

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Executive Board

September 16, 1963

MINUTES

Present: D. Harrington, Chairman; N. Bengston; D. Bernstein; E. Carrington; W. Courtney; J. Jablow; S.Y. Jacobs; J. Marcum. F. Montero; A. Norman; A. Schulkind; H. Stevens; P. Weiss.

Regrets: D. Jones; F. Jones; S. Levison; C. Robinson; J. Robinson; J. Farmer

Staff : C. Gonze; G. Houser; D. Kallen; J. Robinson

1. Minutes of the last meeting: Approved as circulated.

2. March on Washington: The Board approved a resolution presented by Peter Weiss expressing its gratitude to Board members A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin, the organizers of the March on Washington and re-affirming its solidarity with the civil rights movement in this country. It was stated that the ACOA had made a contribution to the unification of this movement by originally bringing its principal leaders together in the Negro Leadership Conference on Africa.

3. Brief Reports

a. South African items

Dr. King's appearance before the UN Committee on Apartheid: Although Martin

Luther King had agreed to appear before the UN Committee on Apartheid and had made a formal request for a hearing, it had been impossible, because of his extremely heavy schedule, to arrange a date. If the committee is continued, however, it might be possible to arrange for an appearance at a later time. It was suggested that Roy Wilkins and A. Philip Randolph be considered as possibilities for any such future hearings.

ILA action against South African shipping: George Houser reported that the ILA was prepared to honor any picket line we would set up. We are planning to take action some time next week or as soon as possible thereafter. We are trying to pick a South African ship rather than simply a boat carrying South African goods.

Martha Schlamme tour of South Africa: Miss Schlamme had cancelled a July tour of South Africa after discussions with Robert Resha of the African National Congress. Mr. Resha had urged her to take this action rather than appear before segregated audiences. The ACOA had arranged the meeting. It was reported that Edward Albee refused permission for his new hit, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," to be shown before segregated audiences in South Africa and that as a result, the play opened recently before integrated audiences.

Study on US Investments: Many requests for information on US investments in South Africa come to the Committee. A study was now being prepared which hopefully would be completed by the end of September



and which might be published in Africa Today.

Buying Stock in the American-South African Investment Trust: After a presentation by Dan Bernstein, the Board agreed to table the item for the present.

b. Progress report on pamphlet on Portuguese Territories: Work is proceeding on a new pamphlet to be issued before the Secretary-General makes his report to the Security Council by the end of October. We will try to get 20 or so prominent persons to endorse the pamphlet, which will contain recommendations for US policy.

c. Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Scholarship Fund: Peter Weiss reported that the entire sum of \$500 had now been awarded. \$250 went to a South African music student recommended by John Marcum and another \$250 to a South African nurse who has begun studies in nursing administration at UCLA. The Board approved the selections made by the committee which administered the Fund.

d. Finances: The Treasurer presented the finance report for ACOA, ADAF and ERA (attached). James Robinson reported that the future outlook was "foggy." It was important to expand our mailing list in the next few months. ERA mailings this summer had not brought in as much money as was hoped, probably because so many of our people were also contributing to the civil rights groups. Mailings of the Tenth Anniversary brochure are scheduled to begin in a few weeks' time. (More detailed comments attached.) The Board accepted the report with thanks.

e. Literature finances: Collin Gonze reported that income had increased over the past year and that expenses were not so high as they had been. The income for the first 8 months of 1962 had been \$6,100.61 as compared with \$9,766.16 for the same period in 1963.

f. Tenth Anniversary Issue of Africa Today: The special issue would appear in November, and it would be an important one. Articles were coming in from such people as Colin Legum and greetings had been received from about a dozen African leaders. The number of advertisements was not too large. Photographs will be used to highlight the last ten years of developments in Africa. Altogether, the issue will be expanded to about twice its normal size.

g. Charles C. Cristadoro: At the last Board meeting announcement had been made of the wood carving which Mr. Cristadoro sent as a gift to ERA. The Board had requested that more information about him be secured. Mr. Cristadoro studied art in New York with Robert Henri, Chase, Dumond, Mora and Shinn. He turned to sculpture on the advice of Henri, and after the first world war, switched to carving in ivory. It was in this medium that he gained his reputation. The Committee is in possession of a number of photographs of his work, and one of the artist himself.

4. Report from John Marcum on the Angolan situation: Dr. Marcum spent almost the entire summer in Leopoldville and the Bakongo area of the Congo, and reported on his trip and developments in the Angolan situation over the last few months. (Report attached.)



5. Petition on sanctions against South Africa: The July meeting of the Board had given its approval to a campaign directed against American arms sales to South Africa. Now that the US Government had decided to implement an embargo as of January 1, 1964, the staff thought that the petition could be altered and broadened. A draft was circulated which called for suspension of recognition of the South African Government until such time as it represents the people of the country; the imposition of an embargo on all South African goods; and support at the United Nations for a world-wide boycott of South Africa. It was planned to send the petition out with a covering letter signed by the Co-Chairmen of the Committee and to submit the petition together with the names of signers to Ambassador Stevenson prior to the Security Council meeting scheduled for the end of October or beginning of November. Suggestions for strengthening the draft were put forward, and it was generally agreed that emphasis should be placed on the failure of our Government to exercise moral leadership resulting in the encouragement of the American business community to continue more and larger investments in South Africa, which today is better off financially than ever before. The Africans, it should be pointed out, are in a worse situation than ever.
6. New Board Member: Rev. George Lawrence was unanimously elected to membership on the Board of the ACOA.
7. South African membership in the United Nations: The Board thanked Winifred Courtney for the work she had done in preparing a background paper for discussion of this question. Since there was not sufficient time to examine the matter in depth, the item was postponed until the next meeting of the Board.
8. Resignation: In view of Frank Montero's appointment to the staff of the US Mission to the UN, the Board recognized that it would be awkward for him to remain on the Board. It was therefore decided to accept the resignation which he was about to submit, with an expression of deep regret and sincere appreciation for his past services to the Committee.
9. Leaves of absence: In view of the absence in Peru for two years of John Murra, and in Asia for one year of Hugh Smythe, both members were granted a leave of absence.