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American Committee on Africa
154 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10016

September 6, 1973

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 20th, 1973

Present: William Booth, Elsie Carrington, Les Campbell Gregory Harris, Dorothy Hibbert, Janet Hooper, Jay Jacobson, Elizabeth Landis, Tilden LeMelle, Edgar Lockwood, Andrew Norman, David Robinson.

Staff: Richard Leonard, Marvin Rich

I. Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President William H. Booth at 6:20 p.m. The meeting was chaired by President Booth. The minutes of the meeting of March 15, 1973 were approved as distributed.

II. Brief Reports:

a. Staff Report: Dick Leonard reported that a number of staff members were out on vacation and that Executive Director George Houser is in Africa on a fact finding trip for the completion of his manuscript on the liberation movements in southern Africa, as noted at the March 22, 1973 Board meeting. He will return in early August. Janet Hooper will be assisting in the office several afternoons a week, as her schedule permits, during George's absence.

b. Finance Report: Dick Leonard summarized the figures that had been prepared for the Steering Committee meeting on May 30 for the January through April period. A.C.O.A. income was \$58,708.80 and expenses were \$49,737.35. It was noted that the balance of \$8,971.45 did represent some funds earmarked for the Washington Office on Africa and that the balance would decline during the summer months when there are fewer contributions coming in.

Marvin Rich reported that there were several mailings in the works to outside lists, designed to increase the ACOA membership and income from contributions.

c. National Committee: This spring the Executive Board took action on inviting a number of individuals to join the ACOA National Committee. A summary of the responses was passed out to the Board. Those agreeing to join the National Committee included: Dr. John Holloman, Rep. Louis Stokes, Rep. Charles Rangel, Hugh Smythe, Arthur Ashe, Rev. Ledlie Laughlin, Frederick O'Neal, Wyatt Tee Walker, Jim Bouton and Stan Wright. There was unanimous Board approval of the new National Committee appointments.

d. Chicago Report: Copies of a report on the Chicago literature center for the spring by Eileen Hanson were passed out to Board members. Activities in recent months included several conferences, contact with several Young World Development Groups, as well as other organizations in the Chicago area. The financial summary for April through June, 1973 period shows \$828.63 income received as ACOA stipend and \$763.00 in expenses, leaving a balance for the period of \$65.63. It was agreed that the question of funding for the Chicago Literature Center would be discussed at the next Board meeting.

III. Twentieth Anniversary Boat Ride:

Jay Jacobson reported that the tickets and invitations for the Midsummers Night Cruise (on Tuesday, July 17) in celebration of ACOA's twentieth anniversary were not yet completed, but that they would be distributed to Board members directly as soon as possible, hopefully by the end of next week. The ticket prices are to be \$8.00 per single and \$15.00 per couple. Board members are asked to be responsible for the sale of twenty tickets each. The musical entertainment is being arranged by Ray Gould, who was unable to be at the meeting, but who will be coordinating with Jay on this.

IV. Campaign to Restore Sanctions Against Rhodesia:

a. William Booth reported briefly on a demonstration that he attended and spoke at in Baltimore, July 9th, called to protest the latest arrival of materials from Rhodesia, in violation of United Nations sanctions. There was support from Rep. Parrin Mitchell, as well as the African Liberation Support Committee from Washington. Longshoremen at the dock had started to unload Rhodesian cargo, but agreed to stop when informed of the protests and union policy of honoring the U.N. Sanctions against Rhodesia. There was local T.V. coverage of the demonstration.

b. Washington Office Report: Ted Lockwood reported on the status of the campaign to restate U.S. sanctions against Rhodesia. There has been a grant of \$24,000.00 arranged for the campaign to cover the costs of expanding the staff for a four month period. Staff work will include lobbying efforts in Washington and constituency work in key states and districts. Ted reported that they are working to develop a working coalition of groups with national offices in Washington, including church, student, labor and black organizations. There is a basic brochure, for the campaign, "The High Cost of Breaking Sanctions" and other material is being developed.

