

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of the meeting, February 4, 1966, Southern Africa Committee of the NSCF, 8th Floor, Interchurch Center.

Announcements:

1. The next issue of Africa Report, published by the African-American Institute will contain an article on the South African lobby in the United States.

2. The next issue of Africa Today will be devoted to study of various segments of the South African economy (banks, mines, automobile industry etc.) based upon research conducted by the American Committee on Africa.

3. There was a panel discussion on Rhodesia, Tuesday, Feb. 8th at 8:00 sponsored by the the Council of the African-American Institute.

4. Two members of the Union Seminary Social Action Committee are organizing a drive to get Union student,, faculty, administration and Seminary funds transferred from First National City Bank or any other banks with major interests in South Africa to Freedom National Bank.

5. At Brown University, Saturday, Feb. 12, 9 A.M. - 9 P.M. there will be a conference entitled "South Africa Today" with a list of distinguished speakers from the State Department, academia, and public life. The committee voted to pay half of the \$5.00 registration fee for attending members.

6. The Consultative Council on South Africa met Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2:30 P.M. at the Church Center for the U.N. to discuss arrangements for the March 19-21 conference in Washington. Tentatively there will be a \$2.00 registration fee and accomodation in private homes. After discussion and speakers the Council is trying to arrange appointments with Congressional leaders.

7. The Congressional Committee hearings on South Africa have been postponed until early or mid-March. We have as yet received no reply from Chairman Barrett O'Hara on our request to present our views.

Business: Evaluation of the Committee's work, structure and staff

Summary: The Southern Africa Committee is 1½ years old, funded by NSCF, sends minutes to about 50 members, and sends the News Summary on Rhodesia to about 300 interested parties. It is currently planning for the March Emphasis on Southern Africa in cooperation with the National Student Association and others; and communicating with several regional groups or insipient offshoot committees.

1. The News Summary: Janet summarized the written comments she has received about the Rhodesia news sheet, --mostly favorable with some requests for either a more factual or a more analytic approach. It was suggested that individuals volunteer to abstract certain journals regularly and submit reports to Janet each Wednesday, to take some of the workload off her time; that Janet summarize

These travelling groups could perhaps be sponsored by national organizations such as SDS, NSA, NSCF and SNCC with contributions from other organizations.

- c) Fall: At this time it would be possible, if the climate is right, for the formation of a national coordination body for all of the various Southern Africa committees which were formed over the spring and summer.

On the New York - local level:

- a) Spring: We should develop contacts in New York and set up a workshop or regional conference to consolidate interests in this area.

D. Jobs

1. Everyone must begin to develop contacts across the country.
2. The NSCF contacts must be grouped into regional categories.
3. We should have a file system for our contacts which would yield pertinent information about a specific group or individual.

Dick summarized his report by saying that the need for coordination had delayed any action on Southern Africa and that now the tools for action must be found in the organization and stimulation of groups. The jobs for the committee are mundane (letter writing etc.) but they must be done. The rewards will come with the feedback from people throughout the country interested in Southern Africa.

Bill gave some historical perspective to this strategy plan as it relates to the previous work of the committee. He spoke about the March Emphasis weeks which are supposed to occur on various campuses this spring; the Congressional hearings on South Africa which are scheduled for March and the fact that we send out mailings ---but all of these activities are done in a vacuum unless pressure groups are developed.

DISCUSSION:

Dave Wiley commended the idea of/focus and continuity to the Southern Africa concerns. He mentioned that the Rhodesia News Summary might be expanded to include all of Southern Africa and that it could be sent to number of people as yet untouched by this kind of information. There are a number of Rhodesian students throughout the country who would be interested in receiving the news summary.

