



*Bill, Good to see you again. I plan to be in DC for a Meskya-
terian Peacekeeping Conf in late
January, Henry*
ASSOCIATION OF CONCERNED AFRICA SCHOLARS

Executive Board

Co-Chairs:

Willard R. Johnson (MIT)
Immanuel Wallerstein
(SUNY-Binghamton)

NOVEMBER 3, 1984

MINUTES OF FOUR MEETINGS OF ACAS DURING ASA, 1984

- I. Organizing/Recruiting, 10/24, 8:00 PM
- II. Steering Committee, 10/25, 7:00 PM, page 2
- III. Business Meeting, 10/27, 4:30 PM, page 2
- IV. Executive Meeting, 10/27, 5:30 PM, page 3

Executive Secretary

Henry Bucher
223 West Oak Street
Cottage Grove, WI 53527
(608) 839-4267

Treasurer-Membership

Marylee Crofts
P.O. Box 791
East Lansing, MI 48823

Treasurer/Membership:

Marylee Crofts
(MSU-East Lansing)

Clerk:

Robert C. Johnson, Jr.
(Bentley College, Waltham)

Editor, Newsletter:

Ned Alpers (UCLA)

Committee Chairs:

Research, Ann Seidman
(Boston, MA)
Political Education, Chris Root
(Washington, DC)

Members:

Allan D. Cooper
(St. Augustine's College)
Robert Cummings (Howard)
Jennifer Davis (American Committee
on Africa-NY)
Patricia Lee Farris (CLSA-Boston)
Allan Isaacman (U. Minnesota)
Maghan Keita (NCCC-New York)
William Minter (Washington, DC)
James Mittelman (U. Denver)
Joel Samoff (Stanford)
Bereket Habte Selassie (Howard)
Jean Sindab (Washington Office
on Africa)
Teresa Smith (Columbia)
Carol Thompson (USC-LA)
James A. Turner (Cornell)
David Wiley (MSU-East Lansing)

I. Organizing/Recruiting, Wednesday PM, 10/24

Of some seventy in attendance, fifty-three signed the sheet being passed around as people filed in and out this first night. Ned Alpers chaired and began with some background on ACAS, our accomplishments, the need for new members, and the newsletter. All were given a chance to introduce themselves. We passed the one-sheet flyer listing all the ACAS-sponsored panels for the ASA meeting, and Allen I. noted that the extra Ferrão discussion had been added. Bud Day called for volunteers to help staff the literature tables.

Chris Root reported on Political action noting that little change has taken place on US policy in southern Africa—not even in Namibia. "Constructive Engagement" has been a failure and repression has increased. However, ACAS has focused on Congress with some success in divestment activities. The Export Administration Act was not passed in Congress, but House did pass several resolutions including the prohibition of new investments. A ban on bank loans to the So. African government was agreed to by senators on the committee, but no action taken. The Senate did give Mandela honorary citizenship and ask that he be released from jail in South Africa. There are seven new divestment bills at state and local levels, and ACAS members will have to be aware of this and act where they live and think strategically.

The five projects taken on last year in Boston were summarized:

- (1) Soliciting support for Wolpe in Michigan. The letter from past presidents of ASA did go out as well as a joint letter from Willard J. & Immanuel W. Other activities have been taken on the part of other senators and congresspeople who understand Africa.
- (2) Joel Samoff gave an update on the TIAA/CREFF correspondence, to which he and Dennis Cordell have addressed themselves.
- (3) Liaison with Latin Americanists, which eventuated in two panels this year at ASA. Oxfam has also kept the Africa/Latin America linkage alive.
- (4) Destabilization. The planned tribunal in DC did not take place, but much activity on the destabilization has happened.
- (5) Impacting the Democratic platform. Some successes reported here.

Ann Seidman was not present to give her report on Research. Discussion followed open to all. Dave Wiley & Chris Root handed out the new ACAS brochures. Questions focused on the broadness on ACAS's concerns? While South Africa has been focus, the Horn is also of great concern. What about injustice in Mississippi? Does ACAS take sides? (it is anti-imperialist). Ned made a final appeal to all to raise more questions during the week's meetings and to bring suggestions for the agenda of ACAS' other meetings this week. The need to recruit was emphasized again.

