



17 John Street • New York, NY 10038 • (212) 962-1210
Fax: (212) 964-8570 • E-mail: africafund@igc.apc.org

Tilden J. LeMelle, *Chairman*
Jennifer Davis, *Executive Director*

DOES AFRICA HAVE A FUTURE?

April 25, 1997

Dear Friend of The Africa Fund,

Today it is intellectually fashionable to dismiss Africa as the continent of pestilence and ethnic conflict. A respected African American journalist even expresses gratitude that, because of slavery, he was born in America instead of Africa.

No one would deny that Africa has its problems. But the chic cynicism in so much of the media ignores the very real progress in Africa:

--- Civil war has given way to peace and reconstruction in Mozambique, Uganda and Eritrea.

--- Democracy is replacing dictatorship in countries as far apart as Ethiopia and Malawi.

--- In South Africa, many thousands of people have running water and toilets for the first time and now see hope for education, housing and jobs.

America is not just a passive spectator in Africa. U.S. policy will help to determine whether democracy and development succeed or fail.

Let me give just a few examples:

A genuine commitment to democracy and human rights could have forestalled the current crisis in Zaire. Instead the U.S. and its Western allies propped up the corrupt Mobutu dictatorship. Now the same mistake may be made in Nigeria with tragic consequences.

If U.S. development aid is preserved at an adequate level, children will be inoculated against communicable diseases and schools and roads will be built.

Africa is starved for investment. Socially responsible U.S. investment could help spur economic growth that would reach all the people, not just a very few at the top.

This is why The Africa Fund has always made U.S. policy a major priority in our work. We have also learned that lasting positive change comes from the bottom up. Unless people across the country are willing to speak out, policy too often changes as quickly as the



personalities in power, frequently reflecting corporate interests rather than those of farmers, workers or students.

The Africa Fund is working to build the same kind of broad coalitions that won sanctions against apartheid:

* We are about to hold a National Consultation on U.S. Policy Toward Africa which will bring leading state legislators together with Members of Congress, representatives of the Clinton Administration and African ambassadors. The consultation will help these legislators become advocates for Africa.

* The Consultation will be followed by a series of regional meetings on impacting Africa policy from the local level. These will include not only public officials but religious, labor and community leaders. We will use these regional meetings to build broad coalitions around issues including human rights, aid and investment.

* We are involving people in every region of the country with the struggle for democracy in Nigeria. Recently we brought a delegation of national religious leaders to dialogue with the Corporate Secretary of Mobil Oil, the largest U.S. investor in Nigeria. They urged Mobil to end its collaboration with the Nigerian military dictatorship's violent repression.

This is the kind of hard, patient work it takes to get results. No wonder some people find it easier to just dismiss Africa altogether.

I am writing to you because I know you care about Africa's future.

I hope you will contribute generously so that we can help Africans build freedom, human rights and economic development.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Davis
Executive Director

P.S. I have enclosed our 1996 Annual Report. This is our way of communicating with you about the vital work we did last year. I hope you will read it carefully. I would welcome your comments and suggestions.

The Africa Fund Report



1996



Top photo: Africans have embarked on new struggles to build a future of democracy and sustainable development for the continent's children. Above, children learning to read in a school in South Africa. PHOTOGRAPH BY ANSELL HORN/IMPACT VISUALS.

Above photo: School children in Rwanda embody hope for peace in Africa's Great Lakes region. PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER DAVIS.

Building for African Democracy

The Africa Fund is connecting concerned Americans with the people on the front lines of Africa's critical new struggles for democracy and justice.

In Nigeria, men and women are braving executions, assassination, imprisonment and torture to stand up for democracy and human rights. Now at peace, legislators in southern Africa are meeting the challenge of building democratic institutions to provide the education, housing, water and jobs apartheid kept from their people for generations.

As the world's political and economic superpower, the U.S. will help shape the success or failure of these strivings for democracy. We can either have a public and corporate policy

that sustains democracy, or, as too often happens, one that undermines it.

