

## COMPOSITE STAFF REPORT, DECEMBER 1960 - JANUARY 1961

for Executive Board Meeting of January 30th

### 1. Organizational matters:

A. There have been three meetings of the Steering Committee, four meetings of the Editorial Board, three meetings of the UN Committee, and one meeting of the Finance Committee.

B. Staff reorganization. There are now eight regular members of the staff of the ACOA. The duties of staff members are generally as follows:

1. George Houser, Executive Director, in charge of overall administration and program for the Committee.
2. Dale Harrison, Staff Associate and Editor, is the head of our publications program. In addition he now takes responsibility for arranging mailings for the Committee. A mailing of 35,000 pieces will go out to outside lists shortly, followed closely by a mailing to our own list.
3. Barbara Harrison, Staff Associate, is assistant to the Executive Director. She works closely with him on almost all projects in which he is involved and does a great deal of the follow-up detail work. She will have major responsibility for the Africa Freedom Day program. She also does copy work for mailing pieces and takes a great deal of responsibility for the Defense and Aid Fund program. She also will organize the program of contacting some of our larger contributors.
4. Catherine Raymond is now acting primarily as assistant to Dale Harrison in the literature and publications program.
5. Emma Thomas is Bookkeeper and has general charge of membership and card files.
6. Ethel Mingo is receptionist, switchboard operator, and assistant to Emma Thomas in keeping up the card file, handling receipts, noting changes of address, etc.
7. Mary Robinson is a general clerk in the office. She handles literature orders, does a great deal of the mimeographing, and handles general mailings in the office. She also deals with certain categories of letters of inquiry.
8. Suzanne Seidman is Secretary to the Executive Director and the newest member of our staff having joined us on January 3rd.

### II. Trip to see G. Mennen Williams:

Following up the discussion of the Executive Board at its December meeting, George Houser, Peter Weiss, and Frank Montero went to Lansing, Michigan and spent about an hour and a half with G. Mennen Williams, now the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, discussing developments in Africa and some proposals we had for a general U.S. policy and approaches.

### III. Washington trip:

George Houser spent three days in Washington in mid-January and among others discussed various aspects of African developments and projects of the ACOA with Senators Church, Moss and McGee who recently returned from a tour of Africa; Congressman Barrett O'Hara of Illinois, Chairman of the House Sub-Committee on Africa; Congressman Charles C. Biggs of Michigan who is a member of the House Sub-Committee on Africa and also recently returned from a trip to Africa; Victor Reuther of the UAW; Jacob Clayman, Executive Director of the industrial union department of the AFL-CIO; Jim Thompson, Chester Bowles' Executive Assistant; Frank Sieverts, Senator Proxmire's Executive Assistant; Mrs. Ruth Sloane of Ruth Sloane Associates, a consultant on African Affairs; Mrs. Helen Kitchen, Editor of Africa Report.

### IV. Africa Freedom Day:

Plans have been made for the third annual celebration of Africa Freedom Day, this year at the Hunter College Auditorium on Monday evening, April the 17th. Barbara Harrison will be generally in charge on our staff and she will work closely with Mr. Carl Proctor with whom we have negotiated an agreement who will help in the organization of the affair and in lining up talent.

### V. A Conference on U.S. Policy Towards Africa:

This conference is being planned for Thursday night, March the 9th and all day Friday, March the 10th, just after the beginning of the resumed session of the United Nations General Assembly. A. Philip Randolph will be the Conference Chairman. A preliminary meeting with representatives from some 15 organizations was held in our office on January 24th to discuss some of the details for the Conference.

### VI. Projects and Activities:

A. A statement on the Algerian situation signed by over eighty Americans was released at the time of the debate in the UN in December and received pretty good publicity.

B. An analysis of the US voting record in the UN on African items has been prepared by George Houser and Betsy Landis. This will appear in article and chart form in Africa Today. But it has also been sent and has been discussed with key governmental people in the U.S. Mission to the UN, the State Department, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the House Foreign Affairs Committee, etc.

C. Medical care for two of the South West African petitioners has been arranged for and paid for through the Africa Defense and Aid Fund.

D. On the seizure of the Portuguese luxury liner Santa Maria, telegrams urging U.S. non-interference were sent to the President and other key governmental people and a message to a number of organizations urging similar action. In addition copies of our pamphlets on Angola and Mozambique have been sent out to key columnists and commentators as background material.

E. Work has been done to pave the way so that Mbyim Koinange of Kenya, who is now in Ghana, might be granted a visa to come to the United States.

F. Work has been done on a possible speaking tour for Michel Scott and petitions have been made to the State Department and to the Department of Justice to make it possible for Scott to be given an unrestricted visa to enter the United States so that he could meet the speaking engagements.

G. A South African doctor of Indian origin, Dr. Cassim M. Jadwat, who is up for deportation is attempting to get a stay of this order. The Committee has been working with him. Senator Proxmire is introducing a bill into the Senate to make it possible for Dr. Jadwat to stay.

H. Through discussions held with various senators and congressmen and State Department people, the Executive Director in his discussions in Washington tried to pave the way for Ferhat Abbas of the Algerian FLN to come on a visit to the United States. It has been arranged for Abdelkadar Chanderli to meet with Senators Church, Moss and McGee in Washington. This will be the first contact between the Algerians and any official Americans for many months.

I. Alan Paton's passport has been seized since he returned to South Africa and the charge made that he was publicly advocating a boycott of South African goods while he was in the United States and this may be treasonable action. On behalf of Paton we have been gathering all material available about the addresses he made while he was here and sending it too him so that this would be of assistance to him as he defends himself.

#### VII. Speaking Engagements:

Speaking engagements for the Executive Director in January have included: Jewish Community Center Forum, Yonkers; Democratic Club, Westchester, and community forums in Westfield, New Jersey and Sparta, New Jersey.

#### VIII. Personalities:

Some of the people of more than ordinary interest who have been in the office or with whom the staff has been in consultation include Mr. N.T.D. Kanakarathne of the Ceylon Mission to the UN, M. Zouhir Chelli of the Tunisian delegation to the UN, A.K. Chanderli of the FLN, John Bacon of the U.S. Mission to the UN, Arnold V. Kunst, Director of the Division on Non-Self-Governing Territories of the UN secretariat, H.A. Weischoff, Political Adviser to the Secretary-General of the UN, Dr. Fred Patterson of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, Irving Brown, European representative of the AFL-CIO, Oscar Kambona, a Tanganyika minister and Secretary-General of the Tanganyika African National Union, Senator Wayne Morse, Geoffrey Griffin of the Kenya Association of Youth Centers, Howard Samuel, Executive to the President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the Mwami of Ruanda, Stanley Bemba, a leader of the Democratic Party of Uganda, Manuel Davenport of Colorado State University doing preliminary work on the Peace Corp plan of President Kennedy, Emerson Smith, Director of the Board of Social Relations of the Methodist Church and on his way to Africa.

George M. Houser