

Minutes of the
Executive Board Meeting
of the
American Committee on Africa

August 12, 1957

Present: Donald Harrington, Chairman; George Edmund Haynes, Sidney Hertzberg, Keith Irvine, Gilbert Jonas, Elizabeth Landis, Elliott Newcomb, Bayard Rustin, William X. Scheinman, William Sorsby, Phyllis Susskind, Robert Trentlyon, Peter Weiss; Dale Harrison, George Houser, Staff; Rev. John Considine, Guest.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Weiss trip to Africa: The French are doing better than the British in non-political ways in regard to African colonies, Peter Weiss said while reporting on his recent trip to French and Equatorial Africa. This is true in the sense that the economy is stronger in French areas, transportation facilities are more advanced, higher education reaches more people and is of a better quality, and social legislation (such as social security) has been enacted. The French obviously have learned much from their experiences in North Africa and Indochina, he said. By giving Africans more political say in their affairs they have opened up valves, avoiding outright explosions. The governments of the eight provinces of French West Africa, the four of French Equatorial Africa, of the Cameroons and Togoland are predominately African, and have African prime ministers he said. M. Houphouet-Boigny (Ivory Coast) head of the Rassemblement Democratique Africain, enjoys great popularity among the masses, but he is losing ground among the intellectuals and young people to Senegalese Leopold Senghor who represents more nationalistic tendencies, less cooperation with Paris. Independence movements are particularly strong in the Cameroons and Togoland, he added.

While in Paris he met Mlle. Claude Girard, former woman's army officer in Madagascar, and now editor of Afrique-Information, a publication directed to an African audience, and Inter-Afrique Presse. He feels that Mlle. Girard would be an excellent person to keep in close touch with.

As directed by the Executive Board he extended official ACOA greetings to many Africans including many political leaders in the Cameroons, the Prime Minister of Senegal, the Council of Ministers of French Guinea, and the Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Ivory Coast.

The ACOA is not well-known enough in French areas of Africa, he reported. The Institute of African-American Relations is well ahead of the ACOA there (An African branch of the IAAR is now being established in Accra). He recommended concentration on getting more people in FWA on the mailing list of the ACOA, and if necessary, sending them free copies of AFRICA TODAY. He suggested to the Executive Board that individual members of the Board might donate individual subscriptions of the magazine to Africans. (See Weiss' article on French Africa in AFRICA TODAY, Sept.-Oct. 1957).

Houser trip: George Houser, who spent the first three weeks of his trip to Africa in Nigeria as Orientation Officer of the Experiment in International Living — around a dozen students lived for a month in Nigerian homes and traveled for a month around the country — reported that the experiment was successful. While in Nigeria the results of the Nigerian Constitutional Conference (in London) were announced, namely that consideration of a date for independence was postponed

from 1959 to 1960. As a result Africans were showing strong vocal disappointment, not with the British, but with their own leadership, he reported. However, he thinks the British may have been justified in postponing independence until 1960, for one thing, because of the lack of a united front among the three regions. (See AFRICA TODAY, Sept.-Oct. 1957 for article on his travels and news of his visa troubles),

Declaration of Conscience: George Houser reported that the Declaration of Conscience has been rewritten with references made to the Declaration of Human Rights rather than the Freedom Charter, since many South Africans said they would not be able to endorse the Declaration of Conscience if it contained references to the Freedom Charter. Mrs. Roosevelt has accepted the international chairmanship of the world campaign against apartheid, he said, and Dean Pike, the U.S. national chairmanship, Dr. Martin Luther King, the U.S. vice-national chairmanship.

Reorganization of National Committee: It was moved that Donald Harrington present to A.J. Muste the views of various committee members on the American Forum for Socialist Education as it might be regarded by new members of the National Committee.

