

# face to africa

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GEORGE M. HOUSER, *Executive Director*; JAMES R. ROBINSON, *Assistant Director*; COLLIN GONZE, *Publications Director*

## Houser Returns from Angola

George Houser, ACOA Executive Director, returned from his "visit to a war" at the end of January. Houser, personally opposed to war, traveled to the revolt area of Northern Angola to assess the situation and to develop ways the American Committee can help Angolans.

He and Dr. John Marcum of Lincoln University spent 11 days walking through the brush and forests, visited twelve villages, and distributed medical aid. Houser reported his conviction that the revolt will not end until the Portuguese abandon control of Angola.

The war has radically changed living conditions. Between 150,000 and 200,000 Angolans fled to the Congo, and, because of Portuguese bombing, the large numbers remaining have moved out of their old locations and live in hidden villages deep in the rain forests. Houser reports, "Nationalist territory is in a very real, if rudimentary, sense already self-governing. In addition to UPA-issued passports, there are village councils, custom posts, youth organizations and a government-in-exile in Leopoldville."



*John Marcum hands out drug package to Angolan medical assistant.*

The fighting is largely guerrilla in type, with the Portuguese using bombing planes. Houser and Marcum witnessed the bombing of a village they had visited the previous day. Runners brought them fragments of the napalm bombs dropped—one clearly labeled:

"Property U. S. Air Force"

(Continued overleaf)

## ERA Opens New Era for ACOA

ERA (Emergency Relief to Angola), undertaken by the American Committee on Africa as a result of the findings made by George Houser on his exploratory trip to the war zone in Angola, was officially launched at an Africa Freedom Day rally April 15th. Both medicines and money were collected for Angolans living in the "medical vacuum" which exists in the revolt area.

ERA marks a new departure toward an old goal. *New* because it is our first attempt to bring *medical* aid to any part of Africa. *Old* because its purpose is not only help to suffering human beings but also support to the development of a freedom movement in Africa. Precisely because humanitarian relief inside Angola must have political overtones, the large, international relief organizations—which have programs of aid to Angolan refugees in the Congo—cannot enter Angola itself. Hence, the necessity of ERA.

### ACOA Members Can Expand ERA

The launching of the ERA campaign was made possible by members and friends of ACOA through their contributions to the Committee—which bears the overhead costs on such projects. To build the campaign, we ask you:

- to get your organization, church or union to set up a campaign for ERA.
- to write a letter about ERA to your local newspaper, specifying that contributions to ERA should be sent to the American Committee on Africa, 801 Second Avenue, New York 17.
- spread the word that a young doctor is sought to go to Angola for the ERA program.

ERA can indeed mean a new era for ACOA.

### ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS!

You don't have to lead a movement,  
You don't have to be able to spell Tanganyika  
backwards,  
You don't even have to be fluent in Swahili  
To help Africa find freedom.  
If you can type, stamp, and lick envelopes,  
You can be a VOLUNTEER  
At the American Committee on Africa  
(if you live in the New York area).  
Just call Deborah Kallen, MURRAY Hill 6-7263 . . .  
or come in: 801 Second Avenue.  
The password is Uhuru.





*Invalid Angolan refugee in rain forest village.*

### **Houser Returns (Continued)**

As has happened before, NATO materials are apparently used for purposes other than provided for by agreement.

Both Houser and Marcum have been active in reporting what they saw. In addition to radio and TV appearances and public meetings, Houser appeared before the UN Subcommittee on Angola.

Houser's major recommendation for the American Committee is increased medical aid to Northern Angola. This will be handled through ERA, a division of the Africa Defense and Aid Fund.

### **American Labor Gives Support**

The report on distribution of \$4,000 worth of medicines during Houser's trip stimulated interest in the American labor movement. Labor's first shipment of medicines, valued at about \$5,000, was shipped from New York on May 2nd. There is some possibility that one of labor's doctors may go into Angola to give treatment and to train others in the use of basic remedies against infection, malaria, and dysentery.

### **"An Important Influence on Both Continents"**

basic profile of the American Committee on Africa, available on request. Please send enough for shipping costs on quantity orders and allow plenty of time for delivery.

### **Petitioners Aided**

The last session of the United Nations has been an extremely important one for African territories still under colonial rule. To New York, therefore, have come many witnesses and petitioners from dependent areas. And the Committee has helped many of them. Accommodations must be found; petitions and statements, once drafted, must be reproduced and distributed; certain contacts must be made; living maintenance must be assured, and so on. In addition, press conferences and various public appearances must be arranged to enable the visitors to make their cases known.

Among the most important visitors so aided by the Committee in the last few months have been: Holden Roberto, now President of the Provisional Government of Angola (in Leopoldville exile); Joshua Nkomo, President of the Zimbabwe African National Union of Southern Rhodesia; Kenneth Kaunda, President of the United National Independence Party of Northern Rhodesia; and Oliver Tambo, Deputy President of the African National Congress of South Africa.

In past years the Committee has extended similar informal help to other visitors—men such as Julius Nyerere of Tanganyika, Tom Mboya of Kenya, Sylvanus Olympio of Togo—who subsequently became pivotal leaders in Africa.

Neither the Committee's services nor the happy results to which they contributed could have been possible without the continued and loyal support of our many members.

### **Africa Freedom Day**

"A most successful event," was the way Frank Montero described the fourth annual Africa Freedom Day held at Town Hall, New York City, on April 15. Theme of the occasion was clearly illustrated in the huge backdrop: a map of Africa with the lower portion (the Portuguese colonies, the Rhodesias and South Africa) in solid black, where white domination remains an entrenched way of life.

Specially brought from overseas to appear at the rally were Kenneth Kaunda, President of Northern Rhodesia's United National Independence Party, and Oliver Tambo, Deputy President of the African National Congress of South Africa. Both speakers spoke with a determination indicative that African patience has just about run out.

Other notable speakers were Dr. Eduardo Mondlane, the brilliant sociologist from Portuguese Mozambique; Raouf Boudjakdji of the Algerian FLN; and Congressman William Fitts Ryan. Ossie Davis, star of the Broadway hit, *Purlie Victorious*, offered dramatic readings, and the Dinizulu dancers and drummers rounded off the celebration.

Responsible for this year's high-level, briskly moving program were Frank C. Montero, the master of ceremonies, and Cora Weiss, the able organizer.

*This issue of FACE TO AFRICA is the first in a series designed to inform ACOA members of organizational activities. The newsletter will appear periodically but with no set schedule.*