

Minutes, ACOA Executive Board Meeting, June 17, 1976

The meeting was called to order shortly after 6:00 p.m. at the offices of the Committee. William Booth, President, presiding.

Present: Elombe Brath, Marshall Brown, Elsie Carrington, Michael Davis, Dorothy Hibbert, Janet Hooper, Jay Jacobson, Leonard Jeffries, William Johnston, David Lampel, Edgar Lockwood, Oseye Mchawi, Gail Morlan, Herbert Shore, Timothy Smith
Staff: George Houser, Jennifer Davis, Paul Irish, Raphael Gould, Richard Knight, Marvin Rich.

1. The minutes of the previous meetings were accepted as received.
2. Brief Reports

George Houser reported that Seagram's may not invest in the KwaZulu bantustan which would be a "victory" for our opposition.

Jennifer Davis reported how GE had lost the billion-dollar South Africa nuclear bid to a French firm 15% owned by Westinghouse; ACOA had been involved in a court challenge to the export of the enriched uranium handled by the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights Under Law and board member Goler Teal Butcher. An application to send the uranium for this plant is still expected, and the Lawyers Committee is contemplating legal intervention against U.S. Nuclear, Inc.'s continuing export of weapons-grade uranium for research purposes to the Allis-Chalmers built Pelindaba center in South Africa.

George Houser reported that he, Paul Irish and Tilden LeMelle had met with Governor William Scranton, the new U.S. representative to the U.N. in a worthwhile meeting to air ACOA's views on southern Africa, particularly Angolan membership in the United Nations.

On that issue, George Houser reported on conversations with the Angolan Ambassador designate to the U.N., Elisio de Figueiredo, that the issue would come before the Security Council next week.

George Houser also reported on his testimony before the Democratic Party's Platform Committee, which board members had received.

Concerning the U.N. Seminar on Apartheid held in Havana, May 24-28, a copy of George Houser's and Raphael Gould's report was mailed to board members. Timothy Smith, who also attended the Seminar, recommended that we get copies of Nigerian Ambassador Harriman's speech, and noted how our references to Seagram's were mentioned in the documents.

Ray Gould stressed the warm reception by the Cubans and the valuable contacts with other anti-apartheid organizations, particularly in sports. George Houser described the six "solidarity rallies" and his own talk for the occasion at a cigar factory.

Board members Robert Browne, Edgar Lockwood and Elombe Brath, and staff members Jennifer Davis, Paul Irish and Richard Knight attended the Angola Support Con-

ference held in Chicago, May 30-31. Paul Irish reported on the honor of receiving the first Angolan delegation to the U.S., headed by the People's Republic Middle East Ambassador, Miguel Neto, and joined by three women from the Ministry of Social Services, including the Secretary of State. The sessions were quite informative, attendance of 150 or so quite diverse, and arrangements, including the moderating of Bob Browne, excellent. Jennifer Davis and Ted Lockwood participated in a panel responding to a speech by Congressman John Conyers, and both helped run workshops on information activities and recognition of the PRA along with Paul Irish and Chris Root, respectively. The medical aid workshop set the most concrete proposal to raise \$11,000 in response to a detailed list of needs presented by Miguel by November 11, the independence anniversary. An on-going mechanism was agreed to in principle but awaits further developments.

Paul Irish reported on the second meeting of the Steering Committee of the Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa held just following the Angola conference. He noted that ACOA prepared a Zimbabwe bibliography, available on request for board members, had activated the telephone tree "hotline" on the issue of Angolan membership in the U.N., and circulated an evaluation of our Angola work. He reported serving on a three-person subcommittee to develop a general action proposal around the issue of Namibian imports, the shipping lines involved, Del Monte sardines, and related actions. Tim Smith reported that Del Monte believes it is not bringing the fish from Namibia, since its operations are in Walvis Bay.

