

a tribute to **George Houser**



American Committee on Africa
The Africa Fund

STRUGGLES ARE CONTINUING ALL OVER THE WORLD BY THE OPPRESSED AGAINST THE OPPRESSOR. IT IS ON THIS THAT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK OF GEORGE HOUSER AND THE COMMITTEE, ONE PEOPLE ONE AZANIA.

THE PRESIDENT AZAPO
Johannesburg, May 19, 1981

In the name of all those in France who oppose apartheid and racism, and on behalf of the French Anti-Apartheid Movement, we would like to express our warm admiration for the work of ACOA in the United States, and in particular for George Houser, who helped to create the Committee and has campaigned ever since against colonial and racial oppression in Africa.

Jacques Marchand, President; Antoine Bouillion,
Secretary General; French Anti-Apartheid Movement.

I have had the privilege to get to know and work closely with George Houser since the formation of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in 1959.

We know that his experience and ability is still needed in this critical phase of the liberation struggle of the people of Namibia and South Africa.

Abdul Minty, British Anti-Apartheid Movement

His is a life-long struggle for self-determination and for the freedom and dignity of all oppressed people. We salute him for his enormous contribution and look forward to continue working with him.

Kadar Asmal, Irish Anti-apartheid Movement

George Houser has made a staggering contribution to the struggles against apartheid, racism and colonialism. His tireless work on behalf of Africa has earned him an honored place in the history of Afro-Americans relations.

Trevor Richards, International Secretary
HART: New Zealand Anti-Apartheid Movement

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salute

GEORGE HOUSER
for

28 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO AFRICAN LIBERATION
as

DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

and express our gratitude for his continuing service as a member
and the current chairman of our board.

In that position he has helped, since 1967, to maintain **AFRICA TODAY's** reputation,
established during its first twelve years as ACOA's own publication,
as a leading journal of commentary and research on contemporary African affairs.

George W. Shepherd, Jr., Tilden J. LeMelle, editors and associates,
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George Houser
for his dedication
to African Liberation.**

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We Salute
GEORGE HOUSER

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<p align="center">BEST WISHES! Metro NY Project Equality Support EEO/AA with purchasing power</p>	<p>George Houser has made an enormous contribution to efforts in the United States directed towards African freedom. We know his personal commitment will not cease until all of Africa is free. Congratulations, George, for your work and your example over these years!</p> <p align="center">THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE</p>
<p>Many of the tremendous advances toward political, cultural, and economic independence by all the peoples of Africa owe much to the untiring and devoted efforts of the executive Director of the ACOA, George Houser, to whom we pay a well deserved tribute tonight.</p> <p>Leonard C. Cartwright Dr. Marguerite Cartwright</p>	<p align="center">Nubian Conservatory of Music will grant Mus.B. A Music College for Minority students. Begins 1983. 773-1652, 233 Winthrop St. Brooklyn 11225</p>
<p>Dear George,</p> <p>With respect and admiration for you and your work. Also pleasant memories of over 30 years ago.</p> <p align="right">Sincerely, Dr. Paul L. Munson</p>	<p>George, we salute you and Jean as friends, neighbors, and untiring champions of and contenders for human liberation.</p> <p align="right">DRS. MARGARET AND CHARLES LAWRENCE</p>
<p align="center">"Well done, good and faithful servant."</p> <p align="center">Walter W. Haines</p>	<p>Those of us who believe in justice and freedom for all people should be deeply grateful to George Houser. George's quiet diplomacy, political intuition and dogged courage have earned him respect with Americans and Africans alike.</p> <p align="right">Sophia Y. Jacobs</p>
<p>In appreciation of George Houser's dedication and devotion to the cause of genuine friendship and understanding between the peoples of Africa and the United States. The struggle continues and it is good to know that we are still together.</p> <p align="right">Herbert Shore</p>	<p align="center">WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF WILLIS LOGAN Africa Committee</p>
<p align="center">You have enriched my life Considerably. Winifred Clapp Congratulations and Best Wishes! Roger S. Clapp</p>	<p>With gratitude for your always being there to identify the priority and then stimulating the necessary action. The amount of reliable information you have disseminated to counteract the misinformation frequently found in the press has been appreciated by activists throughout the country.</p> <p align="right">Ethel Sanjines</p>
<p>With admiration and gratitude for your example of preserverance and courage over the years. God bless you.</p> <p align="center">Rev. Paul Moore, Jr. Bishop of New York</p>	<p align="center">Best Wishes to a fine son of humanity and a staunch friend of the African People</p> <p align="right">ABU BAKR</p>
<p>Your unswerving dedication towards ensuring the freedom and human rights for all has served as a standard of excellence to be followed.</p> <p align="right">Mildred Robbins Leet</p>	<p>I think of George Houser as one of the most creative and useful persons of our generation. He has made a difference, because of his deep concern.</p> <p align="right">Helen M. Beardsley</p>