A motion was passed that, because of limits on space, a partial listing of the National Committee on ACOA stationery would have to be made (there are fifty new members), and that the Organization Committee should make its recommendations at the next Executive Board meeting. The new letterhead will include all of the present members of the Executive Board. The Board voted that, if necessary, a special session of the Executive Board may be called to approve the new letterhead listings in order to speed up its printing.

Finance report: (See attached sheets) Dr. Haynes said that as of August 9th the ACOA had a deficit of \$2,890.06. He suggested that members of the Executive Board circulate the John Gunther ACOA appeal letter among friends in additional effort to help wipe out the deficit. George Houser is still personally soliciting funds for the Committee.

It was moved and passed unanimously that the staff members of the ACOA receive raises as of September 1, 1957.

Algeria: Gilbert Jonas reported that reprints of Senator Kennedy's speech had been sent to about 10,000 people, and that a fund-raising letter signed by Donald Harrington had been sent to nearly 4,000 people. The appeal was not too successful, he added.

Resignation: Gilbert Jonas, because he is working in a staff relationship with the ACOA, has temporarily resigned from the Executive Board.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Executive Board will be on September 9, 1957, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the offices of the American Committee on Africa.

September, 1956 - July, 1957

	Income	Expense
contributions	32,212.34	
mailings		7540.55
fund raising and public relations fees		5138.37
Africa Today		
subs	2154.21	
GC issue	<u>702.43</u>	
expenses		2788.91
literature	652.86	581.86
travel	252.64	289.85
Defense Fund overhead	4,611.49	
Mboya trip	1,291.86	763.01
unpaid balance on loan	50.	
conference	526.00	736.19
Jarrett-Kerr meeting	99.87	
deficit on Jarrett-Kerr luncheon		3.43
"Valley without Echo"	136.50	
stationery and supplies		3044.26
telephone and telegraph		815.20
rent		2350.00
electricity		94.18
postage		1527.19
salaries		10796.31
Ghana celebration		1085.94
equipment		1212.00
printing		2048.15
bank charges		105.42
December 10, 1957, rent		75.00
miscellaneous		<u>81.87</u>
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	42,690.20	41077.69
On hand September 1	<u>977.21</u>	
On hand August 1		<u>2589.72</u>
	<u><u>43,667.41</u></u>	<u><u>43667.41</u></u>

STATEMENT OF DEFICIT
August 12, 1957

Bills owed:	mailings	2,439.09	
	printing	445.50	
	stationery and supplies	518.95	
	phone	64.51	
	AFRICA TODAY	<u>86.00</u>	
			3,554.05
Estimated expenses:			
	salaries	<u>818.78</u>	
			<u>818.78</u>
			4,372.83
On hand (August 9th):			<u>1,482.77</u>
Deficit:			<u><u>2,890.06</u></u>

B U D G E T

September 1 - December 31

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
Contributions	20,240	
Salaries		4,845
Finance and public relations		8,000
Travel	300	300
Equipment		60
Conference	300	500
Literature	200	100
Electricity		50
Telephone and Telegraph		300
Printing		700
Postage		500
Mailings and supplies		4,000
<u>Africa Today</u>	1,000	1,700
Rent	<u> </u>	<u> 985</u>
	22,040	22,040

DEFENSE FUND

Income:	Contributions	29,320.10	
	Reeves luncheon	<u>265.50</u>	
			<u>29,585.60</u>
Expenses:	Fund raising fees	1,360.70	
	Postage	189.52	
	Printing	2,743.20	
	Mailings	4,935.41	
	Overhead to ACOA	5,214.72	
	Jarrett-Kerr travel	110.00	
	Jarrett-Kerr miscellaneous expense	12.83	
	Reeves luncheon	255.53	
	Pictures at luncheon	51.50	
	Reeves miscellaneous expense	24.00	
	Bank charge	<u>62.10</u>	
			14,659.51
	Sent to South Africa		10,700.00
	On hand August 1		<u>3,926.09</u>
			<u>29,585.60</u>
	On hand August 12	3,637.93	

No bills owed.