The Africa Fund has brought Americans in communities across the country together to work for a constructive policy:

- National religious leaders came to Washington in an Africa Fund delegation for economic sanctions against the Nigerian military dictatorship. This climaxed a year of organizing with civil rights and labor leaders and public officials in addition to the church leaders.

- State and municipal public officials were empowered by

The Africa Fund to intervene on human rights, aid and trade.

- Women's groups, development organizations and elected officials urged Congress to save U.S. aid to Africa when The Africa Fund alerted them to the danger that it could be decimated.

- The Africa Fund helped win political asylum for Africans whose lives were in peril at home because of their work for democracy, acting in collaboration with Amnesty International and other human rights organizations.



Keeping In Touch With Africa

For decades, African leaders who come to the U.S. have made it a priority to meet with The Africa Fund. Executive Director Jennifer Davis travels to Africa several times each year to see the current progress and problems first hand.

We had intensive consultations with

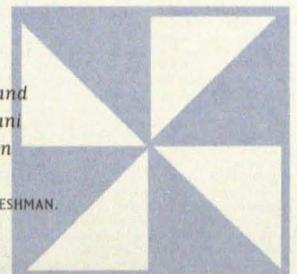
Innocent Chukwuma of the Nigerian Civil Liberties Organization when he came to New York to accept the Reebok Human Rights Award. Returning to Nigeria, he was imprisoned immediately.

The mayors of three of Mozambique's leading cities met with Executive Director Jennifer Davis and Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo about establishing ongoing relationships with U.S. cities.

Jennifer Davis was the only representative from a U.S. organization invited to a conference in Rwanda on building peace and civil society in Africa's Great Lakes region. She and Dumisani Kumalo traveled to South Africa and Namibia to track the progress of reconstruction and development programs, including a Namibian pilot project to make small loans to impoverished families to help them build houses.

Africa Fund Executive Director Jennifer Davis and Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo with a delegation of Mozambican Mayors.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL FLESHMAN.



General & Administrative

A complete financial report prepared by an independent accounting firm and an annual program report are available to all who request them. Reports are also prepared for federal, state and independent monitoring groups. A financial supplement is available from the New York Department of State, Charities Registration Bureau, Albany, New York 12231.

Membership & Fundraising

The Africa Fund depends on thousands of individuals who give from a few dollars to a few thousand dollars a year. We also want to thank those who contribute through the Combined Federal Campaign and state and local campaigns. Contributions to The Africa Fund are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

BEQUESTS

The Africa Fund has benefited enormously from a number of very generous bequests. For those who want to provide for a continuance of their concern for the work of The Africa Fund, the following form of bequest is suggested: I hereby bequeath the sum of \$_____ to The Africa Fund for use in its programs.

We wish to express our gratitude to the following institutional donors: Boehm Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Communitas Charitable Trust, DJB Foundation, Delaware Pacem, Aaron Diamond Foundation, District Council 37 AFSCME, Jana Foundation, Normandie Foundation, Laird Norton Foundation, Local 144 SEIU, Local 371 AFSCME, Local 375 AFSCME, Orisha Foundation, Samuel Rubin Foundation, Solidago Foundation, United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries, United Methodist Church Women's Division of the Board for Global Ministries, United Methodist Church World Division of the Board for Global Ministries.

FINANCIAL RESULTS 1996*

INCOME	
Contributions	\$386,491
Direct Mail	50,042
Literature	516
Miscellaneous	2,330
Interest	8,690
TOTAL	448,069
EXPENSES	
Membership & Fundraising	\$31,714
Research & Education	209,114
Projects	176,595
General & Administrative	34,864
TOTAL	452,287
FUND BALANCES	
Assets	\$219,442
Liabilities	79,094
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	140,348

*Figures are preliminary and subject to audit.

THE AFRICA FUND

Founded in 1966 by the American Committee on Africa, The Africa Fund works for a positive U.S. policy toward Africa and supports African human rights, democracy and development.



