

Steering Committee Minutes, November 16, 1971

Present: Robert Browne, Elizabeth Landis, Andrew Norman, Tim Smith, Frederick Schwarz, Robert Van Lierop.

Staff: George Houser, Karen Whitmore.

1. Robert Van Lierop was welcomed back from his recent trip to the liberated areas of Mozambique. It was agreed that we should plan an evening with Bob and that it should be publicized as widely as possible among ACOA people in the metropolitan area, among interested organizations and the press, etc. The suggested date was Thursday, December 9. A place will be sought, suggestions being the UN Church Center or a larger place somewhere uptown. Tim Smith offered the off-set printing facilities he has at his disposal for a leaflet announcement.

2. George Houser reported on the research done by law students under Joel Carlson's guidance, of possible legal action to prohibit chrome from coming into the U.S. in spite of the bill recently passed by Congress. The result of the research is discouraging. However the paper prepared by the law students will be passed on to a few more law ers for their judgement and advice.

The possibility of a demonstration if we know when the first load of chrome may be coming into the U.S. was considered briefly. No commitment was made on the desirability of such a demonstration until we know more about the place and date of such a shipment coming in and what resources there would be to put on an effective demonstration.

3. It was reported that a biographer of Muhammad Ali, Mr. Richard Durham of Chicago, had been in touch with ACOA regarding a possible trip by Ali to South Africa. He was anxious to talk with us about various aspects of this. It was agreed that we ought to follow up on this. Bob Browne will try to join George Houser in meeting with Richard Durham when he is in New York sometime soon.

4. It was reported that Charles Hightower has resigned as the Washington Director of ACOA to be effective no later than the end of this current year. The Steering Committee agreed that it was very important to continue the Washington office and that we should keep our eyes open for a possible replacement. It was reported that we have a lease on the present office in Washington through January, 1972 and that we have some equipment in the office. New office space will have to be found in any event because the government is taking over the whole building where the present office is located at 711 14th Street, N.W.

It was agreed that George Houser should immediately begin discussions with some of the church groups which have helped to finance the office to see what the possibilities are for continued grants for this work or possibly setting it up on some kind of joint basis with the churches and other organizations. Finances are the key to what can be done. Reports on these discussions will be made to the next Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee proposed the 15th of December as the termination date for Charles Hightower. Before this date, George Houser should spend a day in Washington with Charles going over all matters which will need to be followed up on.