

A M E R I C A N C O M M I T T E E O N A F R I C A

Steering Committee

November 15, 1961

MINUTES

Present: Peter Weiss (Chairman); Donald Harrington, David Jones, Frank Montero. Staff: George Houser, Hazel Gray, Collin Gonze, James Robinson, Deborah Kallen.

Peter Weiss opened the meeting and welcomed the new member of the Committee, David Jones.

1. South African Declaration of Action and its relationship to Africa Freedom Day: The various problems raised by having Africa Freedom Day centered on South Africa were discussed. It was felt that 1) it would be difficult to exclude the Portuguese territories from an Africa Freedom Day celebration; 2) it was not sufficient to call a meeting in order to announce the names of people who had signed a Declaration of Action; 3) there is a lack of symbolic leaders in Africa around whom a meeting could successfully be organized. There were additional problems in the shortage of personnel to organize a meeting and the time it would involve on the part of the staff. In this light it was agreed to hold a meeting on the South African problem, combined with other action, on March 20 and, that if Kenyatta were available another meeting could be held in April.

If Luthuli could come to the States, we should try to arrange for him to speak before the United Nations General Assembly. Within the two days that he might possibly be here, we could also hold a public meeting and a private testimonial dinner.

2. Education program: It was decided to put this item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee, under the title: Educational program and membership drive with an additional point, chapters, becoming part d) of the topic which would include a) speakers in the South; b) Negro leadership; c) regional conferences.

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