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23 March 1982

Dear ACAS Members,

We are writing to you as the Political Education and Action Committee chairpersons of ACAS to ask you to participate in a teach-in project this spring, and to give you the ACAS telephone network and explain how to use it.

Many ACAS members have expressed willingness to participate in teach-ins in their communities. Designing and organizing these events takes a good deal of effort, as we all know, and we think that the ACAS network can be used to keep us from re-inventing the wheel in each of our local situations. We ask that several ACAS members hold teach-ins with both an education and action component this spring on the following three important issues:

1. Reagan's increasing support for the South African government in the name of "constructive engagement"
2. Namibia's struggle for independence and the Western negotiating effort
3. South African-led destabilization of the independent states of southern Africa.

These teach-ins can serve as models which we hope will spark teach-ins on many more campuses next fall. If needed, the Research Committee can work with you to identify written resources and speakers (contact chairperson Joel Samoff, 415/497-1859 (work); 415/856-2326 (home)). The Political Education and Action Committee can suggest timely foci for actions to incorporate into the program (Nzongola Ntalaja, 202/636-7655 or 636-7115; Chris Root, 202/667-3875.)

We hope that you will write up these teach-ins and we will then distribute them to the ACAS network. Please let one of us know soon if you can hold an initial teach-in on one of these topics. If you are working on an educational event on another issue, let us know that as well.

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

The Political Action Phone Network has now been set up to enable us to respond more readily and quickly to important policy issues affecting Africa. We are enclosing with this letter the phone tree for your region.

This is how the phone network will operate:

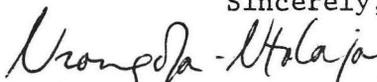
1. Most people on the phone tree are assigned fewer than five people to call. Our intention is that you will call other people in your area as well-- whether ACAS members, other Africa scholars or friends -- to expand the impact of our mobilization. In this way, the phone tree is a skeleton to which you can add locally.

2. If you cannot reach someone you are assigned to call, you are responsible for reaching that person's contacts in the next rung of the network. Try to make all your calls within 24 hours.

3. Please call Nzongola Ntalaja or Christine Root if you identify an issue on which we should use the ACAS mobilization network.

We are counting on your participation and initiative to make political education and mobilization in ACAS work. You may be hearing from us soon if the Clark Amendment is challenged again in the Congress or if other issues demand our attention. And you can count on receiving more information in the next ACAS Newsletter in May.

Sincerely,



Nzongola-Ntalaja and Christine Root
Co-Chairpersons, Political Education and Action
Committee

P.S. We have enclosed a revised petition on Professor Ernest Wamba, who has been released from jail but is still under police surveillance in Zaire. Please keep working for his freedom.

Citoyen Attenda
Administrator General
CNRI
Kinshasa I
Republic of Zaire

Dear Mr. Administrator General:

We are writing to express our deep concern about the detention in Zaire of Professor Wamba-dia-Wamba (Ernest), and to respectfully request information about his present condition. We are particularly concerned to know what the formal charges against him are, and whether he has access to legal counsel.

Professor Wamba is an important member of the academic community, who has made distinguished contributions to scholarship and teaching, and who is respected by colleagues in many countries. His present status is therefore a matter of wide concern.

May we know when Professor Wamba will regain his freedom? When, in other words, will he be allowed to leave Kinshasa and return to his family and his job in Dar es Salaam?

Respectfully,

Name	Title	Institution
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His Excellency Mobutu Sese Seko
Founder of the Mouvement Populaire de la Revolution
President of the Republic of Zaire
Kinshasa, Zaire

Mr. President:

We, undersigned, have received with relief the news that our colleague, Professor Wamba-dia-Wamba (Ernest), has been released from jail. However, we are dismayed to learn that he is not free to leave the city of Kinshasa and that he has to report or to show himself before the Security Police four times a week.

We would like to know whether Professor Wamba has been formally charged, and, if he has been, what the charges are.

Professor Wamba is an important member of the academic community, one who has made distinguished contributions to scholarship both here and elsewhere in the world. As colleagues who regard him with high esteem, we hope for his speedy return to his family and his teaching duties in Dar es Salaam. We therefore call upon you to use your good offices to bring this about.

Respectfully yours,

Name	Title	Institution
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