I - Introduction

1976 was a year of challenge and growth for the Africa Fund. Our work is affected by developments both in Africa and in the United States. Because 1976 was an unusual year in both these areas of the world, our experience in the Africa Fund was also unusual. Important developments on the African side included: the conflict in Angola between contending political movements for control of the country; the involvement of major powers in Angola backing competing movements almost leading to a major international confrontation; the uprising of the students of Soweto against the apartheid regime of South Africa; the growing confrontation between the South African government and the world community on the nature of an independent Namibia; the increasing conflict between Zimbabwe and Rhodesia eventuating in renewed negotiations in Geneva which ended in failure.

On the American side in the last year of the Ford administration, the Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, finally realized the importance of Africa. The conflict ended in Angola with a victory for the MPLA which the United States had opposed. To attempt to forestall more widespread violence between the black majority and the white minorities of southern Africa, Kissinger inaugurated a shuttle diplomacy in Africa. He met twice with Prime Minister John Vorster of South Africa in Europe; he traveled twice to Africa making a new major policy statement in Zambia in April, followed by a concentrated trip in September for talks with Presidents Nyerere of Tanzania and Kaunda of Zambia, Ian Smith of Rhodesia and again with Vorster of South Africa. These contacts led to the Geneva discussions. Kissinger's activities gave prominence to developments in southern Africa in sharp contrast to the low priority given this part of the world in previous years.

An evidence of this was that with the election of a new administration under the leadership of President Jimmy Carter, unprecedented attention was given to the appointment of Andrew Young as the new Ambassador to the United Nations based to a considerable extent on Young's approach to the southern African situation.

These developments in Africa and in the United States were the backdrop for the challenge to the Africa Fund. In no year since our founding ten years ago have there been so many demands upon us for literature, for the use of our research facilities, for speakers, for help in setting up conferences, for background information from congressional or United Nations sources. If the events in Africa were one kind of challenge, the ability of the Africa Fund to meet the demands made upon us by them was another.

II - Literature Production and Distribution

Statistics have their limitations in interpreting developments, and yet they
are one useful way of assessing activity and growth. Our income from the sale of literature in 1976 was about three times that of 1975 and, in fact, that of any other year since our founding. According to the financial report, in 1975 $2,280 was realized from the sale of literature. In 1976 it was $8,432. This does not count the more than $1,900 yet owed for sales at the end of the year for which payment should eventually come. Some of this increase may be explained in part by the devoted and hard work of our literature director, Richard Knight and the fact that we have learned something from past experience. But also it may be explained by our increased production of literature, the awareness of the American people of the importance of African affairs, and the knowledge that the Africa Fund was a major source of information.

We issued/editions of a southern Africa literature list in the course of the year carrying about 80 titles. We specialized in pamphlets and in short background and factual studies rather than in books. The list not only carries items which we ourselves publish, but also appropriate pieces put out by other groups not only in the United States but in Britain, in Africa and at the U.N. Among the published material in 1976 were: the pamphlet on Angola, entitled "No One Can Stop The Rain"; a study on "The Soviets in Africa: Fiction & Fact"; "Soweto 1976: The Struggle Against Apartheid"; "Southern Africa Conflicts: A Threat to World Peace"; "African Women Under Apartheid"; "Angola Chronology"; "Luanda Is Madrid" and "African Economies"; "In Hock to the U.S. Banks".

III - Research

Under the direction of Jennifer Davis the research emphasis of the Africa Fund played an increasingly important role. In addition to the research work which has gone into the production of literature, the Africa Fund receives calls constantly from newspapers, magazines, television and radio programs, from professors and students on both college and high school level for information. We receive, either by subscription or by exchange, 50 publications in the office. A great deal of time is spent in going over material, filing it appropriately, and having it ready not only for staff use, but for those in the larger community who need factual information. During the course of the year we estimated that at least 250 researchers came to our office to use our research material and used our space for reading and making notes. Several hundred others called by phone seeking specific information. We feel that we can improve our service in this respect although it is difficult to expand it too much further because of our own limitations of space.

IV - Educational Outreach

New pieces of literature are regularly mailed to an expanding network of church, union, legislature, civic and community leaders (now in the hundreds) who rely on our resources for research, contacts with African leaders, speakers, etc., for educational conferences.

We were consulted by television teams from ABC, NBC and CBS before they sent crews to southern Africa for major productions. We were consulted by radio networks as well, and perhaps it is particularly important to mention black news outlets such as Black Audio Network, Mutual Black Network, and the National Black Network. We also supply columns to newspapers in the black community across the United States several times a year. Our columns have appeared in about 30 papers. Furthermore various members of our staff have written articles which have received
fairly wide circulation in weekly and monthly journals. Although we have always been called upon to suggest speakers for programs and conferences, the past year has been particularly active in this regard and our own staff takes on as much in the way of speaking engagements before college audiences, conferences, community based meetings in churches, and trade-unions as time will permit. In the past year, by rough estimate, either through our own staff efforts or through speakers we have serviced at least 150 conferences and meetings with speakers.

