

To: Members of the ACAS Exec and Board

From: Ed Ferguson, Exec Sec

Topic: Minutes of the Sept. 16, 1990 Exec C'tte Teleconference

### MINUTES

Participating: Wallerstein, Nzongola, Ferguson, Goucher, Groff, Cooper, Martin

Absent: Cokorinos (resigned); Riveles (unexplained); Minter (other duties)

Wallerstein agreed to chair.

#### I. Report on activities since last ASA meeting.

IA. Ed reported four ACAS activities. (1) Dr. Y.B. Usman's letter of thanks to ACAS for helping him regain his teaching position at Ahmadu Bello University. (2) The NY Times published our letter on massacre of students in Lubumbashi, Zaire. (3) Board member Teresa Smith represented ACAS at Africa conference in Havana last June. (4) On short notice, ACAS faxed letters to 13 Democratic Party members of House Intelligence Committee urging a vote against aid to UNITA. ACAS members who are constituents of those representatives were asked to do likewise. We lost: aid was approved by a 2 vote margin.

At the top of the ACAS agenda for Baltimore should be a strategy to involve ACAS members interested in political action work (more than 50 persons) and research (another 50 or so). At present we generally do not work with them; this contributes to our current decline in membership.

Agreed: this will be on agenda for Baltimore.

IB. Candice reported that our income (all of which is derived from membership dues) has declined: we have \$3,001.17 on hand; less than last year at this time. If this continues, financial problems are anticipated for the near future.

Agreed: this will be on agenda for Baltimore.

IC. David said that only one-half of our 238 members are paid-up on their dues. 68 members are due to renew now; 13 (including 3 Board members) are long overdue.

There has been a decline in membership since last year. Reasons are not clear. David thought it might be temporary due to technicalities involved in taking over this job.

It was suggested by Immanuel that it might help to change our membership system to coincide with the academic year: that annual dues be paid for the period, Sept. to August. It is not clear if this would help.

Agreed: David and Ed will explore this and report at Baltimore.

David questioned whether the \$10 fee for gift subscriptions is adequate. Immanuel recalled that we invented this category to get the Bulletin into Africa and this goal might be defeated by increasing the price.

Agreed: Allan will figure out cost of producing and mailing an issue to Africa so this can be discussed further at Baltimore.

ID. There is no report from Political Action Co-chairs: Susanne was scheduled to participate in the teleconference, but was inexplicably absent; Lee had resigned in August to start a new job in Botswana.

What are we to do? It was observed that Political Action Committee Co-chair is a demanding position; and it requires (at least one) person in the Washington DC area with time and energy.

Agreed: Ed will send Exec a list of our members interested in Political Action; they are to review it and come to Baltimore with suggestions for Lee's replacement.

IE. Bill Martin said the committee has been inactive and is "still searching for a mission." He wondered whether there is still a function for such a committee?

He wondered if it might be merged with PAC? Immanuel said that would be like merging "zero with zero;" it only makes sense to do so if one is active.

Assuming that it continues as a separate committee, what topic might it research? Ed reported that Bill Minter had suggested media coverage of fighting in South Africa. Another issue on which we receive quite a few communications is that of "Academic Freedom in Africa" (see enclosed letter to ACAS from Professor Julius O Ihonvbere). Bill said he wants to look at this last issue more systematically.

Agreed: Bill Martin will prepare a report for our Baltimore meeting on how this issue of "Academic Freedom in Africa" might be addressed by ACAS; and he will get in touch with Professor Ihonvbere.

II. ACAS activities at Baltimore ASA meeting (Discussed very briefly; full details will come out in a separate communication, and will appear in our Bulletin. We have been told that we were left off the ASA preliminary program because of poor communication between Baltimore and Atlanta. We will be on the final program.)

IIA. It was suggested that we have a preconference Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 31. Four members have expressed interest. (After these minutes were prepared, Nzongola said he could not attend, after all. Since that left only three persons, it was decided not to have this meeting.)

IIB1. Exec and Board luncheon is Friday, 11-12:45, in the Hopkins Room.

IIB2. General membership meeting will be Friday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., when all business meetings are to take place. It will be in International "E" room.

IIB3. Breakfast meeting for new and old Exec and Board was scheduled on Sunday morning, but this conflicts with the Women's Caucus breakfast. We will try and reschedule to Saturday morning, 7-8:30 a.m.

IIC. ACAS panels chaired by Riveles (D-07), Mittelman (R-12), Samoff (S-06), Panofsky (J-01), and Martin (K-12) will appear in final program as "ACAS Sponsored."

IID. Table space for literature distribution by organizations has not yet been arranged by the ASA. Edna Bay has scheduled us for one. It fell to Ed to coordinate; he would appreciate help from Board.

IIE. It was proposed that ACAS have a party on Friday evening at 10:00 p.m. We are looking for a Board member with a suite who would let us use it. Donations of a couple dollars will be requested at the door. Candice will advance up to \$300 for purchase of drinks. Ed would like help from Board members on this.

### III. Bulletin

The next Bulletin is our special issue on Zaire coordinated by Nzongola. It will include the ACAS schedule of events for the ASA and some other items. Allan has arranged for it to be sent out in advance of the ASA meeting.

Allan has looked over the membership list to see who wants to write future articles and on what topics. He has identified these possible themes: "Africa and the Post Cold War Era;" "Women in Africa;" "Refugees;" and "Academic Freedom in Africa;" others may be added to this list. Allan will keep in touch with

membership on this through the Bulletin and our activities at the ASA.

#### IV. Communications received

IVA. Discussed under IE above (copy enclosed)

IVB. The letter (August 25th), and an earlier one (August 8th; not distributed for teleconference, but now enclosed with conference schedule) request of ACAS: (1) A financial contribution towards travel for a conference participant; and (2) request that we be a co-sponsor.

Agreed: Because the request is unprecedented, it should be discussed at the Baltimore Board and Exec meeting to resolve these issues: (1) Do we want to set the precedent?; (2) Do we want to be a co-sponsor?

IVC. The letters from Dellums and Simon were brief positive responses to our request that they vote against aid to Zaire.

IVD. No other communications.

#### V. Other matters

VA. See ID. above.

VB1. Board Member Teresa Smith, represented ACAS at the Havana Conference, but has not responded to repeated requests to report back on the conference.

Agreed: Nzongola will ask her to forward the report to Ed for the Exec and Board.

VB2. A letter will be sent out to all Board and Exec. members asking if they are willing to continue this coming year. They should respond by early October, so possible gaps can be identified (that will give us time to find replacements).

Teleconference lasted 55 minutes.