

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

Steering Committee

December 19, 1962

MINUTES

Present: Peter Weiss, Chairman; Daniel Bernstein, Frank Montero, Hope Stevens.  
Staff: George Houser, Collin Gonze, and James Robinson.

1. Office Space Problem: We have just been informed that we will not be able to move as we had expected by the first of January. The new space at 211 East 43rd will not be ready. We may have a problem at our present space, but we hope that we can move by the first of February.

2. Tenth Anniversary Plans: It was agreed by the Steering Committee that we should plan at least two special events during 1963. One would be a special issue of AFRICA TODAY. Testimonials from various African leaders and some Americans would be included as a part of the special issue. Also, it was agreed that we could put out as a special feature of the magazine, a souvenir program for the 10th Anniversary Dinner, and that we could sell space in this and in that way perhaps raise some money. The second event will be a 10th Anniversary Dinner, probably held sometime in the fall. Among the possible speakers from Africa who might be invited are Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe, Governor-General of Nigeria, Julius Nyerere, President of Tanganyika, Kenneth Kaunda of Northern Rhodesia.

Jim Robinson has arranged for a meeting with Bernie Mazel to talk about mailing ideas for the 10th Anniversary Year.

3. American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa: A brief report was made on the conference. It was agreed that raising funds for the continuation of the conference as a permanent organization was a key problem and could not be easily solved. A number of ideas were proposed as to what the ACOA might do in giving program leadership to the leadership conference, including: (a) news reports and suggestions for action from ACOA to the sponsoring organizations of the leadership conference; (b) a possible rally at Madison Square Garden; (c) help supply speakers for the various sponsoring organizations; (d) cooperate in sponsoring tours to Africa.

Essentially, the ACOA will have to keep closely in touch with developments as the future of the Leadership Conference is discussed in the Planning Committee.

4. United States Position at the United Nations: George Houser reported that towards the end of the Seventeenth Regular Session of the General Assembly the United States was coming out in a relatively bad position. The voting record on South Africa and Angola had been in opposition to the African States, and the United States had abstained on the Southern Rhodesian question. The position on the Portuguese territories was particularly regrettable and it was suggested that the Committee should play an active role in bringing this problem to the attention of Congressmen when Congress reconvenes in January. A fuller analysis of the outcome of the Seventeenth Session of the Assembly will be made soon.

5. Current Financial Situation and 1963 Budget: It was reported that the Committee would not end up the year as bad financially as it had been projected

we might when the budget for 1963 was made out in October. The results from the mailings have been fairly good; some larger contributions have come in; and the results from the mailing to our list on AFRICA TODAY inviting subscriptions at the old \$3.50 rate before the price went up to \$5.00 had been good. Also, a good number of Al Lowenstein's book on South West Africa, BRUTAL MANDATE, had been sold. No changes will be made in line with decisions of the Executive Board, on the budget for 1963, until we see the end of the year report.

6. Appeal for Action Against Apartheid: A special brief report summarizing activities will be sent out soon.