Jennifer Davis reported on literature works in progress, a piece on Namibia with board member, Bill Johnston, a pamphlet on the MPLA by George Houser and board member Herbert Shore, reprint of board member Elizabeth Landis' piece on South African women, and a Zimbabwe chronology being worked on by George Houser. Richard Knight reported that literature sales in the first few months of 1976 had exceeded the total for all of the previous year, reflecting deepening interest in southern Africa.

Janet Hooper invited board members to attend the meeting Wednesday, June 23rd at the Church Center for the UN commemorating the first anniversary of the People's Republic of Mozambique; this was a "day of reflection" in Mozambique. Ruth Minter, board member Robert Van Lierop and others would speak.

3. Finances

Jay Jacobson reported on the "good news" - income was up for the year, and the "bad news" - so were expenses. The financial figures were before the board members. ACOA had lost a considerable amount on an extensive Angola outside mailing.

Marvin Rich circulated a memo proposing the idea, previously discussed by a joint finance meeting of ACOA and Africa Fund, to use the Africa Fund as the primary outside mailer, which has lower costs and a better rate of return, then annually to resolicit the additional contributions for ACOA.

4. Elections

Dorothy Hibbert, secretary of the board, distributed the ballot prepared by the nominating committee. The board accepted with regret the resignations of Winifred Courtney, Ida Lewis, Andre Ungar and Donald Wilson, and accepted the report of the nominating committee. Edward May and Mal Goode were nominated as new board members. Renewed discussion on the name of Arthur Ashe

on the national committee from the board meeting a year ago, was concluded by a motion to amend the report to delete Ashe from the national committee, favorably voted, with two nays and one abstention. Discussion on the nomination of Robert Smiley for the executive board followed, and it was agreed to defer the nomination. Motion was then accepted and the President directed that the Secretary cast one unanimous ballot for the slate as amended. Those re-elected were:

William Booth, President
Elizabeth Landis, Vice. Pres.
David Robinson, Vice. Pres.

Jay Jacobson, Treasurer
Dorothy Hibbert, Secretary

Marshall Brown
Robert Browne
Larry Henderson
Janet Hooper
Leonard Jeffries

William Johnston
Adelaide Schulkind
Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr.
Timothy Smith
Peter Weiss

5. Soweto

The board then entered into discussion of the massacre occurring in Soweto. At that time, official reports claimed 35 killed, 250 wounded. Board members contributed latest information, including the arrest of Jane Paghani, the South African Council of Churches/Christian Institute statement, the demonstrations called for Saturday 11:00 a.m. by the African National Congress of South Africa and 3:00 p.m. by the Pan African Students Organization in the Americas outside the South African Mission to the U.N. George Houser said he thought that considering the events we should call for Secretary Kissinger to cancel his meeting with South African Prime Minister Vorster. The board agreed to issue a statement calling for cancellation, and on suggestion of Herbert Shore to call for national demonstrations on Wednesday, June 23rd, the day the two were set to meet in West Germany. Board members took specific responsibilities for building the New York demonstration June 23rd, e.g. David Lampel and Elombe Brath preparing announcements for radio, Oseye Mchawi and Leonard Jeffries helping mobilize students, distribution of leaflets, contacting other groups, etc. Bill Booth agreed to speak.

6. Other Issues

Paul Irish reported on the invitation of the Chile groups to ACOA to participate in a banner protesting the Chilean sailing vessel, Esmeralda, (with South African sailors) and the South African frigate Kruger, in the bicentennial activities in New York harbor July 4th weekend. A memo has been sent out.

Bill Johnston reported on the determination of SWAPO inside Namibia to defy South Africa government's constitutional conference, and George Houser noted we should be giving attention again to the issue of tax credits for U.S. business in Namibia.

George Houser reported that Elton Razamba has established an office representing the Muzorewa wing of the ANC of Zimbabwe to the UN and U.S. He noted that federal officials were harassing ZANU representative Tapson Mawere's planned trip to Mozambique. Elombe Brath noted that this Sunday's TV program "Like It Is" would feature Miguel Neto of MPLA.

7. Next Board meeting was agreed for September 23rd.