V - Projects

In addition to the educational and research emphasis of the Africa Fund, we are involved in the following projects:

A. Emergency aid and legal assistance. One of the most important areas of our activity is in emergency assistance which we are called upon to give in a wide variety of situations. This is not always translated into financial terms. For example we receive many calls from Africans in the United States who are faced with immigration or visa problems. Sometimes this has a financial implication if a person appealing to us for assistance has run out of money and does not have the sort of visa which will allow him to work. But more frequently, it consists of helping a political refugee or a student who may be facing deportation, or who needs a special kind of visa to leave the country without being prohibited from returning. Sometimes we put the person appealing to us in touch with a lawyer for competent advice. Sometimes we are able to take the case up directly with the proper official at the U.S. Mission to the UN or in the State Department, and sometimes directly with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Financially we are limited in the amount we can spend to meet the requests coming to us. During 1976 we spent $13,248.90 for emergency assistance. Over $4,000 of this was in the category of legal assistance. This included over $2,000 for the legal defense of the SASO 9 (South African Student Organization) charged with terrorism for leading demonstrations expressing solidarity with the independence of Mozambique. Another $2,000 was used to support the efforts to locate and defend Edson Sithole in Zimbabwe who had been kidnapped by the Rhodesian government.

Although the Africa Fund does not attempt a formal scholarship program, we do receive some funds with the donor expressing a particular concern for needy African students. During 1976 $3,840 was spent to help with college or university fees for students who were faced with emergency problems. Most of this was spent for students from South Africa.

The remainder of our expenditures in emergency assistance was used in response to 32 requests. Obviously the amount spent in each case is minimal. In one case we shared expenses with other organizations in the cost of a ticket for a South African refugee in the United States to return to Lesotho for the funeral of a parent. We supplied $200 to a Namibian refugee returning to southern Africa. A similar amount was provided to a South African refugee returning to Botswana so that he could be as near home as possible. We provided some rent and food money for a black South African educator who fled South Africa one step ahead of police arrest. We paid two months rent for a South African film maker so that he could continue with his work.

If one divides the funds spent in this category by the country which the indi-
individual recipient represented, most aid is directed toward helping South Africans. In the past year approximately $6,000 assisted South Africans, more than $4,000 for Zimbabweans, over $1,000 for Namibians, with approximately $2,000 in a miscellaneous category.

B. Guinea-Bissau. The association of the Africa Fund with Guinea-Bissau goes back many years. While the struggle against Portuguese colonialism was still in progress, the Africa Fund gave support to nation-building projects in the liberated areas of the country. This assistance took two forms: medical and educational programs. Our assistance to health work was particularly directed toward the Solidarity Hospital which was located near Boke of the Republic of Guinea and is now inside Guinea-Bissau. Assistance to the educational work went through the Friendship Institute to the network of boarding schools set up in the liberated areas of the country as well as in the friendly bordering area of the Republic of Guinea.

Since the independence of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, proclaimed in September 1974, we have continued this assistance on a small scale.

In recognition of this help the Africa Fund was invited to a special 20th anniversary celebration of the founding of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) on September 19, 1976. The executive secretary, George Houser, represented the Africa Fund. He issued a report on his return to the United States indicating the progress that the country had made in the year and a half since his last visit there. Progress is not as rapid as the leaders of the country would like, but five new hospitals are now being constructed with 20 beds each. Two nurses training schools have been established. The plan is to set up 17 new clinics one for every two sectors in the country.

Progress in educational work is further advanced. George Houser visited the important center of Mores where a year ago only a few hurriedly constructed huts housed people returning after the Portuguese departed. He reported that now there was a boarding school with 125 students. Wells had been dug, a generator and pump installed, and water towers built to hold the water. A medical clinic is in operation and a hospital has almost been completed. The work on the building is being done both by the school children, the faculty and others who are called in. The number of primary school students has grown by 8000 in the last year. Under the program of the Friendship Institute there are now 10 boarding schools whereas there were only 8 a year ago. New high schools have been established in 4 additional towns.

During 1976 more than $10,000 worth of material was sent as a result of the work of the Africa Fund. $4,700 was sent direct from the Fund. An additional $6,000 worth of material went through Church World Service and consisted of 1000 pair of sneakers, 200 plastic metric rulers, 128 drafting sets, 200 ball bearing compasses, 648 afro combs, 200 watercolor paints sets and 12 packages of sketching paper.

C. Mozambique. As with Guinea-Bissau, there has been a long standing relationship between the Africa Fund and Mozambique. During the liberation struggle the Africa Fund supplied modest help to agricultural, medical and educational programs both in neighboring Tanzania and in the areas of Mozambique. The Fund supplied an initial $25,000 which made it possible to begin constructing the first independent Mozambique hospital, (the Americo Boavida Hospital) at Mtwara near the Mozambique border on the Tanzania side. Since Mozambique's independence this
hospital has now been moved to Nampula in the northern part of the country.