<p><i>Best wishes to our friend and neighbor.</i> Dr. & Mrs. Glenn W. Patterson</p>	<p><i>Best wishes to George Houser.</i> Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO</p>
<p><i>In my fifteen years as NGO representative for Lutheran World Federation, George Houser was my great support in my purpose to serve the cause of Namibia—and I am deeply grateful to him.</i> Henriette Lund</p>	<p><i>With appreciation</i> Irving and Evelyn Wolfe</p>
<p>Best Wishes! George Bollag</p>	<p><i>To continued work and commitment for a free southern Africa.</i> Betsy and Bill Landis</p>
<p><i>In unassuming, dedicated service to the cause of justice and freedom in Africa, George Houser is one of the great men of our generation. For all the years since the founding of ACOA I have known and often worked with him. Congratulations, George, and please continue to interest yourself in ACOA!</i> WINIFRED COURTNEY</p>	<p>Our thanks to George for a job well done. Robert S. Browne</p>
<p><i>To George:</i> <i>A Luta Continua</i> <i>For another 28 years in struggle.</i> Paul Irish and Susan Duprey</p>	<p><i>Steadfast African support and complete understanding and union with Africa's struggle for freedom to us spells GEORGE HOUSER and the American Committee on Africa. We take pride in our association over the years with George and our former student (Betsy Storey).</i> Harrop & Ruth Freeman</p>
<p>Safiri Salaama, George. David and Marylee Wiley</p>	<p><i>Thanks, George, for the many sparks you lighted over 28 years. May they become a blaze for freedom and justice over Africa and the USA.</i> <i>A Luta Continua!</i> Eileen Hanson & Charlie Thomas</p>
<p><i>George Houser's character and commitment have been an inspiration and a good to us.</i> Evelyn and Marvin Rich</p>	<p><i>In appreciation of George Houser, whose cause is noble and whose career is "making a difference."</i> Paul Munson</p>
<p><i>Long ago, George realized that the right for freedom had to be worldwide and that the Third World nations, particularly Africa, needed counsel from people sympathetic to their cause and needs. George Houser has provided that sage counsel.</i> Jacob Sheinkman, Secy. Treas. ACTWU - AFL-CIO</p>	<p><i>"If I could give to only one benevolence, I'd send it to the American Committee on Africa!"</i> —Helen Hunting Smith Amy O. Welcher</p>





A Tribute To George Houser

June 17, 1981

PROGRAM

Hon. William H. Booth, President - American Committee on Africa

Peter Molotsi; Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

Elizabeth Landis - Vice President, American Committee on Africa

David Houser

James Farmer

Chet Washington - actor, singer, film-maker - President, Paul Robeson Productions.

Debbie Lapidus, accompanist

Peter Weiss - President, American Committee on Africa 1962-1972

Frank Montero - Chairman, The Africa Fund

Mustafa Sam, Deputy Representative, Organization of African Unity
Mission to the United Nations

Ossie Davis & Ruby Dee

Gil Fernandez

African National Congress (South Africa) representative

Olatunji - Drummers and Dancers

Moses Garoeb, Administrative Secretary, South West African
People's Organization - SWAPO of Namibia

George Houser film

Presentation to George Houser by Jennifer Davis, the next
Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa

George Houser



A Tribute to George Houser

June 17, 1981
Special Supplement

It is difficult to pay a fitting tribute to George Houser, a man who has done so much for so many around the world. It is true that he has, over the years, become synonymous with ACOA and ACOA with the struggle for liberation in Africa.

I have known George Houser since 1961 when I first went to the United States as Chief Representative of the National Democratic Party. My association with him has abided since then. We have worked together during the ZAPU days (1962-1963) and then during the ZANU days (1963 to the present).

No problem was ever too small or too big. He worked untiringly for the liberation of the whole of Africa and I am convinced that he will continue to do so. George Houser has two more independence celebrations to attend and bear witness to Windhoek and Pretoria! I want to hope that he will see this in his life-time.

It is a pity I cannot attend this occasion but, believe me, my thoughts will be with you as you salute one of mankind's beautiful human beings.

Allow me to say, on behalf of myself and my wife, ZANU (PF) and the Government of Zimbabwe- "Thank you, George."

E. J. M. Zvobgo, Minister of Local Government and Housing
ZIMBABWE

OUR BEST TO GEORGE

Sandy Boyer
Alice Brown
Judith Burgess
Jennifer Davis
Bhagwatie Dwarika
Paul Irish
Annie King
Richard Knight
Dumisani S. Kumalo
Richard Leonard
Gail Morlan
Joshua Nessen
William Robinson
Tholakele B. Shange

We look back to the many years as common endeavor between our two offices. We appreciate the assistance you have rendered in educating the people of the United States toward a better understanding of the just struggle of the people of Africa. We are proud of the contribution you, a United Methodist minister, have made.

United Methodist Office for the
United Nations
777 U.N. Plaza
New York, NY 10017

From the onset, I must express my deepest regret that it shall not be possible for me to be in New York for the planned event to pay tribute to George Houser on his retirement from active service on behalf of the American Committee on Africa.

However, I know I am expressing the views of my colleagues in the leadership of the African National Congress and of all the members of our organisation that the retirement of George Houser from active service of the African Committee on Africa will indeed leave a gap that will be hard to fill. George has been intimately known to all the leaders of the National Liberation Movements in Africa as a tireless campaigner in the USA in support of the oppressed African people.

Indeed, even as our brothers in this continent finally achieve their goal of independence George Houser knew that the next step following formal political independence, the one of economic and social regeneration, still called for the committed support of all the friends and allies of the newly independent peoples. He therefore continued his contacts with the leaders of newly independent states.

