CONFIDENTIAL

Southern Africa Committee: Minutes for the meeting of April 2, 1965

The chairman initiated the meeting by commenting on the fact that although the committee's membership was small and time commitments limited it seems that there is a core of people willing to continue the activities of the committee and hopefully there will be a larger membership in the fall.

The meeting opened with the chairman's reading of a letter from Dick Van Horn, who was unable to attend the meeting, submitting his comments on Peter Brook's five "alternatives" and "policies", which had been outlined by Peter in the previous week's meeting. Dick's opinion is that pressure on the United States government is probably the most pragmatic policy at this time, in view of the attitudes expressed by Mr. Koons of Chase Manhattan, and Mr. Bernstein's belief that voluntary action on the part of American business is most unlikely. Dave Robinson suggested a sixth point in addition to Peter's five, that is the pressure of the American government on American business for "voluntary withdrawal" from the South African system since it is doubtful that the government will take any unilateral action of economic sanctions. At another point in the meeting Chuck Gillette suggested that Dr. Van Deusen's term of a policy of "economic disengagement" would be perhaps a more feasible request at this time.

There was some very general discussion of our philosophy of action with some tacit agreement that the aim of the committee is not the automatic creation of a specific type of South African society, but rather that we should attempt to play a role within the total strategy of American action, and that perhaps the committee will be able to "fill the gaps", particularly since it is not hampered by overriding ideologies or prior commitments. The well-worn question of political and/or economic action was mentioned, and it was generally agreed that any one type of action was not mutually exclusive in its motivation or results (i.e. the Chase Manhattan demonstration had greater political results and meaning that economic consequence) It is a matter of priorities within the realm of probable consequences and the effectiveness of the ventures, which should be the criteria for action.

At the close of the meeting five committees were established dealing with five different areas of concern. The discussion on these areas will be included.

1) Constituency Committee: Sharon Gorman, Sharon Flynn
   a) There is a need for both an enlargement of the committee (some people at NYU have already shown an interest) and for the enlistment of campus groups in the metropolitan area, in order that the committee's programs will have participants as well as developing the interests of different groups in the total question of South Africa.
   b) On the national level it was suggested that:
      i. Articles on South Africa be submitted to campus newspapers
      ii. Personal representatives visit college campuses
      iii. Contact should be maintained with those students who attended the UN Seminar in March
   c) The various campus groups which could be utilized are inter-denominational, NSCF groups etc.

2) Liaison Committee: Peter Brooks, Bill Minter
   a) This committee will have the responsibility of maintaining links with other groups involved in South African action; of attending important meetings of these other groups (CORE meeting, April 10,) and of finding other groups who might be interested in South Africa (i.e. The American Association for the UN.; International Relations Clubs etc.)
3) **Church Strategy Committee**: Alice Simpson, Bill Nelson  
   a) Several suggestions pertaining to church strategy were mentioned, in addition to the general plan of utilizing church groups of all types, as educators, pressure groups, constituency members etc.
   i. Request that the various church groups write and query the companies and banks with which they do business about their policy in South Africa (this was done by the Commission on Religion and Race in reference to companies' policies in the South)
   ii. Look into raising money for a Permanent Chairman of this committee  
   iii. The commission on World Mission Literature and Study Committee wants directives from the committee.
   iv. Someone suggested that J. Irvin Miller, former President of the NCC might be interested in the work of the committee.

4) **South West Africa Committee**: Dave Robinson, Janet MacLaughlin  
   a) Dave Robinson suggested that the committee as a whole concentrate on the South West Africa issue for approximately the next six months, as it is a pressing issue with the World Court and would also direct attention to direct American government policy on the question. There was some disagreement with a strategy of total concentration on the South West Africa question, since first of all the World Court has not yet come out its decision and therefore any demonstrations, demands, etc. would be before the fact and would thus lack a specific grievance. Secondly, some members of the committee felt it would be difficult to mobilize public opinion on this question, although South West Africa could be revealed as an example of the total South African situation (one of many problems) and it might perhaps be a "legal handle" for the American government to come to some vital policy decision, although even here the government might find means of avoiding the issues.
   b) Dave suggested various activities for the sub-committee:
      i. Contacting the South West African Students' Union to find out if they are planning any more activity, such as the U.N. demonstration on March 29th in the future.
      ii. An examination of the policies of American Metal Climax Company in South West Africa, which would draw in the economics of the American firm with the problem of apartheid.
      iii. Contacting other groups and people who would indicate their stand on the future of South West Africa, and inform the American Government of their expectations once the World Court Decisions has been handed down.

5) **Government "Pressure Points" Committee**: Church Gilette  
   a) Church described the activities of the American government in encouraging investments in South Africa, and told of various interviews that have been held with important figures in the Department of Commerce (Robert Simpson); the State Department and other levels of the government. He believes that pressure must be brought to bear on the upper echelons of the government and perhaps certain areas of the State Department (i.e. the West European Desk, which is extremely important and which might be made to notice the South African problem and thus initiate a closer look at our policy there) It is Church's opinion that American action will not occur without these factors
      i) A "precipitator"; This could be the South West Africa decision although it is uncertain.
      ii) Domestic pressures for government action (although the cry for total economic sanctions would probably be unsuccessful)
      iii) The action on the part of other African nations on American companies with South African dealings.

The meeting closed with another discussion of the "direction" of the total committee. Bob Kelly pointed out that the committee seemed to be ignoring the international realm of action, such as working with the World Student Christian Federation, and
working directly for the people of South Africa (legal aid and defense) (rather than American policy towards South Africa). He suggested focusing on the collection of money and support for such groups as a new Interracial Student Group in South Africa which is having a difficult time getting off the ground. It was decided that this type of action was not purposely excluded from the interests of the committee and could be included in the activity of the Church Committee and that in order to obtain the funds it would be necessary to establish a constituency.

There were other miscellaneous topics of discussion:

a) JoAnn Curtiss, a state department representative who is going to South Africa suggested that a Prayer Vigil be held in Washington.

b) Bill Minter said that he would write to the New York Times pointing out the inconsistencies between their articles on South Africa and the misrepresentations found in the South African "advertisements" that the paper publishes.

c) It was reported that a friend of the Committee, attended Chases stockholders meeting and directed questions about the bank’s involvement in South Africa. The incident was reported in the N.Y. Times March 31st.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13th, at 1:15 in the Sixth Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet MacLaughlin, secretary