

1962 REPORT

(January 1, 1962 through December 31, 1962)



*American
Committee
on Africa*

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New York 17, N.Y.

1962 proved to be a year of significant growth in both activities and membership for the American Committee on Africa. We begin 1963, our tenth anniversary year, with hope for greater service. Just as 1961 suffered from the delays inherent in a reorganization of staff, 1962 has only begun to show the fruits of new emphases and new methods. To summarize briefly, we have organized this report along the lines of the chief ways in which ACOA carries on its work: (1) Program and Projects; (2) Public Information and Education; (3) Membership and Finance; and (4) Administration and General.

(1) PROGRAM AND PROJECTS

Emergency Relief to Angola (ERA) and Africa Defense and Aid Fund: For many years, the American Committee on Africa has raised special funds for aid to African movements and for help to those who suffer because of their activities for independence or against racist practices. In 1962, our major emphases were two: relief to refugees from South and South West Africa living in Tanganyika; and medical relief to Angolans. The South African refugee project met with only moderate success, and \$1,000 was sent for these refugees through Julius Nyerere, now President of Tanganyika.

The Angola project got off to an exciting start with the trip into the war zone by Executive Director George M. Houser and Prof. John Marcum. Carrying almost \$4,000 worth of medicines with them, they saw the great need for doctors and drugs in an area where war had shut down all normal channels for help to the sick. Through stimulation of other organizations and cooperative efforts, a number of large shipments of pharmaceuticals went to the Angolan clinic in Leopoldville. It became evident that a doctor was vital if more of the medical help was to reach Angolan refugees on both the Congo and the Angola side of the border. ERA issued and distributed 115,000 copies of its initial brochure. Fortunately, fundraising efforts were successful enough so that we now have a doctor for 1963. We were also able to purchase and ship a small station wagon to enable the doctor to carry medicines from the clinic to

the border and to bring back patients for whom hospitalization is absolutely essential. Efforts must be stepped up for more funds, but the whole program of medical relief is becoming systematized and reaching more of those who need it.

In addition, the Defense and Aid Fund made numerous small grants to Africans both here and in Africa.

Africa Freedom Day, April 15th: Kenneth Kaunda, now Minister of Local Government and Social Welfare of Northern Rhodesia; Edward Mondlane, of the Liberation Front of Mozambique; Oliver Tambo of the South African National Congress; and Congressman William Fitts Ryan were the main speakers at a Town Hall meeting. The meeting served also as the opening of the public drive for Emergency Relief to Angola.

Appeal for Action Against Apartheid: This campaign was based on a document initiated by Albert John Lutuli of South Africa and Martin Luther King of the United States and ultimately signed by over 175 leaders from around the globe. Almost 200,000 copies of the document were distributed. Not only did thousands of Americans join in signing the Appeal, but meetings and demonstrations on and around Human Rights Day occurred in Canada and in a number of American cities. In New York, a large picket line at the First National City Bank emphasized the fact that trade and investment with the present South African government is aid to its apartheid policies. On the West Coast a picket line organized by our West Coast representative, Mary-Louise Hooper, received excellent press notice, for it was honored by the longshoremen and thus delayed the handling of South African cargo. Our campaign against apartheid must be stepped up in 1963.

United Nations Activities: The work of ACOA is frequently of vital importance at United Nations debates on African issues. In 1962, we worked with many petitioners from Non-Self-Governing Territories in Africa, including, to name a few: Kaunda, Northern Rhodesia; Nkomo, Southern Rhodesia; Kolisang, Basutoland; Matante, Bechuanaland; Nquku, Swaziland; Roberto and Neto of Angola; Nujoma and Kozonguizi of South West Africa; Resha and Leballo of South Africa; Mondlane of

Mozambique; Cabral and Labery of Portuguese Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands; and Ndongo of Rio Muni.

Of equal importance, the Committee prepares background and position papers on African issues at the United Nations with special recommendations for United States policy.

(2) PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

An entirely new basic brochure outlining the purposes and program of the American Committee was issued in January and continues in steady use. Over 80,000 copies were distributed. A short Statement on the U.S., the U.N., and the Congo outlined the importance of a unified Congo and of support for the policies of the U.N.

