

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING * MARCH 13, 1961

Minutes

Present: Peter Weiss, Acting Chairman, Nelson Bengston, Elizabeth Landis, Frank Montero, John Murra, William X. Scheinman, Adelaide Schulkind, George M. Houser, Dale Harrison, Barbara Harrison, Catherine Raymond, Suzanne Seidman.

- 1) Board meetings. It was noted with regret that some members of the Board were frequently absent from Board meetings. It was felt that all Board members were able to make valuable contributions to the work of the Committee and that therefore some effort should be made to encourage all members to be present at meetings. It was suggested that perhaps Board meetings might occasionally be held at the home of one of the members and that some effort might be made to determine the most convenient time for these meetings.
- 2) Minutes. The minutes of the previous Board meeting were accepted as circulated.
- 3) Follow-up from January 30 Board meeting. a) A date will be set as soon as possible for an appointment with A. Philip Randolph to discuss co-chairmanship of the Committee and the national mobilization which was discussed at the previous Board meeting. b) George Houser reported on the progress of the Washington Africa Freedom Day affair which is being organized by Victor Reuther of the United Auto Workers and by C. Sumner Stone of the Washington Afro-American. Barbara Harrison reported on the plans for the New York African Freedom Day which are well under way. c) It was decided that the size and strength of the Executive Board should be increased. The Organization Committee will meet as a nominating committee within three weeks. At this time, nominations for the Executive Board will be selected and all Board members are encouraged to send their suggestions to the Chairman of the Organization Committee. James Baldwin, Anne Hedgeman, Zelma George and David Jones were mentioned as possible candidates.
- 4) Staff Report. George Houser made some explanation of items on the Composite Staff Report which had been circulated to Board members. Michael Scott has been granted a visa to travel in the United States on a speaking tour sponsored by the ACOA. Some time in the fall will most likely be arranged for this tour. The deportation date for Dr. Cassim Jadwat has been postponed and the Committee will continue its efforts in behalf of Dr. Jadwat's being granted a permanent visa.
- 5) Lane Bryant international volunteer award. George Houser announced that the Committee had received a request for suggestions as to candidates for this award.
- 6) Westport World Affairs Center. The ACOA has been asked to become a co-sponsor of the Westport World Affairs Center in Westport, Connecticut. This would mean that the literature of the Committee might be available at the Center and that the Committee might act in an advisory capacity on African affairs. It was decided that

the Committee would agree to become a co-sponsor subject to a check by Nelson Bengston on the membership and policy of the Center.

7) All African People's Conference. It was decided that George Houser would represent the Committee at the Third All African People's Conference to begin in Cairo on March 22nd.

8) Conference on American Policy Toward Africa. A report was made on the attendance at the Committee's conference on American Policy Toward Africa, which was held on March 9th and 10th. It was generally felt that the conference had been of some value. However, it was agreed that every effort must be made to circulate the proceedings and resolutions of this conference to all those who attended and to other interested organizations and individuals. It was also suggested that some representative of the Committee call on Ambassador Stevenson to discuss the results of this conference.

9) Annual Meeting and Annual Report. The date of the next Board meeting, which will be the Annual Meeting of the Board, will be on May 8th. The Annual Report will be circulated to members of the Board prior to this date and discussed at this meeting.