



American Committee On Africa

198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10038 / (212) 962-1210 / Cable AMCOMMAF

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MINUTES-- ACOA BOARD, MARCH 22, 1982

Present: Willim Booth, Edgar Lockwood, Stephanie Urdang, Isabel Cintron-Cintron, Jean Sindab, Timothy Smith, Josephine Buck-Jones, Peter Weiss, Elizabeth Landis, William Johnston, Elombe Brath.

Staff: Jennifer Davis, Richard Knight, Gail Hovey

Apologies from Edward May, Gay McDougall, Marshall Brown, Richard Lapchick.

The meeting was called to order at 6:17. The minutes of the meeting of Dec. 17th were read and approved as corrected.

Jean Sindab was welcomed with applause as a new board member.

DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA

I. Mozambique

Stephanie Urdang gave a report on Mozambique where she has spent about seven months over the last year and a half.

1. The Mozambique Resistance Movement which is funded by South Africa increased its activity while she was there, blowing up bridges and attacking villages. This puts new and great strain on the people and government.
2. There was a paralysis epidemic, caused by eating unprocessed manioc. Women and children were more affected than men-- women take greater care of food preparation for the men than they do for themselves. There has been drought followed by flooding-- the ecological situation is fragile.
3. President Machel gave a major policy speech against corruption and illegality within the security forces in the army. This was an extremely impressive statement that encouraged people and built support for Machel and the party.
The most serious problem is agricultural with an on-going debate between the development of state farms or basic family agriculture. The choice has been for the former which are not doing well. But so much has been invested in them that it is hard to give up.

II. Namibia

Betsy Landis gave a report on the ongoing negotiations, explaining the three phases. Phase one is to agree on constitutional principles, phase two is to deal with all the other problems of elections and phase three is to carryout the actual elections. In a word, the

negotiations are going nowhere. She feels that only proportional representation in the voting will work, that single member constituency voting is very open to rigging and it would be South African authorities who would set up the constituencies.

South Africa is still building bases in the north. There have been reports indicating significant oil finds in southern Ovamboland, with one American oil-man, Rosenblatt, claiming that the Etosha oil fields are the second largest oil fields in the world, second only to Saudi Arabia. If this is true South Africa clearly will not give up Namibia.

The recent incursion into Angola that was reported as an attack on SWAPO and then as an attack on a SWAPO Refugee camp was actually an attack on an Angolan refugee camp. The war has become a war of attrition against Angola. Destroy Angola and SWAPO will be destroyed.

The drought is the worst in this century.

There has been a split in the DTA. Peter Kalangula has left saying that the rules of the DTA were too ethnic, integration too superficial. Is this some indication that South Africa is trying to promote the idea of a larger Ovamboland, including both northern Namibia and southern Angola with Kalangula (or Savimbi) as its head?

Both the U.S. and S.A. know what they ultimately want from Namibia but neither seems to have a clear strategy of how to get it.

New Commissioner for Namibia will be Ambassador Mishra of India.

REPORTS

1. Two Weeks of Action

Josh Nessen reported on the events in New York which began with a forum, Saturday the 20th, and which will end with a demonstration and rally April 3rd at Columbia University. The March 20th meeting was attended by about 200 people and was addressed by the ANC, SWAPO, Dennis Brutus, Adeyemi Bendele of the Black United Front and Dumisani Kumalo. There will be ten events in New York. ACOA is sponsoring a SWAPO tour of the North East and an ANC tour of the Midwest as well as a visit to Southern California by Lucia Hamutenya of SWAPO for three days.

2. Southern Africa Sunday

Gail Hovey reported that since the anniversary of Sharpeville fell on a Sunday this year, it was decided to get as many churches as possible to mark the day in their regular worship services. Eighteen prominent clergy in the city endorsed the event at a press conference. Materials were distributed, most effectively through denominational networks, services were also carried over two radio stations. With little time to prepare a lot of interest was shown and a much

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greater number of churches could be reached with earlier planning.

3. African Liberation Day

Bill Booth reported that the Special Committee for African Liberation Day has set May 22nd as the day to mark here in New York at or near the United Nations. It was moved, seconded and passed that ACOA would cooperate with this event.

4. Legislative and Divestment Campaigns

Jennifer Davis reported on the progress in the campaigns. There had been a meeting of the coalition working on this earlier in the day where it was reported that at least 15 states are dealing with some form of divestment legislation. ACOA is continuing to play a major role in these campaigns.

