

January 26, 1987

TO: Members of the ACAS Steering Committee and Board

FROM: David Groff

RE: Minutes of the Executive Committee Teleconference of 1/18/87.

Participants: W. Johnson, A. Seidman, B. Minter, B. Derman, C. Root,
C. Thompson, E. Ferguson, C. Goucher and D. Groff

1. ACAS Letter to South African Government Protesting the Detention of
NECC Leaders (B. Derman and C. Root)

During the recent conference on American educational programs for black South Africans held at MSU, participants were asked to protest recent detentions of NECC leaders. Chris read the draft of an ACAS letter she and Bill had prepared to send to the South African government. After some discussion, the scope of the letter was broadened to include call for an end to torture and for negotiations between the government and authentic black leaders as a step toward ending the present crisis.

Participants decided that ACAS should make an effort to get more colleges and universities to join in the protest. In particular, institutions that have entered into educational exchanges with South Africa should be prevailed upon to protest the government's recent actions against black educational leaders. To this end a letter will be sent to the presidents of the approximately 100 institutions involved in such exchanges. ACAS members at these institutions will be urged to press for action.

It was agreed that the ACAS letter should bear the signatures of the Executive Committee members participating in the teleconference.

2. The African Peace Tour (A. Seidman)

Each spring for the past few years the Maryknoll Order has sponsored an African Peace Tour in the United States. Teams of speakers from ACOA, WDA, AFSC, Transafrica and other groups have traveled around the country disseminating information on the crisis in southern Africa and stimulating public discussion of southern African issues. This year's tour will take place from April 6 through May 2 and will visit Mississippi, Alabama, North and South Carolina and Florida. Its major emphasis will be on growing American military involvement in southern Africa and Africa more generally. ACAS members in the areas visited by the team are urged to help to arrange public meetings and media exposure. For further information, contact Nick Mottern of Maryknoll at 914-941-7590.

3. The Research Committee (A. Seidman)

Ann reported that she had begun receiving replies to the ACAS questionnaire on members' policy-oriented research interests. So far agriculture and education are the areas of member interest.

An ANC sponsored conference on post-liberation education in South Africa will take place later this spring. ACAS will cooperate.

A book based on the recent ACAS sponsored conference on agriculture in southern Africa will also appear later this spring.

Efforts are under way to organize a workshop on the implementation of sanctions.

4. The TIAA-CREF Campaign (C. Root)

TIAA-CREF recently informed Jim Breedon that it does not consider the recent IBM and GM withdrawals adequate and will press ahead with its stockholder actions. At present further initiatives in the campaign await the outcome of these actions. The larger issue of the campaign as for the anti-apartheid movement in general is how to define corporate involvement in South Africa. A related issue concerns worker participation in South African industry. Bill Minter reported that ACOA, Transafrica, AFSC and WDA have drawn up a joint statement defining disinvestment and will make it public shortly. A copy will be published in the next newsletter.

5. The ACAS Bulletin (Bill Derman)

The next newsletter will appear around the beginning of February.
The deadline for submissions is January 26.

After some discussion it was agreed that our publication should henceforth be called a "bulletin" rather than a newsletter. This new designation is more consistent with the ac content.

It was agreed that an article on the human rights situation in Liberia should be published in the February Bulletin as a means of countering Secretary of State Schultz's recent statements on the subject. Possible sources on information include the Lawyers' Committee on Human Rights.

Carole Thompson will send out copies of a recent article on loopholes in sanctions legislation permitting the continued importation of ten minerals from South Africa.

Ed Ferguson asked if a notice on Prexy Nesbitt's recent monograph, "Apartheid in our Living Rooms" will be included in next edition. Willard Johnson suggest that a similar notice for Bill Minter's King Solomon's Mines Revisited should also be published. It was agreed that both notices should be included in keeping with ACAS's long-standing policy of publicizing relevant publications at no charge.

6. Membership(E. Ferguson)

The new brochures and letterhead will be ready on January 21.

7. Treasurer's Report(C. Goucher)

The balance in the ACAS account at the beginning of 1987 was \$1544.75. Subsequent \$297.50 in members' dues were deposited and \$633.37 paid out to meet expenses. The current balance is \$1208.88.

Respectfully submitted,



David Groff
Executive Secretary