

Minutes of the  
Executive Board Meeting of the  
American Committee on Africa  
September 9, 1957

Present: Peter Weiss—Vice Chairman; George Edmund Haynes, Keith Irvine, Elizabeth Landis, Frank Montero, Elliott Newcomb, Bayard Rustin, Adelaide Schulkind, George Shepherd, Jr., Robert Trentlyon; Dale Harrison, George M. Houser, Gilbert Jonas--Staff.

Minutes: The minutes of the last regular Executive Board meeting were unanimously adopted and ratified. The minutes of the special session of the Executive Board were amended to include among those present the name of Robert Trentlyon.

Report of the Finance Committee: In giving the finance report, Robert Trentlyon said that the ACOA had done quite well over the summer when our fund-raising potential is particularly low. The Committee ended up with a deficit of \$3,206.12, which is a great deal smaller indebtedness than many Board members had expected, he said.

Progress on Declaration of Conscience: About 450 world leaders have been asked to sponsor the Declaration of Conscience, Gilbert Jonas said. So far around 60 have accepted. He outlined steps to be taken in further building up the world-wide campaign against apartheid. A brochure will be published outlining the objectives of the campaign and including a listing of the world-wide sponsors. It will be distributed to key individuals and groups all over the world, and will encourage the establishment of local protest meetings on Human Rights Day, Dec. 10th. On October 1st a 50,000 piece mailing will be sent out to solicit funds for the campaign. On the 7th of October, George Houser will start a cross-country tour for the purposes of fund raising and establishing protest meetings in many U.S. cities. In addition, the Nov.-Dec. issue of AFRICA TODAY will be a special one devoted to the examination of apartheid in the Union of South Africa by authorities on labor, business, education, religion, etc. On Human Rights Day a group of people from sympathetic organizations will picket the U.N. And that evening the campaign will be culminated by a rally at Manhattan Center to be chaired by Dean Pike. There are possibilities that Walter Reuther and Gov. G. Mennen Williams will be the main speakers. If Sidney Poitier is in town he will appear on the program. Two full-page ads costing \$400.00 each are being considered for the overseas edition of the New York Times (circ. about 10,000), one to be run in November — an appeal by Alan Paton to rally support for the world campaign; and one on Human Rights Day to urge that individual protests be made.

The Finance Committee is to make a recommendation at the next Board meeting as to how much concentration the ACOA should make on raising money for the S.A. Defense Fund. It was pointed out by George Houser that the needs of the 156 people now undergoing preliminary hearings on charges of treason have increased enormously because of the length of the proceedings. All but a handful of these people are dependent on donated funds for the survival of their families and themselves.

Tax Exemption: George Houser reported that while in Washington, D.C. last week he went to the Treasury Department to check on the status of the ACOA's request for tax exemption. One woman through whose hands the request had passed and who had made her recommendation said that a major problem these days was in defining the scope of education. This is a problem that confronts the authorities in making tax exemption decisions that concern organizations in similar areas of activity as the ACOA, he said.

Next Annual Report: It was decided that the next annual report would be given in January 1958 and in succeeding Januarys thereafter.

A.J. Muste: George Houser announced that a letter of resignation from A.J. Muste had been received by Donald Harrington. By a vote of 6 to 3 the Board voted not to accept the resignation. A motion to ask John Gunther to send out acceptance notes on the new ACOA letterhead to new members of the National Committee, and at the same time to acquaint Gunther with the names of all of those affiliated with the ACOA without necessarily bringing up the name of A.J. Muste was passed by 7 to 2. This motion implies factual answers to be given to Gunther should he ask any questions. Another motion calling for a representative committee of the Executive Board (which must include Donald Harrington) to see John Gunther and specifically acquaint him with the "facts" concerning A.J. Muste, was defeated 5 to 4. A move to reconsider the above motion was voted down by 5 to 3.