In 1975 the Africa Fund was invited to attend the independence of Mozambique, with Paul Irish and Janet Hooper as representatives. Subsequently in October 1975, George Houser visited the newly independent country. And in September 1976 Jennifer Davis visited on behalf of the Africa Fund. She reported on the excitement of witnessing the "birth of a new society in Mozambique" in spite of the tremendous problems which still exist. In the field of health care, preventive medicine is constantly stressed. A crash training program for nurses has been inaugurated with 300 to 500 students currently being trained. The aim is to graduate 1000 students as medical assistants each year. She witnessed the national vaccination program being run with the aid of WHO and UNICEF. There are three teams in the unit she saw each one visiting two villages every day and averaging between 1300 and 2000 vaccinations daily. The communal village program, which is the basis of the plan for organizing the country, is at its initial stage. Ms. Davis reported "the village I visited had just started to harvest its first varied crops. People were proud and excited. It was clear that they really felt they could change their lives".

Educational training is stressed. Jennifer Davis visited an "infantario", (orphanage). There were 32 small babies, 73 preschool and 155 school age children in this program. Actually this was the continuation of an orphanage started during the struggle for liberation. Now of course the program can be developed in peace. This means much improved educational facilities, a new building for a clinic, and the presence of two medical assistants with a doctor making visits at least once a month.

During 1976 $25,000 was raised and will be sent in 1977 for the Africa Fund's contribution towards the developing health program in Mozambique. Our main contribution will go to help construct local clinics and maternity wards. The Fund was also called upon to arrange for spare parts to rehabilitate some old boilers left behind in hospitals by the Portuguese.

The Africa Fund was contacted by the United Nations Technical Assistance program to help provide a library on foreign affairs in Maputo. As a result of the Africa Fund appeal for books, a contribution of more than $4,000 was offered to help implement the program.

The Africa Fund contributed $1,000 to help with the production of a film on Mozambique "O Povo Organizado", the People Organized. Proceeds from the film will be used to construct clinics and maternity facilities.

D. Angola. The Africa Fund has also had a program for many years related to Angola. In the late 60's and early 70's funds were sent to help the Medical Assistance Services (SAM) located at the western border of Zambia and inside the eastern section of Angola. During 1976 the Africa Fund supported educational programs in the United States about Angola following the internal strife there at the time of independence. The Africa Fund contributed $2,000 to a film strip project about Angola which was completed late in the year and is now being distributed. The Africa Fund also helped organize a conference on Angola held in Chicago towards the end of May attended by some 300 people representing a broad spectrum of organizations from around the United States.

Between six and seven thousand dollars are on hand for medical programs in
Angola and will be sent in 1977.

VI - Finances and Mailing List

1976, although not a year of tremendous growth financially, nevertheless showed some steady improvement. About $15,000 more was raised than in the previous year. The cash on hand at the end of the year on the whole represented funds which had been contributed but which were to be sent to Africa in 1977 for approved projects as outlined above.

It has only been within the last three years that the Africa Fund has begun an expanded program of direct mail. During 1976 the mailing list of contributors grew by over 500 new donors making a total of 4,025.

Of the approximately $127,000 contributed from foundations and private sources over $52,000 was contributed by some individuals and over $75,000 by foundations and organizations. In the latter category are the following: Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, the Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ, the Cummins Engine Foundation, the Fund for Tomorrow, the Lillian Boehm Foundation, the Joyce Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Norman Foundation, the Normandie Fund, the Knight Family Trust, the Samuel Rubin Foundation, the Haymarket Peoples Fund, and the Soros Charitable Fund.

VII - Trustees and Advisory Committee

Three new trustees were added to the Africa Fund in 1976. They were Robert Boehm of the firm of Boehm Enterprises; Lionel Rogosin, film producer; and Robert Stover of Norwich, Raggio, Jaffee and Kayser. Other trustees are: Frank C. Montero, Chairman; Edler Hawkins, Vice Chairman; Andrew Norman, Treasurer; Iassc Bivens; Jacob Clayman; John L.S. Holloman; Sophia Yarnall Jacobs; William B. Landis; Jan S.F. Van Hoogstraten; and Peter Weiss.

An Advisory Committee was established with the following individuals agreeing to help the Fund in this capacity: Marcia Y. Boles; Julian Bond; Dick Clark; Ossie Davis; Ruby Dee; James Farmer; Henry Foner; Donald M. Fraser; Coretta Scott King; Parren Mitchell; Frederick O'Neal; and Eugene Stockwell.

VIII - Staff

The Africa Fund staff continues as in previous years with the addition of Rozell William (Prexy) Nesbitt who was added in early 1977 to help with the development of projects to which we can relate in Africa. The staff consists of George Houser, executive secretary; Jennifer Davis, director of research; Richard Knight, Lynn Goodwin, literature; Paul Irish, Pay Gould & Prexy Nesbitt, program; Marvin Rich, finance. Most of the staff work on a part-time basis for the Fund.

IX - The Look Ahead

Interest in and concern about Africa should continue to grow in the United States. We hope for a continued expansion of the work of the Africa Fund. In line with our emphasis on southern Africa it is important that we develop new projects related to South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe in line with our past approach during the liberation struggle in the former Portuguese colonies. We will continue with our emergency assistance and legal defense activities.

The Africa Fund should have a continuing critical role in developing well-researched studies and producing literature which will give the American people a better understanding of the importance of what is happening in Africa today.