

AFRICANA STUDIES AND RESEARCH CENTER

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March 18, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACAS Board Members
FROM: James Turner *James*
SUBJECT: Annual Meeting

I have delayed sending out this letter because I waited for the minutes of our meeting with Mohammed El Khawas, Chris Root, Bob Cummins, Nzongola-Ntalaja and myself to discuss the prospects for our annual meeting, usually in the spring. Apparently, Mohammed has been overwhelmed by other work and has not been able to compose the minutes.

We met at the African Studies Center at Howard University and, after about two hours of discussion, it was the considered judgment of all of us that it would be impractical for ACAS to hold its annual conference this year in the spring. For the months of April and May there are at least a couple of meetings on southern Africa scheduled for each month. We decided to recommend that we postpone the meeting until the fall; the weekend of September 18-19 seemed a good time to us and we suggest this date for serious consideration. If we hold the conference in the fall, this will allow us time to mobilize our membership and attract new support. This arrangement would afford us more time to organize the conference. Furthermore, Mohammed indicated that he could not undertake the task of organizing or coordinating local arrangements for the meeting. So, we will need the time to identify a local arrangements committee.

Nonetheless, it was our feeling that we should plan to have our executive meeting this spring. This would also give ACAS time to establish a relationship with Allen Issaccman, who has expressed an interest in assuming the position of Executive Secretary with ACAS if we are certain we want to continue with the group. He would like to meet with us at our spring executive committee meeting; this would be a good time to give him assurance of our support. His assistance would be a great contribution to the organization of a major conference.

JT:ie