17 JOHN STREET, 12TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10038
212-962-1210 FAX 212-964-8570
EMAIL: AFRICAFUND@IGC.APC.ORG

Labor Donated. Special thanks to Local 1199, National Health and Human Service Employees Union AFL-CIO, for their generous assistance in printing this report. Printed on recycled paper.



Tilden LeMelle

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Julian Bond
Dick Clark
Ossie Davis
Ruby Dee
James L. Farmer
Coretta Scott King
Stanley Sheinbaum
Little Steven Van Zandt

TRUSTEES

Tilden LeMelle, Chair
Marsha Bonner, Vice Chair
Marvin Rich, Treasurer
Owen Bieber
Robert Boehm
Salih Booker
Elizabeth Calvin
George M. Houser
Margaret Marshall
Andrew Norman
Jack Sheinkman
Venita Vinson
Wyatt Tee Walker
Peter Weiss
Jennifer Davis
Executive Director



Projects

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND U.S. POLICY

In a five state visit in the summer, a delegation of three southern African women legislators stressed the importance of continued U.S. aid and involvement. In visits to the New York and Alabama state legislatures and in meetings with leading public officials and their constituents, the legislators emphasized the key U.S. role in consolidating economic and social progress in Africa's fragile young democracies. The delegation was part of our ongoing program to involve state and municipal legislators with U.S. policy.

We worked closely with the national associations of state and city public officials to help their members engage with Africa policy. The Africa Fund conducted a workshop on Africa for new members of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, Executive Director Jennifer Davis provided a briefing for the National Conference of State Legislatures and Projects Director Dumisani Kumalo spoke to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Supported by briefings and frequent interventions on the telephone, this consistent involvement brought resolutions from these national associations supporting democracy in Nigeria and continued U.S. aid to Africa.

This program is made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

ASYLUM FOR AFRICAN REFUGEES

Many leaders of the democratic opposition to repressive regimes in Nigeria and other West African countries have been forced to flee their home countries. The Africa Fund helped a number of these people secure political asylum in the U.S. Afeez Ipesa-Balogun, a close associate



Southern African women legislators' delegation meeting with New York state legislators. Front row (from left): Koti Nyama of South Africa, Lucia Basson of Namibia and Edna Madzongwe of Zimbabwe. Back row (from left): Assemblyman Al Vann, N. Nick Perry, Jeffrion L. Aubry (Chair, New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus), Gloria Davis, Africa Fund consultant Pamela Simms-DiJo and Arkansas State Representative Irma Hunter Brown.



Hafsat Abiola, daughter of the jailed Nigerian president-elect, at a New York press conference. PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL FLESHMAN.



George Houser, The Africa Fund's Executive Director Emeritus, was Nelson Mandela's personal guest at the opening of South Africa's Parliament. George was in South Africa helping Walter Sisulu, the ANC's retired Deputy President, work on his memoirs. The Africa Fund is providing support for the Sisulu memoirs project.

sustain African refugees in the U.S. who face a temporary emergency.

1996 grants helped a network of several thousand rural civil society organizations in South Africa's troubled Kwa-Zulu Natal province, paid for the first issue of a Johannesburg high school student newspaper and a demonstration project to provide the first 20 equipment kits to enable Black South African students taking a correspondence physics course to do the necessary experiments.

A young Liberian, paralyzed from the waist down, who had completed an accounting course but could not get his degree because he still owed registration fees, was one of those who received an Africa Fund emergency assistance grant. We helped him to survive and pay his arrears so that he could get work.

Research & Education

Whether it is a state legislator writing a letter on aid, a pastor needing a church bulletin on repression in Nigeria or an institutional investor seeking to establish guidelines to promote investment in Africa, The Africa Fund's fast, accurate information makes positive action possible. Each year we successfully respond to hundreds of these requests for information from people who are working on African issues.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR NIGERIA

A national religious leadership delegation on Nigeria that met with National Security Advisor Samuel Berger and the Corporate Secretary of Mobil Oil early in 1997 capped a year of intensive education by The Africa Fund and our associated organization the American Committee on Africa.

