Minutes: Southern Africa Committee, NSCF, October 8, 1965

The third meeting of the Southern Africa Committee of the NSCF was held at noon, October 8 in the fifth floor conference room of the Interchurch Center. The participants spent the first few minutes of the meeting in folding and enveloping a new mailing to be sent to our constituency.

Bill Minter, Chairman of the committee, spoke of a forthcoming meeting with George Houser of the ACCA and the Consultative Council on plans for a March Emphasis campaign. It is hoped the members of the committee will be able to meet with people from NSA, Newman Clubs, and the National Federation of Catholic College Students on Wednesday, October 13th or the subsequent Friday to discuss plans for this event.

The rest of the meeting dealt with the various committees' reports:

A. CHURCH COMMITTEE: Alice Simpson reported her concepts of the role of this committee during the coming year, which include;

1. A continuation of our relationship with the NCC; as a stimulus toward action and thought on Southern Africa;
   a. Financial: Our participation in both lay business groups of the NCC as formulated by Leroy Brininger and with the new committee of Church Treasurers who are examining their policies toward South Africa. These Groups need educational material and encouragement to keep continued pressure in the financial area.
   b. Educational: We must provide magazine articles or sources for articles to the NCC and other groups.

2. Our committee can also provide a thrust to the denominations; and encourage such action as that taken by the Episcopal Church on the South African question; the Presbyterian Church and its committee of business laymen who are going to investigate financial policies; groups such as the United Church Women who hold study conferences and other programs where the Southern Africa question could play an important role; churches which are not ostensibly involved as yet; and the Roman Catholic Church where there are several priests in the New York area concerned about the question.

3. There are certain people with whom we should keep in contact; and who might be helpful in writing articles on South Africa; such as Doug Sloan former Literature and Study Secretary of the Committee on World Mission of the NSCF; members of PASCA; certain London people, Hank Crane, Bishop Dodge etc.

B. INFORMATION & EDUCATION: Bill Minter outlined some of the immediate duties of this committee:

1. We should provide information to local constituencies; and to new groups, and attempt to coordinate their activities, such as those of groups in the Cambridge area.
2. Dick Van Vorhis of the UCCF has promised to print and distribute material on South Africa such as bibliographies, articles, our statement of purpose etc. which will be sent as "Campus Resource" packets to nearly 2,500 campuses. This material must be sent to him by October 15th.

3. We have been allotted various issues of church magazines; the February issue of Communiqué (NSCF) and of Current Trends, the Presbyterian publication.

4. It will be very important to have good press coverage for the March emphasis week, and good contacts can be maintained with the Consultative Council via Judy Binion; with Peter Franklin, and perhaps with people involved in the National Student Press.

C. STUDENT GROUPS: Mary MacAnnally and Bill pointed out that the best way to keep in contact with student groups was through the various committee members own contacts; in this way we are in touch with almost all significant student groups. Of course these must be coordinated by the chairman.

1. Sharon Gorman is interested in local New York colleges and she has already set up a panel program at Queens College for February.

2. We should find out about such groups as the Columbia Independent Committee on Vietnam which has established research committees, one of them being on Africa. Also we should know about the various African student independence movements and perhaps we could receive their different newsletters.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing Defense and Aid; the various channels for its use, the positions of these different groups etc. In the United States the American Committee on Africa solicites some funds for Defense and Aid, but aid for Southern Africa is only a portion of the total and the contributor must indicate his preference when he contributes. The ACCA then channels these funds through the International Defense and Aid organization in London. This seems to be the best method of contribution for funds collected during the March Emphasis program, but it also is a good idea if churches and our committee contribute directly to the London committee and not be afraid to mention who is giving the money. In the past there have been various anonymous gifts, but we think it would be more positive to commit a name to the donation. Other sources of Defense and Aid are the World University Service, which has already collected money for political prisoners and should be utilized during the March Emphasis; and the America Friends Service Committee, which would be a good source for fund-raising. Other channels for money include the World Council of Churches and the Christian Council of South Africa.

It was decided that our committee should keep abreast of the latest news from South Africa and that a few minutes of each meeting should be devoted to reports from different members who have the opportunity of reading South African and other publications, such as the Press Digest, Star, Africa Today, Inspan etc.

The next meeting will be held on Friday October 15, at 12 noon in the Fifth floor Conference Room of the Interchurch Center.

Respectfully submitted

Janet I. Macloughlin.

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Oct.11.65