

TO: Members and Friends of ACOA

FROM: James R. Robinson, Assistant Director

1. Enclosed brochure: I am enclosing the new folder describing the program and purposes of the American Committee on Africa. I hope that you will be able to use it to interest your friends in the Committee's work.

If you need extra copies to solicit memberships, to use at a meeting on Africa, or in any other way, won't you write us? Reasonable quantities can be supplied free of charge although we would appreciate payment of handling and postage costs for orders of more than 100 copies.

2. Financial Position of ACOA: Approximate, unaudited figures for 1961 indicate that: (1) there was a slight decrease in income compared with 1960; (2) expenses also decreased slightly; and (3) most of the accumulated deficits of prior years remain as a burden against the future.

The most serious effect of stringency in ACOA finances has been felt in the Defense and Aid Fund. This fund for African causes, maintained as a separate account, suffered a serious decline, largely because of the inability of ACOA to finance large-scale fund-raising for the Africa Fund.

An analysis of the reasons for a relatively poor financial year in 1961 must include: (1) several staff changes in 1960 and 1961 -- often leaving a period of months when no staff member existed to push particular projects; (2) growing complexity of internal problems in Africa, which may have led to (3) several thousand former members and friends of ACOA who did not give to the Committee in 1961. If you are one of these, your gift now will help us to get 1962 off to a good start. A special Budget Appeal is planned for February, and we ask our supporters generally to plan increased support in response to that appeal.

Current trend is upward: About 20% of all income during 1961 came in during December. This means that ACOA support is increasing again -- with at least 1,000 new members resulting in a single month. If we can keep the upward trend in motion, we should be able to jump ahead in the coming months.

3. Tax Deductibility: Contributions to ACOA are not yet deductible for income-tax purposes. We shall continue to work for such status.

There is one method for tax benefits to some contributors. Stock, on which a capital gain would be realized if sold, may be given to ACOA. The contributor thus avoids a capital-gains tax, and ACOA, as a non-profit organization, pays no tax. Any questions you may have on stock donations should be addressed to me.

4. Errors in Our Mailing List: If you receive more than one copy of this Memo or if there is any error in the way your name or address appears on the envelope in which this Memo comes to you, please return the envelope or envelopes with the corrections clearly indicated. If you inform us well in advance of any change of address, it helps us to minimize errors in the list.

5. AFRICA TODAY. ACOA's magazine, published ten times a year, has increased both in reputation and circulation. Subscriptions \$3.50 annually.