II. Steering Committee, 10/25, 7:00

Thanks to Carol & Bud, the committee met in the "Leaders' Suite" including besides them: Immanuel Wallerstein(chair), Chris Root, Dave Wiley, Bill Minter, Jim Mittelman, Joel Samoff, and Ned Alpers. The evaluation of last night's open meeting was that it was well attended, but didn't turn many people on.

Planning for the Business meeting was the agenda. Agreed that Chris would begin with Political action taking five minutes for an introduction and allowing ten for discussion. Then Ann would follow the same pattern with Education/Research; Ned with the Newsletter. Immanuel would give a quick report on membership/treasury and Dave would report for the "nominating committee."

Ned was to contact Bereket about ACAS helping to publish the papers from the panel on the Horn and we thought the Central/America/Africa panel papers should also be published. Bill was to contact Bereket about next year's panels on the Horn. Agreed that we should count our ACAS membership from Sept. 1 - August 30 rather than from meeting to meeting. Discussion followed about separating the Treasurer and membership positions. Should members have a quota for bringing in new members? Ned was asked to see if Ed Ferguson would be the new membership person with Bill Bigelow as Treasurer. Henry was asked to set up a sign-up list for Business Meeting with places to check for those volunteering for committees and other aspects of ACAS. Immanuel noted that he would be in Paris from January through June. Dave was asked to moderate if neither Immanuel nor Willard were available. ACAS may still use Immanuel's signature in his absence.

Henry was asked to leave as finances were discussed. Consensus was that the Executive Secretary was doing a good job, but money would determine whether salary would be available.

III. Business Meeting, 10/27, 4:30

Having been postponed from yesterday due to conflicts, the meeting still had some conflicts with active members but twenty-four attended and signed the roster noting also their areas of interest in ACAS, (roster sent on to Ferguson/Bigelow).

Chris Root called for tying recruitment to political action on the divestment issue and urged closer contacts on the state and local level. The Wolpe campaign will be close since he has never won by more than 52% and has more opposition now from the right.. As for the TIAA/CREFF campaign, we have to find lobbyists, build support for the campaign, find allies. Questions on the POLISARIO were referred to our resident expert, Teresa Smith. Chris called for regional activities. With TIAA headquarters in New York City, pressure should be made there, as well as on local campuses. Education about South Africa should take place on every campus, in every church, trade union. Again this falls back to more members at the grass roots level, and people who do things become members of the committee promoting what they do.

Ann Seidman reported on papers and books being assembled that present a common analysis on the Africa/Central America linkage question. Specific people have been asked across the country to do papers. We need to work more closely with colleagues in Africa, and have a speakers' bureau for local education. Is it possible for us to do an analysis of just how successful we are in educating the American population? Bill Minter added that several of this year's panels should be published (Horn & Central America/Africa). Ned seconded the idea and the consensus was firmly for the idea. Dennis Brutus thanked ACAS for supporting him in his deportation hearings, asked for ACAS input in the March '85 African Literature Assoc. Conference in Northwestern; specifically the panel on African Scholars and the DIA connection. Dave Wiley was suggested. Dennis also raised serious doubts about meetings of ACAS where the DIA & CIA have such close connections. He called for more overt forms of support for liberation movements. Immanuel filled the meeting in on past discussions about avoiding infiltration.

Business Meeting, 10/27, continued

Ned Alpers reported on building up networks for news contacts across the nation and was generally very pleased with the response this past year. He still needs short articles and hopes to expand our newsletter as membership expands. Discussion on how to get the newsletter into institutions (eg. the ALA) who may not become ACAS members but would like to carry the Newsletter.

Immanuel reported for Marylee that the treasury is low but all bills have been paid for except the third newsletter. It was moved and passed that we change the membership period to September 1 - August 30. The sooner everyone pays up the better.

Lengthy discussion on when ACAS should meet. Last year's seven-hours-at-once-the-day-before was replaced this year by squeezing in one hour after ASA when we are all exhausted. Next year is from Saturday to Tuesday. To meet Wednesday is to conflict with Thanksgiving. Agreed to meet Friday, the day before. While we have had too many ACAS panels this year, all have been good. Fewer panelists might be better in the future.

