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The Africa Fund
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April 24, 1980

Minutes, Africa Fund Trustees Meeting

Present: Frank C. Montero, presiding; Jan van Hoogstraten, Sophia Yarnall Jacobs; Lionel Rogosin; Robert Potter; Peter Weiss; Robert Boehm; William Landis; Robert Stover; Andrew Norman; Marvin Rich

Staff: George M. Houser, Paul D. Irish, Jennifer Davis, Richard Knight, Alexander Boyer

1. The meeting was opened shortly after 4.00 p.m. at the conference room, 666 Fifth Ave. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as received.
2. George Houser reviewed highlights of his executive secretary's report to the Trustees which was received in advance of the meetings and the work of the Fund in the areas of refugee assistance, research and publication, and emergency assistance. Paul Irish added information about 1980 shipments including new medicines received and planned shipment of \$50,000 in medical equipment for Mozambique.
3. Richard Knight reported on publications planned, including a major pamphlet on using films to motivate groups to consider the issue of investments.

George Houser commented on the number of interns working with our program this year, contributing to the accomplishments of the staff and helping reduce costs. Many of the interns have the advantage of federal work study funds with the Africa Fund assuming only 20% of the cost.
4. Marvin Rich reported on three month figures for 1980, noting that we entered the year having reduced a deficit of almost \$19,000 down to about \$5,000. Income and expense for the quarter were about even at around \$54,000. Some other expense for mailings to outside lists, totaling about 50,000 would be offset by income which has not yet come in. (3 month report attached)
5. George Houser reported on the project of sending a non-governmental team of Americans to observe the recent elections in Zimbabwe. Representatives of the Washington Office on Africa, TransAfrica and Howard University joined George Houser and trustee Tilden LeVelle. The project was made possible with a grant from the Rubin Foundation and special contributions. The group's report and George's personal report were sent to the Trustees. He reported that the atmosphere leading up to the elections was very intimidating, (particularly given the size and number of arms of the Rhodesian security forces). He described the steps leading to the overwhelming victory of ZANU-PF and its partner Nkomo's PF, as miraculous, beginning with the Lancaster House discussions. Peter Weiss described the exciting scene at the independence celebrations, and the potential of the new government to influence change in the region. Questions, answers and comments ensued on the importance of these events.
6. William Landis reported on a discussion with Marvin Rich, George Houser and Paul Irish concerning an application to become a public foundation. He noted some of the advantages and drawbacks. The advantages include easing of "expenditure control" requirements for contributions received from foundations and relief of personal trustee liability, as well as a possible election to devote a portion of expenses to lobbying. The liabilities include the burden of preparing documentation and length of time before final approval is received. The process takes five years. After discussion the officers were authorized to proceed with a letter indicating our intention to change status.
7. George Houser reported that Jan van Hoogstraten would be moving to Germany in his work and must resign from the board. Deep appreciation for his contributions and advice over the years was expressed, and he expressed his regrets in losing his associations with the organization. His resignation was accepted with regret and thanks. George Houser also introduced Sandy Boyer who was joining the staff to assist with fund-raising.
8. The present slate of officers was renominated and re-elected unanimously on motion of Mrs. Jacobs: Frank Montero, Chairman; John L.S. Holloman; Vice-Chairman; Marvin Rich; Treasurer; and George Houser; Secretary.