Brief Recommendations: George Houser made the following recommendations: That the ACOA at the request of various South West Africans assist M'burumba Getzen in his presentations at the U.N.; that a U.N. Committee be set up (he stated that Elizabeth Landis and George Shepherd have been working on a U.N. statement); that the various ACOA committees be reconstituted; and that action, in accordance with ACOA official policy, should be taken on arrangements for speaking tours for Violaine Junod and W.M. Chirwa.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Executive Board will be on Monday, September 30th in the offices of the ACOA at 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

September, 1956 -- August, 1957

|                                      |                 | <u>Income</u>    | <u>Expense</u>   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| General income:                      |                 | 34,376.74        |                  |
| contributions                        | 34,124.10       |                  |                  |
| travel                               | <u>252.64</u>   |                  |                  |
| Administration and overhead expense: |                 |                  | 24,235.18        |
| travel                               | 289.85          |                  |                  |
| stationery and supplies              | 3,069.21        |                  |                  |
| telephone and telegraph              | 879.71          |                  |                  |
| rent                                 | 2,585.00        |                  |                  |
| electricity                          | 94.18           |                  |                  |
| postage                              | 1,639.69        |                  |                  |
| salaries                             | 12,174.72       |                  |                  |
| equipment                            | 1,222.00        |                  |                  |
| printing                             | 2,048.15        |                  |                  |
| bank charges                         | 133.30          |                  |                  |
| bonding premium                      | 45.00           |                  |                  |
| moving                               | 64.37           |                  |                  |
| advertising                          | <u>10.00</u>    |                  |                  |
| Fund-raising:                        |                 |                  | 11,728.73        |
| fees                                 | 3,186.68        |                  |                  |
| mailings                             | <u>8,542.05</u> |                  |                  |
| Program:                             |                 |                  |                  |
| Africa Today                         |                 | 3,156.04         |                  |
| subs                                 | 2189.71         |                  |                  |
| Ghana issue                          | 716.33          |                  |                  |
| ads                                  | <u>250.00</u>   |                  |                  |
| expense                              |                 |                  | 2,788.92         |
| public relations fees                |                 |                  | 3,186.69         |
| literature                           |                 | 665.46           | 581.86           |
| Mboya trip                           |                 | 1,291.86         | 763.01           |
| November conference                  |                 | 526.00           | 736.19           |
| Jarrett-Kerr meeting                 |                 | 99.87            |                  |
| "Valley without Echo"                |                 | 136.50           |                  |
| Ghana celebration                    |                 |                  | 1,085.94         |
| December 10, 1957, rent advance      |                 |                  | <u>75.00</u>     |
| Defense Fund overhead                |                 | <u>5,128.55</u>  |                  |
| On hand September 1, 1956            |                 | 45,381.02        | 45,201.51        |
| On hand September 3, 1957            |                 | 977.21           | <u>1,156.72</u>  |
|                                      |                 | <u>46,358.23</u> | <u>46,358.23</u> |
| Bills owed                           | 4,362.84        |                  |                  |
| On hand                              | <u>1,156.72</u> |                  |                  |
| Deficit                              | 3,206.12        |                  |                  |

Partial Breakdown of Contributions

Income from Larger Outside Lists

|                                     | <u>Gross Income</u> | <u>Credited to<br/>Africa Today</u> | <u>Net Income</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Mrs. Bowles' letter                 | 1,087.40            | 218.50                              | 868.90            |
| Mrs. Roosevelt's letter             | 4,363.40            | 349.00                              | 4,014.40          |
| <u>Christianity and Crisis</u> list | 247.10              | 53.50                               | 193.60            |
| John Gunther's letter               | <u>11,879.78</u>    | <u>14.00</u>                        | <u>11,865.78</u>  |
|                                     | 17,577.68           | 635.00                              | 16,942.68         |
| Contributions from other sources    |                     |                                     | <u>17,181.42</u>  |
|                                     |                     |                                     | 34,124.10         |

NB: Some of our earlier mailings made a point of stressing subscriptions to Africa Today. Further, until May it was the custom to credit one dollar of the contribution of every new contributor who gave at least \$1.50 to Africa Today. This is the reason for the large amount so credited from the answers to Mrs. Roosevelt's letter, and for the small amount so credited from the answers to Mr. Gunther's letter.

NB II: The Donald Harrington letter (re: Kennedy) produced \$374.00.