The services which the American Committee on Africa is rendering the struggles of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia can never be overestimated. In the background of the continued violation by the ruling circles of the United States of America of all international resolutions designed to support the struggles of the oppressed peoples of these countries, the contribution of groups such as the American Committee on Africa cannot, but be deeply appreciated.

We have no doubt that even after retirement, George Houser will continue to place his rich experience at the disposal of the American Committee on Africa.

Sincerely
Alfred Nzo, Secretary-General,
African National Congress.

It is my honor and pleasure to join with your many friends and associates in paying tribute to you for your unique and outstanding contribution, your selfless devotion and your untiring efforts for the cause of African Freedom, indeed for the freedom of all oppressed people. Over the years we have shared many trying and valuable experiences and a warm and rewarding association. On behalf of myself and other officers of our organization I extend best wishes for your continued good health, and look forward to many more years of your continued contributions, knowing full well that your retirement will not deter you from the cause.

Cleveland Robinson, Secy. Treas. District 65, U.A.W.

Statements to George. . .

I wish I could be with you all at this celebration. However, I expect to be with many other old friends of George in Salisbury, Zimbabwe and later on at the OAU conference in Nairobi, Kenya and you may be sure that the celebration, like the struggle, will continue.

Perhaps the most meaningful expression of appreciation for George's work occurred when his daughter Marty visited Africa. In country after country African leaders treated Marty as their own child and doors were open to her which were open to few other visitors. George, on the other hand, feels privileged to have been able to make some contribution to the cause of freedom during this great period of African history.

Bill Sutherland, Co-founder, Americans for South African Resistance

I first met George in 1962 when his daughter Marty and I were students at Antioch College. She and I organized an Antioch Southern Africa Committee and George helped us create some indelible memories like Vinnie Burrows doing her one person show one evening at Antioch to raise money for the South African liberation struggle.

It was my privilege to work with George—always challengingly—both in the early 70's and the late 70's. It was my privilege, as it has been his, to have known and worked with some of those who have hewn out in verse and deed some of Africa's finest pages of history.

It is with appreciation and respect for George—always challengingly—both in the early 70's and the late 70's. It was my privilege, as it has been his, to have known and worked with some of those who have hewn out in verse and deed some of Africa's finest pages of history.

It is with appreciation and respect for George's unswerving perseverance on behalf of African peoples that I extend him my personal congratulations and thanks for the long enduring model he has provided for the rest of us to follow as we act in support of the struggle in South Africa.

Prexy Nesbitt, Programme Secretary,
Commission on the Programme to Combat Racism,
World Council of Churches

It is difficult to accept that George Houser will be retiring from his post as Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa because of his many years of service in the cause of African liberation through that position. We know that although you are today marking his retirement, no one who knows George will expect him to retire from his personal dedication and activities for the total eradication of colonialism and apartheid in Southern Africa.

I have had the privilege to get to know and work closely with George Houser since the formation of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in 1959. He has always been ready and keen to help whenever we approached him to help on specific issues and has on numerous occasions acted as an informal representative in the USA of anti-apartheid groups based in Europe.

It has been a great pleasure to have worked closely with George over so many years and to count him as a friend in greeting him today, upon his retirement, we know that his experience and ability is still needed in this critical phase of the liberation struggle of the people of Namibia and South Africa. We wish George good health and a long life and are certain that he will remain as active as before in the cause of African freedom. We are not able to be physically with you today but our thoughts are with you.

Abdul Minty, British Anti-Apartheid Movement

Anyone who is involved in human rights activities can never retire. We know that is so with our dear friend George. Although George will be vacating his position at the ACOA he can never vacate his position as defender of human rights and as a vigorous supporter of the oppressed people of South Africa.

As George will not now be handling the day to day business at the ACOA we hope he will have a lot of time to develop his special expertise to support our cause for justice and equality.

We shall be seeing you again George.

Sam Ramsamy, CHAIRMAN:
SAN-ROC, South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee

Every once in a while a long distance runner enters the race for justice and keeps on running all of his life in pursuit of that objective. Those who remain in the race month after month, year after year, decade after decade are rare individuals. ACCESS, the anti-apartheid sports coalition of which ACOA is a founding member, salutes George Houser for the race he has run, for his integrity, dedication, courage and lifelong commitment. Even though George is leaving ACOA, the race is still in progress and we know George will still be in it.

We thank you, George, and wish you all the best in whatever form your new life takes.

Richard Lapchick, National Chairperson, ACCESS
The American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society

GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LIFELONG STRUGGLE IN CAUSE OF FREEDOM
BOTH NATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL.

MICHAEL SCOTT

GEORGE,

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Special Thanks

Special Thanks: My hearty and deep gratitude to the generous sponsors and to the many outside the staff who have made contributions to this program. The performing artists have given their time and talent; individual trustees of the Africa Fund have underwritten the cost of the reception; Rev. Don Harrington has granted us the use of facilities at the Community Church; Herb Yavel has contributed talents and services to the promotion of the event; Kit Wilhelm, tireless and most capable secretary; Lynn Goodwin and Steve Durland, responsible for the printed program; Isabel Cintron took time out of her busy schedule to swell attendance; and all others who stepped into the breach at critical moments.

with love, Raphael Gould, Coordinator

The cover portrait of George Houser is the work of Bob Ziering. We are grateful for his outstanding contribution. In the fall of 1981, there will be a one man show of his at the gallery of the Society of Illustrators 128 E. 63 St., beginning on Thurs. Oct. 1.

