AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA: 
THE THIRD DECADE

During the past two decades the efforts of the African people to achieve equal rights and self-government have been remarkably successful. There are now 41 independent countries in Africa. But the years have also brought a hardened determination on the part of the remaining white minority rulers—the Portuguese, South Africans and Rhodesians—to hold on to their positions of power and privilege, at whatever cost in suffering and violence to the black populations they rule. They have frustrated and outlawed all attempts at peaceful change. They have struck back at efforts aimed at achieving freedom and independence with brutal repression, banning organizations, censoring the press and imprisoning thousands of people, often without trial, for daring to dissent.

Denied legal and constitutional means of gaining freedom, the 30 million Africans in these areas have organized liberation movements which have won control of many rural areas. These freedom movements have established de-facto governments and are building new institutions—schools, vocational training centers and hospitals—in anticipation of their ultimate independence.

Also, the African liberation movements have won the support of the United Nations and a growing number of the American people. The United States government, though, while publicly espousing support for freedom and self-determination, actually gives aid and comfort to the colonial governments in Africa in many ways. American citizens must organize to oppose these actions.

The American Committee on Africa, formed in 1953, is the oldest U.S. organization effectively and responsibly supporting African people in their heroic struggle for dignity and freedom. ACOA is a non-profit organization, with its main purposes being:

- to support policies furthering freedom, self-government and equal rights in Africa
- to support projects in Africa promoting these policies
- to interpret the meaning of African issues to the American people
- to be of assistance to African representatives and students in the U.S.

THE FULL STORY MUST BE TOLD

American policies toward the ruling, white minority governments in southern Africa amount to selling out on principle for highly questionable economic and military gains. While it is generally known that U.S. trade with these countries is expanding (in the case of Rhodesia, despite world-wide prohibition) it is not nearly well enough recognized that our nation is also providing the very tools of war to them. Skirting our own regulations about the supply of munitions to such theaters of action, the U.S. is supplying herbicides, defoliants, aircraft, and computers which strengthen the repressive capabilities of the minority governments.

ACOA in testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs has forcefully brought these covert actions of the government to the attention of the lawmakers and the public. However, if the U.S. is to avoid yet another misguided and immoral involvement overseas, the voice of the African liberation movements must be magnified many times over.
HOW ACOA WORKS

Throughout the United States . . .

ACOA works to inform Americans of the changing African scene and to mobilize American support for African independence. Using a variety of methods it:

• **Lobbies** through the Washington Office on Africa to end U.S. policies that foster colonial rule
• **Campaigns** to end American business support of the status quo
• **Publishes** factual reports, pamphlets and fact sheets on significant African issues and U.S. policy relating to Africa
• **Distributes** its own and other organizations' literature on Africa
• **Introduces** African leaders to the American public through meetings, conferences and speaking tours
• **Sues** in the courts to end practices that violate U.S. and international guarantees of basic human rights
• **Assists** representatives of liberation movements, students and other visitors from Africa in the U.S. and,
• **Publicizes** African issues through press conferences, briefing sessions and public meetings.

In Africa . . .

ACOA makes its presence felt in Africa, too. It does this by regular visits to the various countries involved and through financial and legal aid. In these ways ACOA:

• **Maintains Channels of Communication** with African leaders through personal visits to Africa and correspondence—expressing to Africans the concern of conscientious Americans, and learning about developments from the inside—that brings to ACOA new emphases and directions for its continuing work; and
• **Supports** the African movements for equality and freedom through financial help, legal defense, and aid to the families of those involved in the struggle.

At the United Nations . . .

ACOA is registered as a non-governmental organization with the UN where it:

• **Testifies** at and analyzes the debates on African issues
• **Assists** petitioners from Africa
• **Documents** issues for UN delegations, to further freedom and equality for Africans, and to speed development for Africa.

HOW ACOA CAN HELP YOU

If you want to aid the struggle for African freedom, ACOA can suggest projects you or your group can undertake. If you wish to plan a program, organize a conference, or secure a speaker on southern African affairs, ACOA will assist you.

If you need information on Africa, ACOA will suggest sources, including its own publications.

If you want to express your viewpoint on U.S. policy toward Africa — through a letter to the editor, a talk you are giving before a group, or in any other way — ACOA will send you any background material it may have on the issue you wish to deal with.

HOW YOU CAN HELP ACOA

Order literature available through ACOA. Literature list sent on request.

Organize a local or campus group to support independence for Southern Africa.

Contribute to ACOA and to its special funds for Africa.

Join the American Committee on Africa.