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October 5, 1982

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Dear Bill:

Nzongola Ntalaja
Co-Chairperson
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African Studies Center
Howard University
Washington, D.C. 20059

I hope you received my letter of August 19, 1982 which I sent just before my trip to Mozambique -- a trip saddened by the assassination of Ruth First and wounding of other friends and colleagues at the African Studies Center. Since returning last week I have received a few suggestions about the agenda for our forthcoming meeting. Since I believe that ACAS is at a critical stage I would urge all of you to send your comments and criticisms to me so that I can send out a final agenda by October 20th for our Board meeting.

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In my last letter I listed the date of the meeting incorrectly. The meeting will be held at Howard University on November 4th. Nzongola has very kindly arranged a conference room for us there. On the basis of comments from Board members flying in from the West and Midwest it seems unlikely that we will be able to start before noon. Ted Lockwood has agreed to house three people on the night of November 2nd. This might help us start earlier if Board members from the West can come the night before. Ted's generous offer will also alleviate pressure on our overtaxed treasury. If you would like to stay at Ted's please call him directly. My sense is that there is much that needs to be done and the longer the meeting the more likely that we will be successful.

There are at least two items that need to be discussed in addition to those which I outlined in my last letter. Anne Schneller, who has served ACAS so well both as treasurer and co-coordinator of the newsletter, will be going to Zimbabwe this winter. Tom Shick had agreed to take charge for the publication but owing to new responsibilities at the University of Wisconsin will be unable to edit the newsletter. This is an important position which must be filled. Secondly, for reasons which I outlined in my accompanying letter, I am unable to continue as Executive Secretary. It has been both an extremely taxing and rewarding task. I have taken this decision reluctantly but having made it I am more convinced than ever that it is the appropriate action. My withdrawal, I hope, will force all of us to make some hard decisions about the amount of time which we are prepared to commit to ACAS and what the organization's unique contribution can and should be. Selecting a new Executive Secretary is thus only part of this larger set of issues.

I look forward to hearing from you about the Board meetings.

Cordially,



Allen Isaacman

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