**In appreciation
of your tireless efforts
over the last 27 years
to help bring freedom
and justice
to Africa**

**Washington Office on
Africa**

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Henry Paul Houser

I am proud of my son and his dedication to the cause of the freedom movements in Africa. His dedication and commitment have accomplished much and I am confident that the future will bring about lasting peace and justice to all countries of Africa.

Ethel M. Houser

*We send our greetings for June 17th to
George M. Houser and to Jean, his wife.*

AX NELSON

It is an honor to pay tribute to George Houser on his retirement. His achievements with the American Committee on Africa make us all proud.

Fred Novy

**PRAISE TO GEORGE HOUSER
AS HE FIGHTS ANEW,
THE OLD BATTLES**

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Ossie and Ruby

Ann Morrisett Davidon

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SOMEONE'S ALWAYS GAINING
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admiration and respect to George.*

Lisl and Anthony Standen

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appreciation for
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U.S. Section
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for Peace and Freedom**

Very best wishes
to **George Houser**
whose great works
we have admired for
more than 25 years.

Nat and Lotte Hoffman

**African Heritage Studies Association
joins others throughout the world in
acknowledging the contribution to the
African struggle made by our gallant war-
rior George Houser.**

Dr. Leonard Jeffries, President
Dr. Shelby Lewis, Vice President

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BEST WISHES TO GEORGE HOUSER

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To George: We are proud to call you brother

Martha and Glenn
Margaret and Max
Henry and Marjorie

**thank you for the
good work, George**

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Your foresight, persistence,
moral and physical courage
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Thank God for people like you!
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With respect and appreciation

Sue & Ed Gordon
and Family

Greetings and Best Wishes to a
fine human being, George Houser
Fay Bennett & Rowland Watts

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We join in hailing the remarkable
contributions of George Houser to
the cause of African and World freedom.

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My years with the American Committee on Africa

by George Houser

Not long ago, a friend with whom I had been out of contact for many years, called me and early in the conversation asked, "What are you doing these days, George?" I replied that I was working with the American Committee on Africa. "Still?" he exclaimed.

His question reminded me of a story I was told when visiting Botswana in 1978. I saw an old friend, a lawyer, active for years in the African National Congress with whom I had been arrested in South Africa in 1954. In that year I made my only trip to South Africa, and late one evening went for a ride in Port Elizabeth with this man and another. Both of them were banned at the time so our meeting was considered a "gathering," and we were all detained. I was questioned by the police for more than an hour and released.

My lawyer friend reported to me in 1978 that he had recently had dealings with the South African police in relation to a case he was handling, and found himself talking to the same officer who had arrested us some 25 years before. At the end of the conversation, the police officer asked, "Whatever happened to that white American that was picked up with you many years ago?" My friend replied, "He is still at it!"

Yes, I am still at it, and now is an appropriate time to explain why. Why have I stayed with this work for so many years? Because I believe in it. I believe in the struggle for freedom and independence whether in Africa, or in the United States, or in Latin America, or any other part of the globe. It represents one outreach of my religious faith. I have always felt drawn to support this struggle, and it was as natural for me to want to do something to support the Defiance Campaign of South Africa in 1952, as it was to organize "sit-ins" in restaurants that discriminated or to violate Jim Crow laws in interstate travel in the southern part of the United States. Although I have not had occasion to say so publicly many times, I have conceived of my work with the American Committee on Africa in support of the liberation struggle in Africa as a part of my ministry.

Why have I stayed with this work over the years? Because I have been fortunate to be part of a great era in the history of the times in which we live. I have been associated with the movements which have brought immense changes about in Africa. The FLN and Polisario movements in north Africa, are not meaningless names to me that I read in the newspaper. I know something of their struggle in Algeria and now in the Western Sahara from first hand. I witnessed the campaign of the CPP (Convention People's Party) under Nkrumah's leadership which led to the independence of Ghana in 1957. I recall the thrilling moment at the second All African People's Conference held in Tunis, January 1960 when the announcement was made that the Belgian Congo would be independent in six months. Regardless of the tragedy which surrounded the Congo at a later point, one cannot forget the exultation that followed that brief announcement. I attended the founding conference of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa in May 1963 when virtually all the presidents of the then independent countries of Africa gathered and set up their organization in the midst of great hope. I was in Zimbabwe in February 1980 in the period leading up to the elections which brought independence to that ravaged land and a great victory for the people of Zimbabwe.

I have known the leaders of these groups, some of them intimately. I recall meeting Tom Mboya when he was only 25 years of age and president of the Kenya Federation of Labor. His country was still several years from independence when he arrived in New York to undertake, under our auspices, a speaking tour around the United States. Kenneth Kaunda, now president of Zambia, stayed in my home and in the home of my parents in



President Kenneth Kaunda and George Houser State House, Zambia, March 25, 1981

California while on a trip around the U.S. speaking about the struggle in then Northern Rhodesia. Julius Nyerere came to New York in the mid-fifties as a petitioner before the United Nations. All of us who had contact with him at that time recognized his unusual leadership. It came through to us clearly in the many sessions we had, sitting in the parlor of friends, discussing with him the struggle for independence in Tanganyika and in other parts of Africa.

