

1965  
American Committee on Africa  
211 East 43rd Street  
New York, New York 10017

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON GEORGE M. HOUSER

George Houser was born in Cleveland, the son of a Methodist minister. He lived for five years in the Philippine Islands, where his parents were missionaries, and spent his sophomore year of college as an exchange student at Lingnan University, Canton, China. He graduated from the University of Denver and later attended Union and Chicago Theological Seminaries. He was ordained a Methodist minister in 1943.

He is at present the Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa, an organization attempting to acquaint the American people with the significance of current efforts toward greater equality and self-government in Africa. He helped to found this organization in 1953 and joined its staff in 1955.

He was for ten years on the national staff of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, with special responsibilities in the field of race relations. Both with the Fellowship of Reconciliation and as the organizer and first Director of the Congress of Racial Equality, he has been responsible for setting up numerous interracial workshops in various cities across the country, and has lectured very widely.

(The First Freedom Ride)

He was the organizer of the Journey of Reconciliation, conducted in the spring of 1947 in the Upper South. In recognition of the contribution of this Journey toward ending travel segregation, he was cited for the Jefferson Day Award by the Council against Intolerance in America.

He is the author of "Erasing the Color Line" and of "Nonviolent Revolution in South Africa," and a co-author of the pamphlets, "We Challenged Jim Crow" and "South African Crisis and U.S. Policy." In addition he has written numerous articles on aspects of the African situation and on race relations.

He has traveled extensively in Europe and has made numerous fact-finding trips to Africa. On his first trip in 1954, he spent six months in Africa and has returned every year since 1957, visiting all parts of the continent on ten separate trips. In January, 1962, Mr. Houser made a trip into northern Angola where nationalists began a revolt against the Portuguese regime in March of 1961. He attended all three All African Peoples Conferences (Accra, 1958; Tunis, 1960; and Cairo, 1961) as observer for the American Committee on Africa, and in 1960, at the invitation of the Nigerian Government, attended the inauguration of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe as Governor General. He attended the founding conference of the Organization for African Unity in Addis Ababa in May, 1963. In July, 1964, he was the guest of the Government of Malawi at its independence celebrations, and again in October was a guest for independence in Zambia (Northern Rhodesia).

Mr. Houser has done considerable work at the United Nations on African problems, and is in touch with governmental and organizational leaders in all parts of the continent.