

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Minutes of the Committee on Southern Africa, January 8, 1965 at T.I.C.

Chairman Dave Robinson called the meeting to order at 12:15. He announced that Hank Crane will attend the next meeting of the Committee on Jan. 15 in the sixth floor conference room. He informed the committee of a meeting of the African Studies group at Columbia on Tuesday, January 12 on "Newly Independent Nations and the Development of International Law".

A condensation of the Press Digest was presented. A summary is attached.

David Wiley reported from the "Princeton section" of the committee which is concerned with Rhodesia. There have been rumors that the present Prime Minister maybe replaced by an even more conservative man. He suggested that if this should happen the Princeton group would try to draw attention to this in the American press and would call for the loyalty of the armed forces in Rhodesia.

The committee then turned to the consideration of the revised statement of ends and priorities. Ken Carstens questioned the wisdom of defining so explicitly what we consider to be the goal for South Africa, since South Africans so greatly resent being told how to run things, and since our committee hardly has enough information to make such decisions. After lengthy discussion it was decided that a sentence should be included explaining that we believe that a single multi-racial society would be desirable in South Africa, but that we would support other attempts at establishing justice, e.g. federation. This discussion raised again the question of the use to which the statement would be put, and it was agreed that the statement is for our own use only. Any decision to use it publicly would have to be taken at a later time. The fourth paragraph is to be again rewritten to include reasons why we consider the present situation in South Africa to be harmful to both from the South African perspective and from a world perspective. It was suggested that the revision incorporate the ideas that the situation violates the standards of international law, and that the whites not only live a lie, but also miss the opportunity to understand more of God through another culture. A motion to delete the introductory phrase about complexity and substitute for it the word "Therefore" was carried. The phrase "enforced racial segregation" was questioned. Chalre Cherrad pointed out that in the statement we take a stand against all segregation in South Africa, and therefore should not condemn only enforced, but all, segregation in the United States. A motion to substitute for the phrase "racial segregation and discrimination" was carried. Ken Carstens promised to provide the Edgar Brooks quotation for the revision. Ken suggested that a statement about the need for a rigid constitution and an entrenched bill of rights be incorporated. He pointed out that many African nations have the forms of democracy without the spirit. The committee then voted to close the discussion until we can consider the revision.

Dave Robinson called upon the committee members to commit themselves to a particular task among those listed by the committee at a previous meeting. The major remaining need is for people to work on the education subcommittee perhaps collecting money in March for scholarships for South African students and lectureships to South Africa. Don suggested that there is also a need to promote lectures on South Africa in this country. Additional tasks pointed out were the careful reading of the New York Times' economic review of South Africa and the writing of letters to magazines which have sent out lists of future topics not including South Africa. There is also a need for a liaison with the American Friends Service Committee, with the new non-racial student Christian group in South Africa (D6) and with South Africans in the US (D7) Sally McFlroy mentioned that there are people interested in South African in Philadelphia; it was suggested that they might act as a subcommittee.

Dave brought up the matter of the continuity of this committee. We are committed to South Africa not just for one year but as long as the need remains. He asked each member to submit by mid-February a statement about 1) where he will be next summer and next fall and 2) how he understands his commitment to Southern Africa.

Sharon Garmon reported on her work with the National Students Association for the March emphasis week on South Africa. The NSA is preparing a paper on political, economic etc. aspects of South Africa for use at educational seminars which will take place on many campuses before the emphasis week. She read to the committee a statement on apartheid which she had written to accompany a letter about the emphasis week. These will be mailed to all coordinators next Friday (January 15) and committee members are asked to go to room 757 at 11:30 in order to help prepare this mailing. She informed the committee that the NSA wants a statement by us regarding our position on apartheid. This will be considered on January 15.

Dave announced that we have four pages to fill in the next issue of Communique. It was suggested that this be used for an article on the March program, a bibliography, and Ken Carsten's article which appeared in Christian Advocate.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Respectfully submitted

Jan Miller, secretary

Summary of the Press Digest report

The Press Digest appears to be a weekly summary in digest of the press opinions of South Africa. The average issue is ten legal size pages of single-spaced mimeographed type. It is a digest of opinion rather than a reporting of the news events of South Africa per se. The primary forms it employs are excerpt reporting of various speeches, excerpt reporting of various articles, and summaries of various articles...

...The papers quoted seem to fall into three groups: (1) The Afrikaaner Press which appears to be a mouth piece for the Nationalist Party Government (2) A more liberal group of English newspapers (3) The "Bantu Press" which is given two pages at the end of the Digest...

...I am somewhat surprised by the diversity of opinion expressed in the Digest and by the amount of freedom there appears to be in the press at the present time.

Condensation of Francis Wilson's memo on "Sanctions and the role of the Southern Africa Committee"

"I would oppose the Committee undertaking an active commitment to obtain sanctions against South Africa for the following reasons:

- (1) The jobs already listed by the Committee badly need doing. If efforts to obtain sanctions are added these other equally necessary tasks may not get the same attention. These are tasks which other committees do not seem to be doing too much about.
- (2) Some of these tasks cannot be undertaken by a committee which seeks sanctions. For example, intelligent discussion with US business firms - to which I would give top priority - would be hamstrung if those firms knew the committee supported sanctions.
- (3) While it is hoped that the committee will continue to study the whole question of sanctions it would seem that it has nothing to lose by remaining agnostic on the question. Indeed, I believe there is much to be gained, for a group that actively seeks sanctions is liable to confine its cooperation to those of similar commitment.
- (4) If the Committee "remains agnostic" on the question, it will be able to include in its membership both those who support and those who oppose sanctions. The question of commitment to seek sanctions at this time might split the present committee and render its efforts on its other tasks ineffectual."