By accident, I met Eduardo Mondlane in the Rome airport and rode on the plane with him all the way to Dar es Salaam when he was the newly elected president of Frelimo. Eduardo told me he had just been to East Germany and among other things had received the gift of hundreds of cameras for use by their people in the field. Then he quickly asked if ACOA could get them a land rover which they badly needed for transportation purposes in Tanzania. I jokingly responded, "Oh yes, we'll get a land rover for you in exchange for one camera." A year later I was in Dar es Salaam and saw Eduardo. The land rover had arrived and was already in use. Eduardo asked one of his comrades to see me off at the plane and just before I was to leave, this representative thrust a camera into my hand. I had completely forgotten that part of our conversation.

I remember meeting Sam Nujoma when he came to New York from then South West Africa as the newly elected president of SWAPO. I met Oliver Tambo in September 1954 in South Africa. He accompanied me on something of a tourist visit to the Crown Mines on a Sunday afternoon where "tribal dancing" was taking place. We sat in the stand to watch the performance and suddenly Tambo said, "I will have to wait for you outside. I am under ban, and this is a gathering. I'll see you when you come out." I too, left the performance.

I remember the overwhelming sense of tragedy on hearing of the assassination of Amilcar Cabral. I remember as clearly what I was doing when this word reached me as I had a few years earlier when news arrived of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. Tragedies have certainly accompanied the struggle. I have known many who have been killed or have lost their lives over the years—Lumumba, Mboya, Mondlane, Olympio, Cabral, Moyo, Chitepo, and many others. The tragedy of their deaths, the loss of their leadership is something that I have felt deeply and personally.

Why have I stayed with ACOA so long? Undoubtedly because of the excitement as well. Africa has presented a constantly changing picture, offering innumerable challenges. In 1967 a group of us tried to fly into Namibia without South African visas and were turned back in mid-air by order of the South African police as we neared the capital of Windhoek. We had more excitement than we needed when our two small planes almost ran out of fuel over the Botswana desert. In 1979 I had the thrilling experience of cross-

ing several hundred miles of the Sahara desert from Algeria to the Atlantic in Polisario land rovers through areas contested with Morocco. In 1980, at the time of the elections in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) I went there to act as an international observer of the elections. Some of my companions and I were apprehended at gunpoint by the security forces of the Rhodesian military in the Chiota Tribal Trust Land because we were in the company of some "supposed terrorists" from ZANU-PF. In 1973 I accompanied the PAIGC into the liberated zones of Guinea Bissau visiting their schools, their people's stores and a village out of which they had just driven the Portuguese troops. Not that my life has been a succession of such experiences, but because of them I have felt so much a part of what was taking place.

Why have I worked with ACOA for so long? Because of the companionship of committed people with whom I have worked. It is true of organizations attached to any great cause that there are people giving themselves so the work can be advanced. The American Committee on Africa has been no exception. My comrades in this work have put in long hours at meager pay. I think that even in the midst of many frustrations they have found their reward in knowing we were part of a great cause and have been strengthened by a few satisfying successes. This companionship has strengthened me in the cause also.

Working with the American Committee on Africa has been a good way to spend a significant portion of my life, and I am glad that I can continue in this work. By leaving my position as executive director I am not quitting the work itself, but will continue to find ways to support the ongoing struggle for freedom and independence in Africa, in the United States, and throughout the world.



Prime Minister Robert Mugabe with George Houser
Prime Minister's Office, Zimbabwe, April 2 1981

In grateful appreciation for services rendered.

**Isaac Bivens, Africa Office
General Board of Global Ministries
United Methodist Church**

The Gordon Chorale: Ode for St.
Cecelia-Handel. Sunday June 28,
1981, 5:45, Carnegie Recital Hall 154
W. 57th St. N.Y. Admission \$7.00

George Houser

His Personal Chronology

- 1916 Born June 2, in Cleveland, Ohio.
- 1919 Accompanied parents to the Philippines where they served as missionaries.
- 1934 Graduated high school, Berkeley, CA; enrolled College of the Pacific.
- 1935 Exchange student, Lingnan University, Canton, China.
- 1938 Graduated U. of Denver; entered Union Theological Seminary, NY.
- 1940 Sentenced to a year and a day in Danbury Federal Correctional Institution for refusing to register for the Draft.
- 1941 Attended Chicago Theological Seminary; became Fellowship of Reconciliation Youth Secretary for the Chicago Metropolitan Area.
- 1942 Founder of the Congress of Racial Equality with James Farmer. First large sit-in for racial equality takes place on Chicago's South Side.
- 1947 First Freedom Ride into the South; author, "Erasing the Color Line," co-author, "We Challenged Jim Crow."
- 1952 Americans for South African Resistance organized to support the Defiance Campaign of the African National Congress.
- 1954 First trip to Africa including South Africa; prohibited by British from entering East Africa.
- 1955 Executive Director of American Committee on Africa which grew out of Americans for South African Resistance.
- 1958 Attended first All African Peoples Conference, Accra.
- 1960 Attended All African Peoples Conference, Tunis.
- 1961 Attended All African Peoples Conference, Cairo.
- 1962 Went into rebel territory in northern Angola.
- 1963 Attended opening of the Organization of African Unity, Addis Ababa.
- 1964 Attended independence celebrations in Malawi and Zambia.
- 1967 South African government prevents landing at Windhoek, Namibia.
- 1973 South African government refuses use of 1st visa issued for Namibia by the UN Council.
- 1973 Traveled into liberated area of Guinea-Bissau with PAIGC.
- 1975 First trip to Mozambique.
- 1979 Traveled with Polisario across Western Sahara; guest of Algerian government at celebration of 25th anniversary of FLN.
- 1980 International observer at elections in Zimbabwe.

