

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON SOUTH AFRICA

Memorandum from George Houser

May 11, 1965

1. After a little more than a year of existence, the Consultative Council on South Africa has, I believe, proved its worth. There are undoubtedly still a good many organizations that might affiliate with the Council. No real effort has been made for many months now to expand the affiliated groups. During the course of the last year, several meetings have been held which have been helpful to members of the Council by apprising them of issues involving South Africa and US policy at the United Nations, on urgent issues that should be dealt with, some action projects have grown out of Council meetings, and a national conference was held in Washington.

The time has undoubtedly arrived for the Council to rethink its role and purpose. I would still support the statement which was agreed upon at the time the Council was organized. In this statement, the Council sees itself primarily as a clearing house for information and action proposals. The Council has not been a separate organization, nor one which attempts to take action in its own name. Projects may grow out of Council meetings, but such projects will be sponsored by those organizations supporting them. The most important role the Council can serve is to allow those organizations concerned about South Africa to present programs they are working on and try to get as much support as possible from other concerned groups.

2. Some of the projects which the American Committee on Africa will be emphasizing in its program on South Africa in the period just ahead include:

- a. A limitation on American investments in South Africa
 - (1) we shall get the research done on a few principal American corporations involved in investments in South Africa;
 - (2) we shall appeal to organizations and individuals who are supporting any of these major corporations and banks to press for an end to their activities in South Africa;
 - (3) we shall appeal to stockholders, to raise the issue of doing business in South Africa at annual stockholders meetings;
 - (4) we shall attempt to organize public delegations to visit heads of these corporations and institutions about ending or limiting their South African activities;
 - (5) we may seek to place a full-page ad in newspapers calling for an end to investments in South Africa;
 - (6) we will press for Congressional hearings on the subject of American relations with South Africa with particular emphasis on economic ties;
 - (7) we shall press for a governmental policy limiting investments in South Africa;
 - (8) we shall try to bring public attention to the labor and racial conditions which American corporations doing extensive business in South Africa must accept in order to carry on their activities.
- (b) A continuation and expansion of our Defense and Aid Fund to give assistance to the victims of apartheid.

We are now involved in making our Fund tax exempt, thus opening the way to larger contributions to it.

- c. Research on the extent convict labor is involved in farm work in South Africa.

We shall attempt to implement an American policy of disallowing goods made by forced labor from coming into the United States.

- d. Emphasis on the importance of a governmental policy granting political asylum to opponents of South Africa's apartheid policy.
- e. Expansion of the list of signers of the Declaration of artists, writers, actors, etc. who have said they would refuse to work under conditions of apartheid as far as they possibly could avoid doing so.
- f. Continued publication of South Africa Bulletin.

We will undoubtedly expand the Bulletin and also we will extend our pamphlet literature service on South Africa by carrying an extensive supply of the best pamphlet material coming out in English that is available for all groups concerned about South Africa. Part of this will also be to get a greater supply of films dealing forthrightly with the apartheid issue. We have a print of the CBS television film, "Sabotage in South Africa," which we shall continue to make available to groups wanting to use it.

- g. Compilation of a roster of speakers prepared to speak before various kinds of groups or on radio or television about apartheid.