

SOUTHERN AFRICA COMMITTEE minutes -- September 23, 1968

People attending:

Don Morlan	Bob Maurer
Gail Morlan	Helen Ever
M.S. Khan	Tim Smith
Mary McAnally	Nancy Freehafer
Marcy Kerr	Janet MacLaughlin
Bob Jolley	Dee Dee Vallenga
Dick Parker	Ellen Kirby
Alice Dickerson	Ken Carstens
Norm Hatt	Barbara Harrison

Recent activities: leafletting banks near Columbia (a continuation of the bank campaign) and picketing "Africa Addio" on September 18, when it ran at the Thalia.

Finances: Mary M. has requested 3,000 for the committee from Margaret Flory's office; this sum will cover Gail's salary and administrative expenses. UCM has budgeted 400.00 for the committee.

Committee personnel: Tim Smith, Bob Jolley, and Dick Parker will do Union field work at the Church Center for the UN with the United Church of Christ international relations committee. They will work closely with SAC.

The Winters will return from work at the Mozambique Institute late this year and will be available to work for six months if an appropriate project is found. Bill is interested in researching U.S. - Portuguese relationships. It was suggested that they might work in conjunction with a new research bureau to be established in January.

Please recruit new members!

SAC relationship to other groups: It was suggested that some thought be given to how the committee might integrate with local and state UCM groups. Demonstrations were mentioned as one form of cooperation.

Committee members are working with the Methodists on a special South Africa magazine. Tim and Gail are on the editorial board and Mary, Tim, and Ken will contribute articles. Tim suggested that the magazine might be utilized as part of an ongoing strategy.

The NCC will hold a "high-powered" meeting about South Africa later this month, at which Gail will present a ten-minute "e e-witness report." The meeting is an "internal" conference, not one involving South African leaders.

It was noted that Ken has left the NCC Africa Dept. We conjectured for a while on the future of the department's program. The importance of keeping open lines of communication was stressed, as well as trying to influence the composition of the Department of International Affairs' joint strategy board.

The question of resuming the bank campaign with the NCC and the denominations was raised. Some NCC employees are willing to work from within on the bank issue. The Episcopal Churchmen are "studying" the problem of church investment, and the United Church of Christ recently passed a resolution on southern Africa, so both might be open to committee influence. It was noted that the WCC passed statements at Uppsala condemning investment in institutions supporting racist policies.

It was suggested that it might be possible to get more Roman Catholic activity in these areas.

South African students in the U.S.: Solly Lefakane's report recommends that South African students be given permanent status as political refugees. Immigration Department pressure was said to have eased off somewhat.

It seems likely that problems will increase, however, because, although emergency grants have been given and temporary work permits written, the basic issues haven't been solved. Legislative rather than administrative change is the real objective. A major long-term effort is needed, directed toward the students' acquiring permanent or temporary visa status rather than the J-1 -- visitors' exchange program -- which they now have.

Who's who at AAI should be determined.

Joe Pierpont of the Workers' Defense League can be contacted for help with strategy, as can Gary Gappert, an ACCA Washington staff member.

UN request: The UN Commission on Human Rights has requested a report on committee activity by October 15. Jan suggested that newsletters might be of interest to them.

Newsletter: Finances are a problem but not a great one. Theodore Tucker of the NCC has given \$500 with the stipulation that the newsletter continue coverage of Rhodesia and the Portuguese territories.

An overall evaluation is to be done soon. Mary, Ken, Bob, Winsom, and Tim will work with Stephanie on it, perhaps with assistance from Leon Howell.

A special issue on student unrest in South Africa is planned.

Mary, Nancy, and Helen volunteered to help type address lists and the newsletter.

Correspondence: Nancy agreed to correspond with a Rhodesian detainee who has asked to communicate with some committee member. Gail will correspond with groups in southern Africa.

Mozambique: An observance was held September 25 to observe the fourth anniversary of the beginning of the Mozambique war. It was attended by Africans, American representatives of black American organizations, church representatives, etc.

Tim is interested in forming a Committee for a Free Mozambique, perhaps patterned after a functioning London committee. Their publication, with a section on U.S. activity, could be used as a basic tool here. Eduardo Mondlane suggested to Tim that such a committee could:

- 1) research the U.S. role in southern Africa (e.g., does the U.S. train Portuguese soldiers?)
- 2) embarrass Portugal in the U.S., perhaps through Mr. Khan
- 3) give U.S. newspapers more anti-Portuguese material, to offset the kind they get now.
- 4) publicize the fact that in southern Africa South Africa will increasingly play a U.S.-in-Vietnam-type role.

Such a committee would be independent but would utilize other bodies.

Bob stressed that such a committee should maintain the "complexion" of the September 25 observance. It might be better for a white-dominated UCM group not to launch the committee but to enter into "delicate" talks perhaps resulting in a black or an integrated group's launching the committee with UCM support. Mr. Khan might serve as a fulcrum, coordinating the efforts of many groups. A "think tank" to deal with this matter was recruited, consisting of Bob, Nancy, Helen, Tim, Mary, and Jan.

Money and committee priorities: requests for scholarship funds from SAC have raised the question of committee priorities. Ken suggested that the group confine itself to political matters and not get into the "welfare morass." A letter from Ruth Winter was read, in which she said U.S. groups must decide whether to support individuals or fight the system. The first alternative she sees as the Band-Aid approach which has prevailed too long. It was agreed that fundraising would not become a top priority.

Mary agreed to channel requests for scholarships to appropriate agencies.

Church boards have been asked to establish scholarships for Fort Hare students, to be channeled through the UCM of southern Africa. SAC, if called upon to help

channel the money, might handle it through a "Fort Hare Scholarship Fund," a response to a request from a fraternal organization for a specific need.

Travelers' Report: Tim and Mary agreed to write a report of the UCM meeting they attended in South Africa. They will also send out a report on Fort Hare.

Information: Various means of disseminating information, particularly about university unrest, were discussed. Nell Sale, UCM president, can be helpful through her speaking tours. UCM regional offices can help but since southern Africa is not one of their priorities, other means will be needed. UCM can support black groups when they play up issues but should not force them to play them up.

Other possibilities: Irving Davis of SNCC, Mr. Khan, Channel 13's "Black Journal," People versus Racism. These and individual contacts might be used to form a communications network. Information on contacts should be given to Mary, who will coordinate.

Miscellaneous: Tim recommends reprinting Patrick Keatley's Manchester Guardian articles in the newsletter.

The question of the nature of the Urban Coalition's commitment was raised.

Whew!

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 - UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, ROOM 104A -

7:30 p.m.