Personal

- 1942 Married Jean Walline, June 26.
- 1944 Martha born June 3.
- 1945 David born August 16.
- 1955 Steven born October 21.
- 1958 Thomas born June 24.

Jennifer Davis

Our New Director

Statement by Jennifer Davis

When I came to New York from South Africa in 1966, like many Africans I arrived as a stranger, carrying a small piece of paper. On it were only a few names and vague addresses—yet it was the most important thing I had with me. For these were names handed on by people who lived their lives fighting repression in South Africa—the names of the rare friends that struggle had found in the outside world. George Houser was the first name on that list and once I met him I realized why his name was on my list, and on hundreds more built up throughout Africa over thirty change filled years.

Support for African liberation today poses new problems and challenges. When George began the work of ACOA, the vast majority of states in Africa were still controlled by European colonialism. Today, political independence has come to most of the continent, but the legacy of colonialism endures, and the new states face constant Western hostility in their struggle to create a new economic order. In the early days, organizing against South Africa's apartheid was relatively straight forward as the Nationalist government pursued a policy of naked white privilege. Today the situation appears less simple. South Africa's economy is more complex, its propaganda machine more sophisticated, so we hear a constant litany on the progress of change. But examine the claims, the "total strategies," "constellation of states," "independent homelands," and what emerges is the fundamental sameness of the structure over time. Blacks are still excluded from political and economic power; color still controls all human opportunity.

The significant changes that have come to South Africa are that its neighbors have achieved independence, its own black population is increasingly militant, and the Nationalist government is threatened as never before. South Africa has responded to these changes by new repression and increasingly frequent brutal attacks on neighboring states.

Rather than condemn these attacks, the United States now blames the Front Line States for unrest in southern Africa. Since foreign policy in Washington under Reagan is being determined primarily in terms of East-West competition, anti-communism is again the litmus test of U.S. involvement and aid. The rights and needs of the majority of people, and the realities of local conditions are ignored. The legitimacy of authentic liberation movements is denied. U.S. Africa policy is now focused on military alliances and a search for stability that will facilitate U.S. economic penetration.

These conditions give our work a new urgency. Fortunately the time is long past when ACOA was one of the few voices calling for support of African liberation. We look forward to cooperation with our colleagues in other Africa related organizations. We also welcome the growing opportunity to work with black organizations, trade unions, churches, student and community groups whose central focus is not Africa but who include support for African liberation among their concerns.

I take up my new position as executive director with gratitude to George for the strong organization he has worked so tirelessly to create, and gratitude to the board that has trusted me to carry on the work. I call on all who participate in this tribute to George Houser to express that tribute in the way that he would most appreciate. Let us keep ACOA's name high on those lists of freedom's friends by redoubling our efforts on behalf of African liberation.

A luta continua,
Jennifer Davis

I Remember George

by ACOA President, Judge William H. Booth

It is difficult to think of ACOA without thinking of George Houser. He is not leaving us when he retires. His imprint is on the organization, and his influence will always be with us.

As president of ACOA, I have seen how George constantly keeps abreast of developments in Africa and tailors us to respond to needs there. ACOA meetings involve a pull between my tendency to say things in ten words and get business accomplished in record time and George's ability to use one hundred words to my ten and take more time for fuller study and understanding.

Traveling with George is a special experience. He carries tape recorder, movie camera, and note-pad to record important happenings. Everything is business and few minutes, if any, are allowed for "touristing." For example, a trip to Washington, D.C. includes "prepping" on the way down, doing the business planned, stopping in at other offices of similar organizations, and then "critiquing" on the way back. No time to even smell the cherry blossoms in spring-time!

Tonight's program will be beamed into South Africa, courtesy of the United Nations International Communications Network. So, finally, George's words, at least, get into the Republic. He has not been able to travel there himself since 1954.

His familiarity with the African leaders is well known and will be chronicled elsewhere. But, for the record, George is known to many people on many levels. On numerous occasions when I've represented the Committee, people in Africa have asked for George. Often I've been introduced as "Judge Booth, President of ACOA." People mistake the word "judge" and say, there's another "George" George Houser!

George can leave ACOA knowing that the progress that is made in the ensuing years is a continuation of his life work. What finer tribute can there be to his years of service!

Recollections

George Houser's contribution to African freedom has been invaluable because quietly and consistently he has supported the liberation and resistance movements on the continent through the years—when it was popular but also when it was unpopular to do so. Since the 1950's, even before the first gathering of the All-African People's Conference in 1958, George was involved. He and I attended that conference when Lumumba, Nkrumah, Nkomo, Mboya, Kaunda, and many others gathered in Accra. George befriended and kept in touch with these men whose achievements are a matter of record. George's commitment to them and to the struggle for freedom is unique in the United States. It has been my privilege to know and work with him all these years.

