

F- #1

American Committee on Africa
Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 11, 1972

Present: William Booth, Robert Browne, Elsie Carrington, Winnifred Courtney, George Daniels, Dorothy Hibbert, Janet Hooper, Jay Jacobson, William Johnston, Farrell Jones, Elizabeth Landis, Tilden LeMelle, Edgar Lockwood, Gail Morlan, Collin Gonze (for Herman Rehban), David Robinson, Timothy Smith.

Staff: George Houser, Jennifer Davis, Richard Leonard, Douglas Wacholtz (summer legal research project for The Africa Fund).

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. with President William Booth as Chairman.

1. The minutes of the May 4 Executive Board meeting were approved.

2. Staff Items

a) George Houser reported briefly that since he had been away, there had not been any action to fill staff positions. Edgar Lockwood has been acting on an interim basis in Washington for ACOA. The position of a projects organizer in New York has not been filled, although there are several applicants. The New York office will also be hiring a new secretary.

3. Washington Report

Edgar Lockwood reported on developments in Washington on the legislative scene. (These items were also covered in early reports sent out to Board members.) In the Senate, the amendments sponsored by Sen. McGee to repeal the Byrd Amendment allowing imports from Rhodesia were defeated. Also in the Senate, Sen. Case was successful in passing an amendment to block funds for the Azores Pact with Portugal pending its submission for the advice and consent of the Senate, but the Export-Import Bank credits for Portugal provided for in the Pact were allowed to remain.

Edgar Lockwood reported that he had testified before the House Subcommittee on International Organizations and Movements (Rep. Donald Fraser, Chairman) on the U.N. sanctions against Rhodesia. He also reported that Rep. Diggs will be holding hearings on Namibia in the House Subcommittee on Africa in September.

On Washington office space, he reported that there is possible space in 110 Maryland Avenue, a convenient building; in another building in the area; or with the UAW, more towards the center of Washington. It was agreed

that he should continue to try to line up space, contingent on approval of George Houser and the other groups participating in setting up the office. George Daniels pointed out the need to get a longterm commitment for funding the Washington Office - for at least three to five years. George Houser agreed with this, but said that there has been some difficulty in getting together the individuals supporting the office to agree on an initial commitment. He also said that the longer-term commitment can be secured more readily if we have a good person lined up for the job of Washington representative.

On the court injunction filed to stop the imports from Rhodesia, Ted Lockwood reported that the appeal had been denied because of lack of standing and because the judge declared that it was a political issue for the Congress to handle. Joel Carlson is taking action to file an emergency appeal.

Dick Leonard introduced Douglas Wachholz, who has been hired to work on a legal research project for the summer for The Africa Fund in cooperation with the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ. Doug briefly described the focus of his work: the U. S. law which prohibits the import of goods produced by forced labor. He has already presented Congressional testimony on the applicability of this law to South African imports and will be concentrating on preparing the case for legal action.

It was also reported that Bishop Auala from Namibia is now in the U. S. traveling under the auspices of the State Dept. and the AAI. Also in the U. S. is Mrs. Marge Schmidt, Secretary to Bishop Colin Winter in Namibia before his expulsion.

4. Finance Report

Ben Peterson was not present, but George Houser summarized his report and copies were distributed to the Board. The six-month figures have not yet been completed by the bookkeeper and will have to be gone over in a Finance Committee meeting. The preliminary summary shows income to June 30 at \$82,946.81 compared to \$73,583.94 for the same time last year. Expenses for the period have not yet been tabulated.

5. Report by George Houser on his Trip to Africa

George reported that he has not had time to prepare a complete summary of his trip since his return. He attended the conference on Namibia organized by SWAPO in Brussels, then stopped in London to meet groups and individuals there before going to the Organization of African Unity meeting in Rabat, Morocco. From there he went to Kinshasa, where he attempted to use the U. N. visa for Namibia. His other stops were Lusaka, Dar es Salaam, and Nairobi.

He summarized the events in Kinshasa culminating with Pan-Am's refusal to allow him to board the plane for Johannesburg under threat of reprisals by the South African government. Copies of his letter to the Pan-Am repre-

sentative in Kinshasa have been sent to the Board. The possibility of legal action against Pan-Am is under investigation.

George mentioned the surprising meeting held between Dr. Agostinho Neto of the MPLA, Holden Roberto of GRAE and the President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and President Ngouabi of the Congo which resulted in discussion of unity. There have been no details released on what this will mean concretely, although it seems to have been spurred by the OAU to encourage unity. (He also said that Dr. Neto had expressed interest in arranging a trip to the U.S.)