There is no specific action by the Board on the campaign called for at this time, but Board members were urged to be as active as possible in the campaign in their local areas over the coming months. Ted reported that the legislation to restore sanctions (Bill S.1868 in the Senate and Bill H.R. 8005 in the House of Representatives) could reach a vote in the Senate by the end of July and in the House in September.

c. New York Area Report: Dick Leonard gave a brief report on the work planned by the ACOA office in the New York area for the campaign. The work will focus on gaining support for the legislation in four key Congressional districts, as well as in Connecticut for Senator Weicker. In addition, the ACOA mid-year fund raising mailing will be oriented to the campaign and will contain a "Call to Congress" for individual and organizational endorsements.

V. The Liberation Movements:

a. Guinea-Bissau: The Declaration of an independent state.

Janet Hooper reported on the work, of the Committee to Support the Independence of Guine, being organized by Robert Maurer and supported by ACOA. The Committee is designed to generate publicity about and support for the coming declaration of independence from Portuguese rule by the National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau expected to be announced before the end of this year. At this point a letter from William Booth is being sent to prominent Americans asking for their endorsement. The Board has endorsed this effort (at the March 22, 1973 meeting).

b. Visiting Representatives: Dick Leonard reported that there had been several representatives from liberation movements in New York and that ACOA staff and some Board members had been able to meet with them. Representatives included Simpson Mtambanengwe of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), Silvino da Luz of the P.A.I.G.C., Manuel Jorge of MPLA (Peoples Movement for the Liberation of Angola) and Jorge Rebello of FRELIMO. Also recently returned to New York is Sharfudine Khan, representative of FRELIMO.

c. Report of the Oslo Conference on Southern Africa.

Elizabeth Landis reported on the United Nations Conference on southern Africa held in Oslo, Norway in April. The conference included representatives of the liberation movements, Governmental representatives, the O.A.U., staff from the United Nations and international experts. Not represented were national organizations working to support the liberation struggle. Elizabeth Landis attended as an expert on Namibia. She felt that generally the conference was useful in focusing attention on the status of the struggle in southern Africa, and in highlighting the position of the liberation movements as legitimate spokesmen for the peoples of their countries. There were no particularly new strategies developed during the conference.

VI. Corporate Actions:

a. Documents Reveal Bank Loans to South Africa.

Tim Smith reported documents from the European American Banking Corporation of New York has been made available to individuals from ACOA, the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ, the Southern Africa Committee, and the Africa Information Service detailing more than \$215. million in loans made to the South African government over the past two years involving the participation of a number of smaller U.S. banks. An ACOA press release was sent out on June 11 (copies were distributed to Board members). The Board agreed that follow up action should be taken on the issue to contact local groups in areas where banks participating in the loans are located to call for an end to this direct support of apartheid.

b. Church Corporate Campaign: Tim Smith gave a brief report on the spring campaign of the Interfaith Committee on Social Responsibility in Investments which included shareholder resolutions filed with ten corporations on their southern Africa operations. ACOA cooperated with the campaign in preparing an insert for a packet that was sent to some 700 college student body officers on the campaign. A full report on the campaign has not yet been completed.

c. Gulf Oil.

Dick Leonard reported on Gulf Oil Boycott activity. There are now two organizations working on Gulf Boycott activities on a national level: the Pan African Liberation Committee (PALC) in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Gulf Boycott Coalition in Dayton, Ohio. The PALC campaign is focused in Black communities and they have two large posters that have been distributed widely for public display. Both groups are making efforts to establish locally based groups in selected areas to promote boycott activities. ACOA has a new fact sheet on Gulf Oil in Angola in the works which will be available soon.

Les Campbell noted that the corporate campaigns, especially the Gulf Boycott were making an important impact in the Black communities and that it is important for all groups to publicize the issues as widely as possible among civic and church organizations.

VII. The New York Times Case:

William Booth reported that a hearing on the complaint against the New York Times filed by ACOA, the African Heritage Studies Association and One Hundred Black Men with the New York City Commission on Human Rights on the Times publishing of employment advertisements for South Africa has been held at the Commission on June 6th. However the substance of the issue was not covered: the Times moved to have the case dismissed on jurisdictional and first amendment grounds. The Commissioners ruled that the Commission has jurisdiction and that the first amendment protection is not germane in matters involving commercial advertising. The next hearing is to be scheduled for September.

VIII. The next Board meeting was scheduled for September 19th, 1973 at 6:00 p.m. at the ACOA office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.