Africa Today, ACOA's magazine, continued its growth during 1962. Almost 5,000 persons were receiving it by the end of 1962—an increase of more than 25%. To meet the high production and distribution costs, subscriptions were raised from \$3.50 a year to \$5.00, while most membership subscriptions will be gradually discontinued. Response to renewing at the old rate was remarkably good and was interpreted to mean that publication of the magazine remains an important Committee function.

South African Crisis and U.S. Policy: This new pamphlet, issued by ACOA in December 1962 analyzes the contending forces in the South African crisis and American involvement. It presents a case for world economic action to bring about change without violence. Published in December, the pamphlet is already getting rather wide circulation.

Other Means of Mass Communication: Press conferences for visting African leaders were frequently arranged by the Committee throughout the year. In February, a special conference for George Houser and John Marcum (who had just returned from Angola) was held at the Overseas Press Club. Press releases to publicize the ACOA's stand on South Africa, the Congo, Angola, the Rhodesias and other issues were sent out. Articles with Committee viewpoints were placed in several national magazines, and many radio programs were initiated. Articles first appearing in *Africa Today* are frequently reprinted in other publications—particularly in Africa.

(3) MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE

Thousands of new people joined ACOA or contributed to its special funds for Africa (ERA and ADAF). Although several thousand others were dropped, a *net* membership increase of approximately 30% took place. The financial report, based on preliminary, unaudited figures, follows the categories in the 1962 budget:

American Committee on Africa Finances — 1962

Income:

Membership, and Contributions	\$104,734.04
Literature, Pamphlets, Books	2,506.19
AFRICA TODAY magazine	10,263.34
Meetings, Honoraria, Travel	4,053.37
Speaking Engagements	1,460.49
Miscellaneous	1,068.88
Total Income	<u>\$124,086.31</u>

Expense:

Membership Services and Recruitment \$	43,203.51
Literature, Books, Printing	9,683.15
AFRICA TODAY magazine	22,877.29
Meetings and Travel	10,715.57
Speaking Arrangements	4,549.83
Office (rent, equipment, postage, supplies, telephone, audit)	15,904.34
General Administration and Un-Allocated costs	23,214.66
Total Expense	<u>\$130,148.35</u>

DEFICIT ON 1962 OPERATIONS .. \$	6,062.04
Add previous deficits	9,254.59
TOTAL ACCUMULATED DEFICIT, December 31, 1962	<u>\$15,316.63</u>

Experience during 1962 demonstrates to us that the above system for financial reporting is not fully adequate. Accordingly, the 1963 budget is being prepared to relate dollars to the same four main headings used in this annual report (i.e., Projects and Program; Education and Public Information; Membership; Administration). However, we felt that our 1962 reporting must adhere to the general headings used in the Budget sent out last winter. Note that salaries have been allocated primarily

to three expense categories: Membership, AFRICA TODAY, and Administration.

Special Funds for Africa (Emergency Relief to Angola and Africa Defense and Aid Fund) are *not* included in the above figures. These Funds—unlike the operating account—ran no deficit. \$3,240.00 was disbursed to African Petitioners and African students. \$1,571.12 was sent to Africa for purposes other than ERA. \$4,388.93 was used for medical relief to Angolans. As of December 31, 1962, a balance of \$8,720.16 remained in the account—enough to guarantee security for our ERA doctor's work for the first half of 1963. It is our hope to increase amounts available for Africa during the coming year.

(4) ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL

Staff: A staff of ten early in 1962 was cut to eight by mid-year because of the financial difficulties of the Committee. On the other hand, unlike 1961, 1962 did not suffer from a large turn-over in executive personnel: George M. Houser continued as Executive Director; James R. Robinson as Assistant Director for Finance; and Collin Gonze as Publications Director. Mary-Louise Hooper late in 1962 became West Coast representative for the American Committee on Africa, as well as for its Africa Defense and Aid Fund.

ACOA adopted a new direction in 1962 when it set up a method for affiliation of local or regional Committees on Africa. Northern California completed arrangements for affiliation, and a Washington, D.C., chapter was reported in formation.

There were few changes in the Board or National Committee. Daniel J. Bernstein succeeded Nelson Bengston as Treasurer. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt died late in the year, and several Board members set up an African student scholarship in memory of her vital interest in Africa.

