

Minutes of the
Executive Board of the
American Committee on Africa

November 9, 1959

Present: Chairman--Donald Harrington; Nelson Bengston, Edward Gray, Maxwell Harway, Sophia Yarnall Jacobs, Elizabeth S. Landis, Stanley Levison, Frank Montero, John Murra, William X. Scheinman, Adelaide Schulkind, Hugh H. Smythe, Hope Stevens, Immanuel Wallerstein, Peter Weiss; Staff--Dale Harrison, George M. Houser, Homer A. Jack, Ann Morrissett; Counsel--Robert Delson.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as corrected.

Stowaway from SWA: Sub-committee established to inquire into abuses of immigration procedures.

Africa and the U.N. Meetings: Homer Jack reported that about 100 people attended each of the four Wednesday night sessions on "Africa and the United Nations." All sessions were quite good but perhaps the last one on Portuguese Africa was the most provocative, he reported, since a representative of Portugal's U.N. Mission was one of the speakers. Financially, the session just about broke even.

Chiume and Nkomo: It was reported that the Chiume-Nkomo tour had been extended through December 4. Their itinerary includes lectures under the auspices of 38 different groups throughout the country. Income from the tour may exceed expenses by \$500.

Literature: Homer Jack reported that literature sales are increasing significantly. The South West Africa pamphlet, written by Winifred Courtney, is going especially well. A pamphlet on the Central African Federation is at the printers, he noted, and an Africa Packet will be ready for distribution soon.

A vote of thanks for Winifred Courtney for her work on the South West Africa pamphlet was passed by the Board.

Sekou Toure Dinner: It was noted that 310 people attended the dinner for President Sekou Toure sponsored by the ACOA and the NAACP. Nonetheless, there was a deficit of about \$500. The Executive Director reported that in a private audience with several of the ACOA Board members following the dinner, Toure expressed interest in possibly becoming an adviser for the Africa Defense and Aid Fund.

A vote of thanks was extended to Cora Weiss by the Board for the fine job she did in arranging the dinner.

U.N. Issues: Algeria: A statement on the conflict in Algeria which is being prepared urges that the United States use its moral force to help bring about a cessation of the war. The statement will go out under the signature of prominent Americans who are being asked to sign the statement. If the finances can be worked out, the statement may be run as an ad in the New York Times.

South West Africa: The debate at the United Nations on South West Africa was more important this year than in the last several the issue has been debated. This might be attributed to the fact that five individuals, two South West Africans and three Americans, testified before the Fourth Committee for the first time.

The United States government sided with the majority in voting for a resolution calling attention to the fact that the International Court could take the case under its compulsory jurisdiction provisions.

Frank Montero suggested that the Executive Director write letters to the State Department and the New York Times congratulating the government on its stand on this issue.

Adelaide Schulkind was given a vote of thanks by the Board for holding a reception for the petitioners on the South West African question.

Portuguese Africa: Documents prepared with the cooperation of Roger Baldwin on Portuguese Africa have been circulated to U.N. delegations by the ACOA.

Central African Federation: Chiume and Nkomo have spent some time informing U.N. delegations of the issues at stake in Central Africa. Because of the great amount of work the U.N. has before it this fall, it is not likely that the question of Central Africa will come up on its agenda.

Africa Defense and Aid Fund: The launching of the Africa Defense and Aid Fund was announced at the Sekou Toure dinner by Frank Montero. A general mailing about the fund is going out this week, Ann Morrisett reported. Articles and advertisements on the fund drive have appeared in Dissent, The Progressive, and Harper's. An Alan Paton piece in the January Atlantic Monthly will also mention the Fund. There is \$4,500 in the old South Africa Defense Fund, but less than \$200 in the new Fund.

The new Fund is to be promoted by a series of small meetings with Chiume and Nkomo, and through a benefit at the Village Gate. Further promotional items are being planned.

Elections Confirmed: The elections of Maxwell Harway, Harold Isaacs and James Robinson to the Board were unanimously confirmed by the Board. Robinson was elected to a one-year term, Isaacs and Harway to two-year terms by lots.

Boycott of South African Goods: The Board moved that the Committee continue to explore possibilities of a U.S. boycott of South African goods. John Murra gave a careful summary of goods exported from South Africa and South West Africa to the U.S. A copy of this report is attached. A campaign for boycotting South African goods is gathering momentum in England, the West Indies and various parts of Africa.

ACOA Program for 1960: The program (see attached sheet) for 1960 was unanimously approved by the Board. The Board appointed a sub-committee of John Murra, Maxwell Harway and Hope Stevens, with Peter Weiss as chairman, to explore possibilities of ACOA activities on a program basis to deal with economic questions concerning Africa.

Charter Flight to Nigeria: The Board asked that the staff come to the next meeting of the Board with a specific proposal concerning chartering a flight to Nigeria on the occasion of its independence celebration in October, 1960.

Budget for 1960: The budget for 1960 (see attached sheet) was unanimously approved by the Board.

Membership: The Board requested that the Organization Committee reconsider possibilities of the ACOA becoming a membership corporation, and that a report on the matter be presented to the next session of the Board.

Labor Committee: Edward Gray was appointed by the Board as a one-man Labor Committee. He has been asked to sit in on meetings of the Organization Committee when ways in which labor can be brought into closer collaboration with the ACOA are discussed.

Bank Resolution: A copy of the bank resolution is attached to the official minute book.

Exports of the Union of South Africa to the U.S.

Total value of exports to the U.S. was \$22 million in 1948. This rose to \$74 million in 1954; it has hovered in that area ever since. This was always less than 10% of all Union exports. Britain is the best customer: she has imported usually about four times U.S. imports.