Frank Montero
Chairman
The Africa Fund

We've counted on you, George, for authentic information and balanced reporting growing out of your dedication to values of justice and peace. You have not failed us, but have reinforced the commitment of our churches to the cause of liberation in Africa.

Lutheran World Ministries

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NEW YORK
40 E. 35 St. New York City
wishes all the best in his retirement
to
GEORGE HOUSER
‘‘GREAT CHIEF’’
of the
American Committee on Africa for 28 Years
‘‘GO WELL — STAY WELL’’
Rev. Dr. Donald Szantho Harrington, Sr. Minister

WE SALUTE GEORGE HOUSER
 FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF
 SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF
 SOUTHERN AFRICA IN THEIR
 STRUGGLES FOR FREEDOM.

a luta continua...



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**AFRICA
 NEWS**

Box 3851
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In Angola we were always impressed by the leverage which George and the ACOA's had on the Portuguese colonial authorities. They stood in awe of George as though he were secretary of state and feared the ACOA as though it were a quasi-official agency. The Portuguese officials could not believe that the leverage came from truth and commitment rather than from political power or military might.

April 1981

Ki and Larry Henderson

George Houser has made an enormous contribution to efforts in the United States directed towards African freedom. We know his personal commitment will not cease until all of Africa is free. Congratulations, George, for your work and your example over these years!

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Salute to a staunch leader in the struggle

*from the comrades of
Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa*

Remembering the Tom Mboya Student airlift of 1959 Dr. Broadus N. Butler NAACP/SCF

On April 20, 1981, the Trustees of the Phelps-Stokes Fund passed the following resolution: That in recognition of his twenty-eight years of service to the struggle for freedom and justice in Africa and around the world during his tenure as Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa, the Trustees and staff of the Phelps-Stokes Fund are honored to serve as sponsors of *A Tribute to George Houser* on the occasion of his retirement.

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Messages to George Houser

The most important people in the world are often those who work quietly in the background of events, devoting their skill, their commitment, and their lives, to the causes they believe in. They receive no acclaim; but without them there would be no triumph. George Houser is such a man, and his service has been given whole-heartedly and without reserve to the cause of human freedom and human equality, with special reference to the struggle against colonialism and racialism in Africa.

Many who are now, or have been, political leaders in Africa during the last three decades have been helped to become effective on the international scene by the assistance and the friendship of George Houser. I am one of those who he helped in this way, especially when TANU was making its appeals to the Trusteeship Council and other Committees of the United Nations in the 1950s. I am therefore very happy to have this opportunity to acknowledge my own debt to him, and that of my colleagues in the struggle for Tanganyika's independence.

On my own behalf, and on behalf of all those in my country who worked for the freedom of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, I have two things to say as George Houser retires from fulltime work with the American Committee on Africa. First, Thank you George. Stay well and have an active and happy retirement. Secondly, to all those in the American Committee on Africa who have worked and are working for the cause of African freedom, I say Carry on the Good Work. Namibia has yet to achieve independence and South Africa has yet to be freed from apartheid.

I also send my good wishes to the function on 17th June 1981.

Julius K. Nyerere
President, Tanzania

We want to thank the American Committee on Africa for the work it has done in lending support to the liberation struggle in our country. We view the Committee as one of the most important instruments that have assisted us in the political battle to achieve justice, fair play and democracy in this country.

Robert Mugabe
Prime Minister, Zimbabwe

Greetings to you and your colleagues. This afternoon I received some rather sad news because I learnt that you are leaving the directorship of the Committee sometime this year. I want in the first place to pay tribute to you and all your colleagues for the work that you have done for Africa. The last 28 years while you have directed the affairs of the Committee have seen tremendous changes on this continent. Changes certainly for the better. We have had our set-backs but who doesn't have? So as you retire as director of the Committee I want to say on behalf of the people of Zambia, their party, this government and on my own behalf how grateful we are to you and your colleagues for what you have done with us and for us. We hope that the good Lord will look after you and your colleagues and that they as you have done will be able to continue with the work.

Kenneth Kaunda
President, Zambia

On behalf of the Central Committee of SWAPO of Namibia and in the name of the struggling people of Namibia and on my own behalf, I would like to extend salutation and congratulations to the American Committee on Africa and in particular to George Houser who is now retiring from active service of the ACOA. However I do hope that he will continue to support our cause for justice, freedom and independence in Namibia as well as elsewhere in southern Africa. I wish him good health and good luck in his future work and endeavours to support those who are struggling for liberty, freedom and justice.

Sam Nujoma, President SWAPO

I would just like to address a few words of greeting to the friends of the American Committee on Africa assembled on an occasion to bid farewell to my friend and colleague of long standing George Houser whom I met for the first time in South Africa in 1954. His service to Africa has been greatly appreciated. I personally have enjoyed this long association with him.

I'm glad to greet him and the American Committee on Africa on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day when we are meeting in Paris to decide how best to pursue the struggle for liberation in Namibia and South Africa. I'm confident that George will continue to be our associate in that struggle and I look forward to his coming to South Africa when it is independent and to Namibia also when the South African regime has been driven out.

Oliver Tambo, Acting President-General ANC

On behalf of the Chairman Comrade Nyati Pokela, the Central Committee of the PAC, the combatants of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) and on my own behalf I wish to pay tribute to George Houser on his retirement as Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa.

