



ASSOCIATION OF CONCERNED AFRICA SCHOLARS
P.O. Box 791, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

James F. Turner
Co-Chairperson
Africana Studies and Research
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14850

Immanuel Wallerstein
Co-Chairperson
Dept. of Sociology
SUNY-Binghamton, NY 13901

Joel Samoff, Chairperson
Committee on Research
SIDECE, School of Education
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305

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

Chris Root, Co-Chairperson
Committee for Political Education
1532 Swann Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Anne Schneller, David Wiley
Treasurers
P.O. Box 791
East Lansing, MI 48823

Board of Directors:

Robert J. Cummings
Howard University

Robert C. Johnson
University of Massachusetts,
Boston

Willard R. Johnson
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology

Bill Minter
Africa News

Tom W. Shick
University of Wisconsin,
Madison

Ann Seidman
University of Zimbabwe

Allen Isaacman
Executive Secretary
614 Social Science Tower
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 373-2705

November 16, 1982

Dear Fellow Africanists:

About a year ago I wrote to inform you that a number of us were going to make a serious effort to revitalize The Association of Concerned Africa Scholars. We felt that an informed and concerted voice of opposition was essential if we were to challenge the Reagan Administration's Africa policy: a policy which views events on the continent through the prism of the Cold War--be it in the Sahara, Zaire, Angola, or the Indian Ocean; a policy which uses food as a political weapon; a policy which cuddles the racist regime of South Africa and remains conspicuously silent while that country commits mounting aggressions against its neighbors. Unhappily, there is nothing to indicate that the Reagan Administration has dramatically altered its Africa policies during the past year. To the contrary....

On behalf of the Board of Directors of ACAS I am writing to ask you to join with us so that we, as specialists in African studies, working together as a group of concerned scholars linked with broad-based organization, can make our voice heard. If you joined ACAS last year please renew your membership now. If you had not, now is a critical moment when we need your support. Dues are on a sliding scale from \$10 for incomes up to \$10,000 to \$20 for incomes up to \$20,000, and \$30 if you earn more than \$30,000. They should be sent to Marylee Wiley, Treasurer, P.O. Box 791, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

For those of you who are not familiar with ACAS activities let me just briefly highlight some of our past year's activities which can be divided into three broad categories. They are (1) the dissemination of information, (2) political action, and (3) the protection of African students and scholars. With regard to the latter, ACAS collected and sent petitions with more than 800 signatures protesting the illegal detainment in Zaire of Professor Ernest Wamba-Dia-Wamba both to President Mobutu and the U.S. State Department. We were actively involved in the Dennis Brutus

November 16, 1982

Page 2

Defense Campaign and vigorously protested plans to expel Ethiopian students from the United States.

Most of the political activity in which ACAS was engaged centered around South Africa. Through our telephone tree we mobilized substantial opposition within the academic community to the Reagan administration's decision to relax export control, which would permit transferring military technology and computers to Pretoria, and mobilized opposition to the recent CAB decision allowing South African Airways to open a new route from Johannesburg to Houston, which would bring the minority regime \$16 million in additional revenue. ACAS also participated in the campaign to protest the inhumane treatment of three ANC militants and we demanded that they be accorded full rights under the Geneva accord for political prisoners. We also worked with other progressive organizations opposed to the Rugby tours and to protest the recent International Monetary Fund decision to provide a substantial loan to South Africa.

Finally, as educators we tried to disseminate information which would not be readily available either to other members of the Africanist community or to the larger public. Last year the ACAS Newsletter, for example, carried important articles on counter insurgency research undertaken in the U.S., South African efforts to destabilize Mozambique and the neighboring nations and first hand analysis of the social and economic transformation taking place in Zimbabwe. We also intervened to help make certain that Sharon Sopher's important document, "Blood and Sand: War in the Sahara," was not taken off the Public Broadcasting Stations or rescheduled to a time in which it would have no audience. Finally, we wrote to a number of map companies indicating that their new maps which depict the "Bantustans" as independent countries and ex-Spanish Sahara as part of Morocco were factually inaccurate and would not be considered for classroom use by our members.

These are just some of the many activities in which we have been engaged. We have done it all without any paid staff and with only a miniscule budget. There is much to do and so few of us to do it. Please join us.

Thank you,



Allen Isaacman
Executive Secretary
Association of Concerned Africa Scholars

AI:mrh