Jennifer also reported on the recent victory at Harvard University. In 1980, Harvard voted to sell bank holdings in banks that loaned to South Africa, an action that resulted in the sale of \$51 million of holdings in Citibank. Harvard then said that it was reconsidering its position because of the "socially responsible nature of some loans." ACOA put alot of energy into getting information to the key people and the effort was successful as Harvard has reaffirmed its original decision. This is especially gratifying since both Citibank and the South African consulate people were very sure they would win.

Tim Smith reported that Columbia University has been quietly divesting itself of its stock and no longer holds Citibank stock. They have a policy of holding only "Number One" Sullivan companies. New York University won't even say what they own.

It was suggested that a high level delegation from ACOA to Brademas (of NYU) would be very useful.

5. Refugees in US

In answer to a question it was reported that Dennis Brutus's case is still pending. The Center for Constitutional Rights is getting into the case and will pursue the angle of the links between the CIA and BOSS.

Bill Johnston reported on another refugee situation, a family from Namibia in Nebraska, the man is a former SWAPO member. The Hatutale's are being threatened with deportation.

6. Washington

Jean Sindab reported on the Denton Committee Hearings, the Senate subcommittee on Security and Terrorism. Crocker testified today. The aim of the hearings are to discover the links between the ANC and SWAPO and the Communist Party, the extent to which cadre were

were trained in East Germany and the Soviet Union, the extent to which SWAPO and the ANC have penetrated the U.S. media and who their domestic support groups are. There will be five days of hearings and it was agreed that the best policy was to do nothing to give them more publicity.

Jean also reported on the hearings related to the appointment of Nickel as the next U.S. Ambassador to South Africa. She testified as did Willis Logan of the National Council of Churches, in opposition, but it is clear that he will be appointed.

7. Archives

Bill Booth, Tilden LeMelle and Peter Weiss were appointed to a subcommittee which would also include Africa Fund Trustees, to help make the decisions about where the archives should be housed.

8. Publications

Richard Knight reported on recent publications: Questions and Answers on Divestment is already out. A study of the black trade unions in South Africa is at the printer. It was circulated in draft form to the UAW and others who were enthusiastic. The Case Study of Connecticut, Legislative Action Against Apartheid... is also at the printers.

Another major study being done is a report on the extent of investment in the U.S. by South African giant Anglo American Corporation. Ruth Kaplan has done the work on this. We are working on how to publicize the report, with contacts at the United Nations and the Washington Post.

9. Material Aid

\$15,000 worth of ampicillin has been sent to SWAPO.

In cooperation with a group in Minneapolis who collected the materials, \$80,000 worth of medical equipment will be sent to SWAPO in Angola.

10. General

A. ACOA has been asked to join a case as a plaintiff in the challenge to the constitutionality of an executive order that authorizes warrantless surveillance. The Center for Constitutional Rights is looking for plaintiffs who would be prime targets of this surveillance. The Episcopal Church and the African National Church for South Africa have joined the case. The board voted unanimously to join as a plaintiff.

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FINANCES

Paul Irish reviewed the year end ACOA report, and the report for the first 2 months of 82. The year end appeal did better than usual. It was suggested that the fund raising event be done annually and that plans for such an event need to be begun very soon.

The ACOA house list is being built up. The initial response has been good, but the best lists were used first. A total of 50,000 pieces will be mailed. The report was accepted by the board.

The Committee appointed to administer the Special Reserve Fund requested permission to make a payment of \$20,000 to George Houser.

GENERAL

Elombe Brath reported on the work being done on a Cultural Boycott against South Africa. In addition to boycotting entertainers who do perform there, it was suggested that those who refuse to go, often at significant financial loss, should be honored. These people could be honored at a fund raising event.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The board cast paper ballots to elect the following board members:

William Booth
Elombe Brath
Isabel Cintron-
Jerry Herman
Moe Foner
Dorothy Hibbert
Gay McDougall
David Lampe
Tilden LeMelle
Edgar Lockwood
Marvin Rich
John Christensen
Jennifer Garvey

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The National Committee is to be reconstituted. It was suggested that George Houser be added to the list. Other suggestions should be given to the nominating committee.

The Trustees of The Africa Fund are appointed by the board of the ACOA. The following trustees were appointed:

Frank C. Montero
John L. S. Holloman
Marvin Rich
Isaac Bivens
Robert Boehm
Wesley Hotchkiss
Sophia Yarnall Jacobs
William R. Landis
Tilden LeMelle
Andrew Norman
Robert Potter
Robert Stover
Peter Weiss
George Houser