Carol Thompson gave the nominating committee's report. Thanks first to Marylee Crofts for her diligent work. We accept regretfully her resignation. Ed Ferguson was nominated as the new membership development co-chair along with Bill Bigelow. Dave Groff was suggested for Treasurer. The three work closely in Oregon and would be an excellent team. Nominated from the floor was Mike Schultheis. Old board members agreed to continue (except Marylee).

Teresa Smith reported on her attempt to have ACAS involved in a closed State Department meeting on the Western Sahara (unsuccessful); and on her attempt to get her letter into the NYTimes on an article about POLISARIO (unsuccessful). She did get an ACAS member on a panel at Columbia University to discuss the Western Sahara.

Bereket reported on the excellent attendance at the panel on the Horn and commended ACAS for being an excellent catalyst on the cutting edge of progressive activity. He requested that ACAS (a) condemn North African governments for their slow response to the crisis in the Horn, and (b) condemn the cover-up of Ethiopia's government which is in a struggle with another socialist government in Eritrea. We agreed immediately on the urgency, but asked Bereket to write up his statements for formal affirmation.

Dave Wiley presented a written statement on the threatened withdrawal of the US from UNESCO. ACAS affirmed his statement (not yet in the hands of the secretary). Bud Day thanked ACAS volunteers for help at the literature tables, and invited all to refreshments in the Leaders' Suite.

IV. Executive Meeting, 10/27, 5:50 PM.

Present were: Immanuel Wallerstein, Ed Ferguson, Jean Sindab, Chris Root, Ned Alpers, Dave Wiley, Jim Mittelman, Bereket Habte Selassie, Ann Seidman, Teresa Smith, Bill Minter, and H. Bucher.

Reaffirmed that Dave would represent ACAS at the Northwestern meeting of ALA and would be in touch with Dennis Brutus. Reaffirmed that next year's meeting would be before the ASA meetings. Following the pattern of last year, we would open with a plenary (1½ hours) followed by small groups (2½ hours), a dinner break and then an open plenary.

The areas for the 1985 plenary would be: South Africa (Anne Seidman, Jean Sindab, Chris Root); The Horn (Bereket) and associated with it Famine/Refugees (Kevin Danaher); North Africa/POLISARIO (Teresa Smith). Teresa and Henry were to check with the Alternate Middle East Studies Association (AMESA) which is ACAS' counterpart. This does not preclude other issues at the plenary.

Jim Mittelman brought up the question of reaching other groups, strategic alliances, recruitment, and how to get a piece in the New York Times. There was also more discussion on the best use of the Newsletter.

Immanuel suggested that ACAS' local contact in New Orleans be Richard Tardinaco of Tulane. The contact person for all ACAS panels will be Joel Samoff. Discussion followed on what panels we would want. The most popular were:

- United States Policy in South Africa. Ann, Bill, Jean, & Chris will decide on the leadership and let Henry and Joel know.
- Oil, Gold & Diamonds: South Africa and the Middle East. Bill Minter, Chair
Stewart Schaar of AMESA (Teresa knows him) should be contacted by Bill.
- North Africa vis-a-vis: The Horn, POLISARIO, OAU, Food Crisis. Teresa Smith, Chair

Organizers of the above were asked to limit it to three panelists.

Dennis Cordell is still the contact for the TIAA/CREFF campaign. The phone committee remains made up of ACAS officers. Henry's payment question was postponed till December 15. Members not renewing in 1985 should still get the third newsletter of 1984, as will libraries. Teresa asked to use ACAS mailing list for another group. Our policy remains that this is OK if we do the mailing and they pay for it.

Again noted that Immanuel will be away January - June, 1985. Dave Wiley to serve as moderator of the executive committee if Immanuel or Willard are not available. We may still use Immanuel's signature.

These notes were finished on November 3 and will be mailed as soon as possible. Some unfinished business:

- When will the executive committee have its next teleconference?
- Was any decision ever made about Sean Gervasi's paper?

Henry Bucher