately, additional responsibilities at the University of Minnesota, increasing familial and professional commitments, my other political tasks, and the need to complete several research projects makes it impossible for me to devote the amount of time which I have in the past to ACAS activities--much less the amount which is actually needed.

I am writing at this time so that we, together with the Board, can select a new Executive Secretary at our November meeting. Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm my deep commitment to ACAS and for all that it stands and to thank you both for your friendship and support. Rest assured that I will continue to be an active member of ACAS.

Sincerely,

Allen Isaacman

AI:mrB

cc: Board of ACAS Directors

P.S. I am also sending a copy of this letter to Immanuel Wallerstein.