George said that he felt there is need for reevaluation of the situation in Zimbabwe, and South Africa, where the activities of the liberation groups seemed confined mainly to the exterior and where there are now new groups and actions taking place internally.

He said that he had arrived in Dar es Salaam just in time for the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of FRELIMO. He was able to visit the Bagamoyo School, which will be expanded by more than 250 students by next year, and his general impression from the visit and from discussions was very positive concerning FRELIMO's progress.

George also mentioned visits that he had with President Kaunda of Zambia and President Nyerere of Tanzania. He said that President Nyerere had expressed deep interest in the disengagement issue and had asked for background materials on activities of U. S. corporations in southern Africa, so that he could have resource material for statements at appropriate times.

George Daniels said that he felt that it is important that the Board have a full discussion of some of the political questions relating to southern Africa and Africa as a whole as well as the role of the U. S. in Africa. There was agreement that such a discussion could be useful, but no date was set.

6. Other Items

a) The 1972 Elections: Dick Leonard reported that an ACOA position paper had been sent out to active groups after being worked on by a group appointed by the Board at the last meeting (Janet Hooper, Elizabeth Landis, Timothy Smith). Board members were urged to send in any comments or suggestions before the paper is sent out for signatures. In the 1968 campaign year, the ACOA position paper was sent out in the fall in brochure form, with the names of endorsers. Dorothy Hibbert suggested that an ACOA delegation plan to meet with Sen. McGovern or one of his foreign policy aides on his Southern Africa policy. It was agreed to try and arrange this.

b) South African Advertising: Dick Leonard reported that the New York Times had not responded to the ACOA letter prepared by Peter Connell of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law outlining our

position on the legal issues on South African advertising. The New York City Human Rights Commission has already initiated action against travel agencies placing ads for South Africa. It was agreed that pending any new word from the Times or any results from Peter Weiss' bringing the issue to the attention of acquaintances on the Times, ACOA should go ahead with a complaint against the Times.

c) Angolan Coffee: Jennifer Davis gave a brief report on the progress of Africa Fund research on imports of Angolan coffee into the U. S. A Barnard College work-study student, Zemoria Rosemond, is now helping with the research. The importers of Angolan coffee have now been identified, but the exact rundown of coffee makers using the Angolan coffee has not been established. It is hoped that a preliminary report can be sent out to interested groups soon so that the possibilities of implementing a boycott can be considered.

d) Namibia: Edgar Lockwood reported briefly on the legal investigations now being made concerning U. S. corporations operating in Namibia which pay taxes to the illegal South Africa authorities there and claim credits for these here in the U. S.

William Booth said that he hoped that it would be possible to follow up on seeing if a visit to the U.S., by Chief Clement Kapuuo, could be arranged. It was noted that Bishop Auala is now traveling in the U. S.

It was also noted that the important issue of the U.N. presence in Namibia was still up in the air, with no official report having been made by Secretary General Waldheim.

It was also noted that the U. S. position on the powers of the Council for Namibia has weakened. The State Dept. stated that it does not recognize the authority of the Council to grant visas for Namibia and does not recognize the authority of the Council to call U.S. corporations to testify about their operations inside Namibia.

e) Rhodesia: Henry Lieberg circulated a report on the arrival of a shipment of nickel from Rhodesia in Baltimore. Despite the failure to repeal the Byrd amendment, there is still word that the Longshoremen are maintaining their policy of honoring the U. N. embargo on Rhodesian goods. The ACOA is also attempting to keep the U. N. informed about U. S. violation of the sanctions.

f) William Booth reported on his testimony at the U.N. Special Committee on Apartheid on South Africa Freedom Day, June 26. He said that he hoped that ACOA could work to be more of an "African Committee on America", in the sense of being an organization where Africans feel that issues that are important to them can be publicized accurately in the U. S. (There was agreement that it would be good to see about arranging a meeting with representatives from the African states and

liberation movements to discuss how ACOA can work better in this area.) It was also mentioned that one important matter that ACOA might work on is helping to push for diplomatic status in the U. S. for the Organization of African Unity.

It was agreed that Jay Jacobson, William Booth and George Daniels would serve as a committee to initiate contacts with the OAU office and African representatives on this matter.

g) George Daniels announced that the Methodist Board of Missions is setting up an African News Service for the Black press in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m. at the ACOA office.