Largest Union of South Africa export is gold. No figures are available since matter is classified.

Wool comes second - 17% of all Union exports.

	Total exports	U.S. share
1948	\$ 77,392,000	
1954	\$147,168,000	
1957	\$155,624,000	\$14,689,000
1958	not available	\$13,727,834
1959 (first 7 months)		\$13,169,870

Karakul furs

	Total exports	U.S. share
1948	\$ 7,616,000	
1954	\$24,764,000	\$5,797,988
1955	\$27,524,000	\$4,458,395
1956		\$4,462,491
1958		\$3,797,590
1959 (first 7 months)		\$1,415,275

Lobsters, frozen

1954		\$3,130,530
1955		\$4,723,661
1956		\$6,024,687
1958		\$6,755,208
1959 (first 7 months)		\$7,294,129

INCOME STATEMENT

	Adopted for 1959	Actual 8 Mos.	Estimated Last 4 Mos.	Estimated Total 1959	Suggested Total 1960
<u>Gifts</u>	55,000	29,955	30,500	60,455	
<u>Foundations</u>					2,000
Special (\$25 and above)					22,000
General					54,000
<u>Fund-raising events</u>					
Africa Freedom Day and others					15,000
<u>Program</u>					
Sale of literature	300	147	300	447	700
Africa Today	4,000	2,009	700	2,709	7,500
Africa pamphlets	2,000	1,660	300	1,960	3,350
Travel	200	668	200	868	500
Meetings and conferences (incl '59 Af Freedom Day)	1,000	14,290	2,000	16,290	1,000
Visiting speakers	3,500	6,530	2,500	9,030	5,000
Africa Tour					5,000
<u>Miscellany</u>		<u>1,593</u>		<u>1,593</u>	
Totals	<u>66,000</u>	<u>56,852</u>	<u>36,500</u>	<u>93,352</u>	<u>116,050</u>

EXPENSE STATEMENT

<u>Fund-raising</u>					
Mailings	10,258	3,642	6,120	9,582	11,000
Africa Freedom Day and other events					10,000
<u>Program</u>					
Library			70	70	100
Literature for resale	300	213	50	263	300
Africa Today	6,376	4,286	900	5,186	12,500
Africa Today pamphlets	2,000	1,259	1,300	2,559	3,900
Travel	500	1,163	200	1,363	4,000
Meetings and conferences	1,500	7,462	2,500	9,962	1,000
Visiting speakers	2,000	3,456	3,500	6,956	4,000
<u>Administration and Overhead</u>				(500)	
Rent	3,180	3,120	(500)	3,120	6,000
Electricity	180	95	150	245	300
Telephone and telegraph	1,200	1,054	450	1,504	1,500
Stationery and supplies	1,000	1,625	500	2,125	2,000
Equipment	550	1,536	300	1,836	500
Postage	1,200	905	400	1,305	1,500
List upkeep	240	369	200	569	600
Printing	2,000	1,290	300	1,590	2,000
Bond premium	55		145	145	
Accountant	300		(425)	(425)	450
Bank charge	200	156		156	
<u>Personnel</u>					
Salaries	30,384	18,507	15,500	34,007	50,950
Hospitalization	241	154	140	294	400
Co. Social Security	240	458	300	758	850
Additional help	500	508		508	500
<u>Miscellany</u>	1,000		300	300	1,000
<u>1958 Deficit</u>		5,881		5,881	
<u>To Defense Fund</u>			<u>1,850</u>	<u>1,850</u>	
Totals	<u>65,404</u>	<u>57,139</u>	<u>36,100</u>	<u>93,059</u>	<u>115,350</u>

PROGRAM PLANS FOR 1960

- I. The program for the American Committee on Africa must be responsive to the historical demands of the moment. The following are some of the important factors which must be taken into account in 1960:
 - A. Four African countries will achieve independence.
 - B. Further crucial developments will take place in Algeria.
 - C. A Constitutional Conference on the future of the Central African Federation will take place in London.
 - D. The Mali Federation wants independence from France and this will affect developments in the French areas of Africa.
 - E. Moves for independence in the Congo will be quickened.
 - F. The struggle in South Africa will be intensified.
 - G. Pressure for changes in Kenya will increase.
 - H. The Presidential election in the United States will make 1960 a very important political year.
- II. Implementation of purposes of the ACOA.
 - A. Purpose #1: An interpretation of the meaning of African events to the American people:
 1. Public education through (a) literature, including Africa Today, and (b) supplying speakers to groups.
 2. Special events such as Africa Freedom Day and Nigerian Independence Celebration.
 3. An American speaking tour for African leaders or specialists such as Michael Scott, Alan Paton, Z. K. Matthews, Rashidi Kawawa, Hastings K. Banda.
 4. ACOA-sponsored tour of West Africa and to Nigerian Independence.
 - B. Purpose #2: An unofficial interpretation of enlightened American opinion to the African people and their leaders:
 5. Relation with and attendance at the All African Peoples' Conference.
 6. Continuous correspondence with African leaders and occasional field trips of staff and Board members.
 7. Welcoming African leaders in the U.S. through receptions and other special events.

C. Purpose #3: The supporting of policies -- in the U.S., the U.N., and elsewhere -- to further the development of responsible self-government in Africa:

8. U.N. program with African petitioners, independent African states, and the U.S. Mission to the U.N.

9. Conference of American organizations which will work out a policy for the United States toward Africa.

10. Work with political groups on policy statements toward Africa.

D. Purpose #4: Providing a channel for meaningful expression of American sympathy for Africans in need of legal and welfare aid resulting from efforts to achieve democratic rights in Africa, or for aid to African students in the United States:

11. Sponsorship of the Africa Defense and Aid Fund.

12. Help to African students.