Richard Courage, a regional coordinator of the National Federation of Catholic College Students, wondered whether our strategy would overlap with the work of the Consultative Council on S.A. He also asked what we planned about the participation of Africans in our activities. Bill responded that we are going to try to get together with several Southern Africans within the next few weeks. There is some question of how deeply involved Southern Africans can become in the question of U.S. foreign policy and also their confidence in our ability to do something concrete in this field. Bill mentioned that the Consultative Council had cooperated to the extent of calling meetings and sponsoring the Washington conferences, but that the development and coordination of

further groups is necessary.

- 3 -

There was some discussion about the relationship of local groups to our Committee or to any national coordinating body. The idea would be to develop independent groups with which we would have personal contact and communication. A national committee would be an important source of information and resource center for the local groups. Nathan Opoku, International Travel Associate /NSCF, should be briefed on our strategy ideas as he travels to a number of campuses throughout the country.

The summer travelling teams could be financed by interested groups such as SDS and then with a prospectus in mind they could get aid from denominational groups etc.

Bill Johnson of the Episcopal Churchman for South Africa stressed that personal contact with Americans on the Southern African situation was the most important factor. Otherwise people lose interest in this concern. People from the United States need to go to these areas in Southern Africa as teachers and students to continue contact with the people inside these countries. The ECSA has the purpose of informing people about the situation in South Africa and getting them involved, mainly through Episcopal channels. A workcamp in Swaziland is planned for this summer under auspices of the Diocese of Zululand and Swaziland For further information contact:

Committee on Volunteers for Mission
Executive Council
Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dick V. said that our attention should be focused on activity in the United States but that developing contacts in South Africa could be a part of our program. Bill said that our strategy should be flexible enough to enable developing contacts in new areas.

It was moved and seconded and passed that we accept the strategy that Dick proposed. Therefore any other activity is secondary to this primary strategy.

Local Possibilities: There was discussion about the coordination of a New York-New Jersey regional conference on Southern Africa. It will be necessary to contact NSA people who are interested and to work with the 18 schools in the NFCCS system. Richard Courage said that local campus programs could be effectively carried out on some of these campuses. It seems likely that some type of program will take place at Queens College and representatives of various organizations must meet together to plan this regional conference or workshop.

There was continuing discussion on exactly what the purpose of our strategy is and its actual content. Gerhard said that we must be brutal about our aims; are we simply creating a continuing interest or trying to influence policy? Where are the centers of power right here in New York City? Gerhard said that interested groups have or do exist, but that there is nothing specific for them to do. There was general discussion about the relationship of organization to that of policy; what is the best way to reach people about the situation in Southern Africa? What can a concerned group do? Gerhard mentioned

that there are many areas, such as the academic world, where peoples opinions on Southern Africa are going unchallenged. Sharon and John pointed out that once we know the nature of a local group we can aid them to challenge the status quo concept toward Southern Africa and help them develop local programs for action, but that a group must be formed before this can happen. The importance of personal contact was again stressed. Thus it was decided we needed both a strategy for organization and a strategy for action. Bill Johnson mentioned that it seemed unlikely that there would be any change in American policy until something happened in South Africa itself.

The proposals for action could include both the broad objectives as outlined by the Consultative Council and more specific ideas tied to a local situation. Dick mentioned we need a rediscovery of goals in a specific way translated in terms of power. Dave suggested that some research should be done on analogies between American policy in Vietnam over the past ten years or so and our present policy in Southern Africa. Sharon mentioned that the possibilities for action by the public on the Southern Africa question had not even been touched. Experimentation in different forms of action could be done in New York City. Although there may not be any immediate change in American foreign policy due to our efforts we must act as if there will be....

JOB ALLOCATIONS:

1. Prospectus for Contact Letters: Sharon and Dick
2. Form for Contact Information: Phil and Janet
3. Filing System: Janet
4. Investigation of Finances for Summer teams and newsheet: Don, Bill and Janet
5. Committee meeting with Southern African students: Didi and Bill
6. Regional Conference: Richard C., John and Bill
7. News letter: Janet and Didi
8. Contacts: Everyone

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 18 at 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet I. MacLaughlin