

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

October 10, 1962

MINUTES

Present: Peter Weiss, Chairman; Daniel Bernstein, Hope Stevens. Staff: George Houser, Collin Gonze, James Robinson.

1. Report on new office space: It was reported that a lease had been signed for office space at 211 East 43 Street. Mr. King, of Delson, Levin and Gordon, has put a great deal of time into seeing that the lease was one that is as favorable as possible to the American Committee on Africa. It is planned that the office would move on January 1st. The Committee suggested that the staff consult with Stanley Levison regarding the necessity of having a contract with a designer to oversee the installation of the partitions, etc., in the new office. It was also suggested that Lowell Beveridge is a designer and might be helpful in this regard.
2. Question of bonding some staff members: James Robinson reported that the contract to have some of the staff and officers of the ACOA bonded had run out. It was agreed that there was necessity only for three persons to be bonded for the next three-year term: the Treasurer, the Assistant Director, and the Bookkeeper.
3. ERA -- arrangements for sending Dr. Gilchrist: George Houser reported on the correspondence with Dr. Ian Gilchrist who is now in Sierra Leone and who has expressed his willingness to work under our ERA program in the Congo and Angola. It was agreed that the staff should proceed to make the arrangements for Dr. Gilchrist to go to the Congo where he would work with the refugees and also possibly across the border in northern Angola itself.
4. Petitioners in New York for the U.N.: George Houser reported that there were a number of petitioners in New York to appear at the United Nations, several from South West Africa and Southern Rhodesia. It was agreed that if possible it would be a good idea to sponsor some gatherings, perhaps in the homes of some of our members, with these petitioners.
5. Request that we co-sponsor a demonstration at South African Consulate on October 22nd: George Houser reported that Bayard Rustin had contacted him about the possibility of the ACOA's co-sponsoring a demonstration at the South African consulate on October 22nd. This would be done in cooperation with the NAACP, CORE, the Negro American Labor Council and the World Peace Brigade. A part of the plan would be to have representatives of these various groups go to the office of the South African consulate during the demonstration.

It was agreed that the Committee could join in the sponsorship of this, although a question was raised whether this could come too close to whatever our own plans would be in connection with our Appeal for Action Against Apartheid on December 10. If the demonstration does not work out for October 22nd, perhaps the same elements that would be involved in that effort could join in the effort for December 10th.

6. Next meeting: The next meeting was set for Wednesday, October 24, at 5:15 p.m. at 10 Columbus Circle, 26th Floor.