

American Committee on Africa
Executive Board Meeting
June 19, 1969

President: Peter Weiss

Present: (Gary Busch), Lewis Carliner, Elsie Carrington, Dana Klotzle, Elizabeth Landis, Andrew Norman, Frederick Schwarz, Robert Van Lierop.

Staff: Janet, George, Ben, Blyden, Gary, Karen.

1. Minutes of the April 9 meeting were approved.
2. Elaborating on the Staff Report, George Houser announced that an additional sale of Makonde sculpture is planned for Monday and Tuesday, June 23 and 24, at the Inter Church Center, 475 Riverside Drive.

Mention was also made of the decision of the Episcopal Church to withdraw their funds from consortium banks if the loan to South Africa is renewed for next year. It was suggested that ACOA urge the Episcopalians to publish something on their decision.

3. George Houser referred to an editorial which appeared in the New York Times on June 17, dealing with the seizure of Joel Carlson's passport by the South African government. Mr. Carlson is one of very few attorneys who has been defending victims of the apartheid structure. It was decided that the most effective way for ACOA to protest the seizure of Mr. Carlson's passport would be to circulate a report on the matter to

- 1) our own lawyers list, requesting them to do what they can through their own organizations
- 2) Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights which was involved in the Lenkoe case and
- 3) Arthur Goldberg, Morris Abram, and Burke Marshall

Mr. Mike Davis will prepare a summary for the Committee.

4. The Board voted to accept the resignation of James Farmer from the Executive Board and invite him to join the National Committee, along with Dr. C.B. Powell, publisher of The Amsterdam News.

5. In view of the fact that a quorum was not present, and the Board was therefore unable to act on the nominations presented by the Nominating Committee, it was decided that George Houser should send a letter to all Board members covering the following points:

- 1) that an amendment be made to the by-laws which would change the quorum necessary to carry on an election and to elect new members of the Board. Article 6, Section G now reads: "Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall

be filled by a majority vote of Board members attending the meeting at which the election is held, provided that a majority of the members of the Board then in office are present and voting." The amendment reads: "Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by a 2/3 vote of Board members attending the meeting at which the election is held, provided that 1/3 of the members then in office are present and voting."

2) that those Board members whose schedule does not permit them to attend a reasonable number of regular Board meetings in the course of any given year be urged to consider whether they should remain on the Board. Special consideration, of course, is given to those members living outside the New York area.

3) that a special meeting of the Board be held on Thursday, July 10, 5:30 p.m. at the ACOA office for the express purpose of electing Board members.

6. Washington issues included:

1) FAA amendment - Introduced in the House by Rep. Diggs on June 16 with 25 co-sponsors, this amendment would hold in suspension any foreign air carrier permit until the foreign air carrier and its government exhibit an understanding that American visitors would not be hindered in their commerce and passage because of race, religion, or national origin. An objection was raised by Robert Van Lierop to what he termed the "synthetic Aryan" nature of the amendment, which would distinguish between American blacks (who would not be hindered . . . etc) and South African blacks. Since bills seldom go unrevised through the various Committees, it was suggested that Gary Gappert speak to Diggs about the objection. As a matter of procedure, however, it was moved that specific pieces of legislation be reviewed by a special ACOA Legislative Committee, to be established, including Gary Busch, Elizabeth Landis, and Robert Van Lierop.

2) Sugar Quota - In order to gain support for the Sugar Quota amendment, it was suggested that we contact sugar growers whose interests will be served by revoking the South African sugar quota.

3) Washington Workshop - The workshop was attended by approximately 40 representatives from quite a few different organizations. There was good discussion of various legislative initiatives. An obvious need was to develop a constituency which would support our Washington program. Peter Weiss reported that his main impression was one of the virtual ineffectiveness of legislative action and lobbying without back up work in the field. He proposed a new area of thrust on a par with the Washington effort to stimulate those constituencies who will back up the Committee's work and provide the power behind our legislative program. He suggested a committee of Board members to meet on this including Richard Stevens, Paul Booth, Robert Browne, Robert Van Lierop, and Arthur Waskow. This committee will formulate a

specific program for the development of the new constituencies emerging in Black Student Unions and Black Studies programs, as well as other university and community groups.

It was also voted that ACOA initiate a campaign through movement organizations and other like-minded groups to place stickers on sugar bowls warning: "Caution: this sugar may be poisoned---- by South African racism." Blyden Jackson stressed that there is much groundwork to be laid in the field work area, and ACOA should not wait until after the fact to try to rally people to a particular issue.

4) The account of the Washington office will be changed from Riggs Bank to National Bank, because of ties between Riggs and South Africa.

5) Gary Gappert suggested that ACOA make a presentation on the Portuguese question to the White House..

7. Budget and Finance Analysis - Ben Peterson reported that at the six months point ACOA will have received approximately 60% of the total budget for 1969. He noted however, that it is always more difficult to raise funds during the second half of the year. He projected a \$10-15,000 deficit at the end of the year unless additional special funds are raised.

It was announced that Blyden Jackson is resigning as Field Director to work on Research under the auspices of The Africa Fund.

Ben Peterson proposed that the Finance Committee study the matter of an increase in salary for George Houser and make a recommendation to the Steering Committee.