We reached out to people in states and cities from coast to coast on behalf of democracy and human rights for Nigeria:

■ Oakland, New York and New Orleans took action for economic sanctions against the Nigerian military dictatorship because The Africa Fund provided continual resources, information, contact

and advice. Resolutions will be introduced in many more states and cities in 1997, based on this successful start.

■ The AFL-CIO passed an Executive Council resolution supporting Nigerian democracy and the release of political prisoners with consultation and information from The Africa Fund.

■ We brought exiled Nigerian human rights leaders, including Goodluck Diigbo, a close associate of the executed poet and environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiwa, and Hafsat Abiola, the daughter of the imprisoned president-elect, to speak to religious congregations, community forums and city councils.

The Africa Fund countered the Nigerian government's multi-million dollar campaign to buy friends and influence in the U.S. We persuaded the New York University Medical School to return a \$500,000 Fellowship named after Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha. Africa Fund information blocked an effort to bring Nigerian military officers to the City University of New York for "peacekeeping training."

U.S. AID TO AFRICA

The Africa Fund waged a year long educational campaign that helped prevent Congressional conservatives from imposing draconian cuts that would have cut U.S. aid to Africa beyond all recognition. We alerted women's groups and religious and development organizations as well as our network of city and state public officials. They responded with an outpouring of letters to the key Committee Chairs and a series of meetings in the Representatives' home districts.

MEDIA

The Africa Fund is also a major media resource. Africa Fund Human Rights Coordinator Michael Fleshman appeared on the PBS's "Rights and Wrongs." Africa Fund representatives were interviewed by National Public Radio, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The Wall Street Journal*, among others.

The Africa Fund Projects



Rwandans celebrating the return of refugees who fled during the genocide and conflict that followed, at a conference on peace in the Great Lakes region. PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER DAVIS.

of imprisoned Nigerian president-elect Moshood Abiola, was one of them. He fled to the U.S. because he faced prison and possible torture. Despite this, the Immigration and Naturalization Service denied him asylum. The Africa Fund's work with Senator Edward Kennedy and Congressman Donald Payne helped convince the INS to reverse its decision.

AFRICA FUND GRANTS

Every year The Africa Fund makes a series of grants to new and innovative African self-help programs. We also help



The Phelps-Stokes Fund honored the American Committee on Africa, The Africa Fund's non-tax exempt associate, for more than four decades of work for African freedom. The Citation reads in part: "Everywhere African men and women sought to free themselves from political oppression. ACOA was ready to offer non-lethal material support to their struggle and serve as champion of the moral rightness of their cause to the wider world." Above: Jennifer Davis receiving the Citation. PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD KNIGHT.

Dumisani Kumalo Takes Key Post In South African Foreign Ministry

Dumisani Kumalo, The Africa Fund's long time Projects Director, has become the Chief of the U.S. section of the South African Foreign Ministry. This new job brings Kumalo full circle, from South Africa to the U.S. and back again.

When Kumalo fled his native South Africa in 1977, many of his friends and associates were in prison or, like Steven Biko, had been murdered by the apartheid regime. Coming to America, he looked for a place to continue his struggle against apartheid and found it at The Africa Fund.

For years Kumalo criss-crossed the country building a powerful movement for sanctions and divestment. With South Africa's freedom finally won, he moved into The Africa Fund's new program for involving state and city officials with U.S. Africa policy.

Now Dumisani Kumalo will use what he learned about the U.S. in his years at The Africa Fund on behalf of South Africa. Both countries will be superbly served.



Dumisani Kumalo speaking to students in 1984. PHOTOGRAPH BY LUKE MORGAN.



Dumisani Kumalo briefs a standing room only meeting called by the House Subcommittee on Africa on upcoming African elections. March 1994. PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTHA TABOR.

Research & Education