George Houser has a long history of active commitment to the struggle for national liberation and self-determination in Africa as a whole and in southern Africa in particular. He has worked tirelessly and selflessly for more than twenty-five years to raise support for the national liberation struggles, to create in the United States a climate of awareness of and concern for the struggles of the oppressed peoples in southern Africa for freedom and justice, and to campaign for the withdrawal of U.S. government and corporate support for the white minority regimes in southern Africa, especially the Pretoria regime.

Throughout his years of activism George has maintained a policy of strict non-sectarianism, regarding it as the right of the oppressed people to choose their own leaders in the liberation struggle.

His service to the cause of African liberation has earned him the respect of African leaders and freedom loving people in many parts of the world.

We wish him well in his future plans.

Henry Isaacs, Director of Foreign Affairs, PAC

User from African Leaders

On the occasion of your retirement as director of the American Committee on Africa, Polisario Front pays special tribute to you personally for all the continued effort which you have always made for the triumph of justice and progress in Africa. ACOA's clear vision, with your leadership, has in fact contributed to the establishment of a bridge of understanding between the United States and Africa. Your approach to the African question and the persistent and determined struggle that you have led since the 1950's against colonialism has made you a special and considerate friend of the African people. In the Western Sahara you have yourself denounced, since the first day of the Moroccan invasion, the barbarous deeds of the Moroccan regime, and you have opposed the role of the United States in this war. Moreover you have visited the victimized people of the Western Sahara and you have felt very strongly the injustice. In the United States you have led the struggle against the arms sales and against the involvement of the US in this conflict. Today the Sahrawi people are proud in considering George Houser as a friend and determined defender of their cause in the United States. We are sure that your heart has espoused just causes and that you will continue to spread the cause of freedom wherever you are, above all, at this time when international relations find themselves again upset by interventionism and motivations of war.

Adel Hakim, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic

On behalf of the ANC representation to the United Nations and the United States and in the name of our National Executive Committee we join the freedom and justice loving people of southern Africa and the continent as a whole in paying glowing tribute to George Houser on the occasion of the termination of his invaluable contribution as executive director of the American Committee on Africa. For the ANC George Houser's involvement in the struggle against the apartheid system dates back to the national Defiance Campaign which was spearheaded by the ANC and its sister organizations in 1952. His involvement continued throughout the Treason Trial which lasted for four years from 1956, the Sharpsville massacre and other events including the Soweto uprising of 1976 and up to the present day. We salute the ACOA and express hope it will continue its work of mobilizing American public support and solidarity with our struggle. This imperative necessity is today rendered more urgent by the unfolding Pretoria-Washington alliance.

Amandla Awethu, The Struggle Continues
Johnny Makatini, ANC Chief Representative to the UN

All too rarely does a single human being leave his mark on our world with good works and friendship. George's life work is doing that which he thinks he must do and thus achieve that unique goal of bettering the world. A friend of many, my late husband and I felt him as our very own. A warm hug for a fruitful future.

Janet Rae Mondlane,
National Director of International Cooperation

Mozambique

DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA

Cabled June /1/81

On this momentous occasion the Non-Racial Community of South Africa expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to George M. Houser who for nearly three decades vigorously campaigned to free the majority of South Africans from separation, segregation and oppression.

Few people could remain committed for such a considerable period and during the 28 years Mr. Houser has been unswerving, uncompromising in his principles for a just society.

We stand in admiration and salute him for his deep commitment to the well-being of the voteless and voiceless majority.

That this disenfranchised people in expressing their gratitude in the hope that they can at all times look to Mr. Houser for his support, guidance and wise counsel.

M.N. Pather, Secretary General, South African Council on Sport

Comrade George Houser has been associated with the development of the African nationalist movement of Zimbabwe from the very beginning. In the 1950s, he initiated the first contacts between the African nationalist leaders of Central Africa and support organisations in the United States of America. In the last 30 years he and ACOA became the main bridge between those Africans and those Americans who were fighting against imperialism, colonialism and racism. When our own struggle in Zimbabwe moved from the political to the military field, ACOA's commitment and support became crucial in explaining to America the justice of our cause. Effective solidarity work in America and Western Europe was an important factor in the success of the war of national liberation. George Houser was in the forefront of our struggle, and risked his own life on several occasions in the fight for Zimbabwe's independence. We join his friends in the United States of America in wishing him good health and happiness in his years of retirement.

Yours sincerely,
N. M. Shamuyarira
Minister of Information and Tourism, Zimbabwe

It is with great pleasure that I send this message to mark the retirement of our friend George Houser from his position as Director of the American Committee on Africa.

I have known George Houser for many years and we have worked closely in helping to eradicate colonialism, racism and apartheid from the African continent.

In recent years the campaigns and activities organized in the United States in solidarity with the people of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau owe much to the personal commitment and concern of George Houser. The former colonies are now independent as is Zimbabwe.

But the American Committee on Africa has also for many years been active on Namibia and South Africa and George has been directly involved in the many campaigns against apartheid which have been organized in the USA.

I thank George for his years of service to the cause of African freedom and we all know that whilst he may retire from his post now he will in fact never retire from the cause for which he has fought with so much determination for so many years.

Mohamed Sahnoun, Ambassador of Algeria to France