



What's happening in Africa?

Very few people in the Movement know. The stark photos of Biafra's starving children have traumatically re-introduced Africa's unsolved problems into the American consciousness, but for most people that problem still remains only a humanitarian one, and unconnected to America's role in world affairs. Wars for liberation in Southern Africa threaten crises of international proportions but, once again, the link is seldom made between American involvement and the fate of those freedom struggles.

The Africa Research Group is designed to fill the need for a specialized radical research, education, and action project that focuses on analyzing America's racist and imperialist penetration in Africa. With this focus, we hope to promote a more informed concern with, and protest against, the role the United States plays in the domination of Africa. We hope to contribute to sharpening and extending an anti-imperialist and anti-racist consciousness within existing movements for social change.

Our group is based partly on the model supplied by the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), an organization with which we work closely, but with some important differences: Organizationally, the Africa Research Group is decentralized, with four working groups already established in Cambridge, New York, Washington, and London, and one being organized in California. Substantively, unlike NACLA, the Group provides resources for the domestic struggle against racism. By developing and publishing research about Africa, we hope to illustrate the international dimensions of American racism, and the need for fusing an anti-racist struggle with an anti-imperialist one.

We are currently working on two major projects:

1. A pamphlet about the Nigeria-Biafra war which will try to inject political and economic understanding into an issue that is now seen almost exclusively in strictly humanitarian terms.
2. Together with NACLA, we have undertaken to produce a regular weekly "newsgram" on Africa and Latin America for the Guardian, LNS, and other radical media.

We hope eventually to have a regular monthly or quarterly newsletter on Africa, as well as a series of short pamphlets and reprints on Africa, US imperialism, and liberation movements, covering subjects which no existing Movement program does.

The ARG is now actively seeking financial contributions as well as new members. For more information please write to us. We have a full prospectus available and, a list of all our participants in various cities.



africa research group

p.o. box 213 cambridge, mass. 02138

Prospectus 1969

A New Movement
Research and Education Project
Exclusively Concerned
With Africa

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In order to translate compassion for individuals suffering oppression and starvation in Africa into informed response that penetrates to the core of the political and economic realities of the individual African states, much work must be done. This is why the Africa Research Group is being formed.

The Africa Research Group (A/R) is founded on the assumption that a specialized research and education program is clearly needed to promote a greater concern and familiarity with the role of the United States in Africa. The research will address itself to the following kinds of questions:

- What aspects of U.S. domestic and foreign policy most determine her relations to Africa?
- Why is Africa such a low priority concern in the State Department?
- What role does American private business play in the economic development of African states? What are the problems of and benefits to American companies compared with the problems of and benefits to the particular African states?
- What are the political implications of U.S. economic involvement in African nations?
- What is the role of the CIA in Africa? With what national intelligence operations does it cooperate? How does it relate to the liberation movements?
- How does U.S. presence, both private and governmental, compare with that of Great Britain, France, the U.S.S.R., Japan, and China?

The basic aims of the Africa Research group are to:

- (1) Provide an empirical base for analysis of those institutions and individuals who make policy for, and benefit from, U.S. penetration in Africa;
- (2) Promote a politically informed public within the U.S. about those individuals and institutions and the effects of their activities;
- (3) Promote a broader awareness of the progress of the African liberation movements and the obstacles they face.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH:

- a. Maintain and build a Data Base of clippings, articles and research notes. To do this we must subscribe to and monitor European, American and African publications.
- b. Develop a specialized reference library of directories, government and non-government reports, organizational publications, corporate newsletters, biographies, histories, etc. We expect to share resources with other independent research groups such as the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA).
- c. Begin to organize research groups and help individuals interested in detailed research projects about the extent of American involvement and influence in individual African countries and regions; the changing organization and strategy of American companies in these areas; covert and clandestine strategies; a survey of U.S. "counter-insurgency" thinking as it relates to Africa; institutional analysis of the Africa programs of international agencies and the full range of "free world" mechanisms coordinated by the United States.

EDUCATION:

- a. We plan to develop, publish, reprint, and distribute relevant articles and pamphlets.
- b. We will write, publish and distribute our own newsletter as well as occasional longer pamphlets.
- c. We plan to consult with concerned organizations about possible teach-ins, action campaigns, symposia, and other similar programs.
- d. We expect to work closely with such existing groups as NACLA, Radical Education Project, American Committee on Africa, University Christian Movement Southern Africa Committee, People Against Racism, Committee of Returned Volunteers, and other interested organizations. We hope to involve and consult with Afro-American groups and church and civic organizations.

ORGANIZATION:

The Africa Research Group will be based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The major work will be done there, aided by affiliated work-groups and individuals around the country. A/R hopes to cooperate closely with NACLA, learning from its experience in similar research projects on Latin America. It is also our intention to keep in close touch with other independent American organizations in order to ensure that there is no duplication of work or research.

The A/R expects to support a paid staff of three full-time workers in its Cambridge office. They will be involved in organizing the group, servicing affiliated groups and interested organizations, as well as performing administrative tasks. At present the following individuals are involved in a working or advisory capacity:

Cambridge, Mass. (All affiliations are listed for identification only.)

Daniel Schechter, Contributing Editor of Ramparts and serving as the group's principal organizer.

Linda Gordon, Department of History, University of Massachusetts

John Perdew, ex-member of SNCC Research staff, Atlanta

Jack Stauder, Social Relations Department, Harvard University

Charles Turner, Black United Front, Roxbury

New York City

Janet MacLaughlin, American Committee on Africa

Mary McAnally, Columbia University, and University Christian Movement
Southern Africa Committee

Bob Maurer, MUST Project Director

Gail Morlan, University Christian Movement Southern Africa Committee

Robert Van Lierop, Lawyer

Nancy Greenfield, The New School for Social Research

John A. Williams, Author

Washington, D.C.

Judith Coburn, Institute of Policy Studies

Marvin Holloway, Institute of Policy Studies

Richard Levy, Economist

California

Bill Burnett, Department of African History, University of California
in Santa Barbara

Kim Bush, Radical Education Project

Robert and Mary (Oppenheimer) Fitch, Writers

Martin Legassick, Department of African History, University of
California in Santa Barbara

Louise White, University of California at Berkeley

Donald Barnett, Simon Frazier University, Vancouver, B.C.

London

Jeff Roven, Third World Information Center

Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

Prexy Nesbitt, University College of East Africa

**The A/R is still in the process of formation and the above listing is only preliminary.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Staff Members

Minimum Salary for paid staff members should be \$250 per month plus taxes and insurance (approximately \$25 per month)

\$3,200 per year per person, or \$ 9,600.

Rent

So far, and until July 1, free.
After July 1 at estimated \$100 per month 900.

Telephone

Estimated at \$30 per month 360.

File Cabinets

Three at \$25 each 75.

Addressograph and Plates

300.

Office Supplies

250.

Photo-copying and Library Acquisitions

\$200 per month, including subscriptions 2,400.

Postage

700.

Travel

Conferences, Meetings, etc. 1,000.

Printing

We hope to be able to arrange for free printing of such items as our projected newsletter, stationery, etc. Larger pamphlets will be printed commercially, but at "movement printers" at cost whenever possible. We hope that sales and publication revenues will make this program self-financing in respect to basic costs.

Overhead and contingencies

200.

TOTAL \$ 15,785.