April 24, 1980.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE AFRICA FUND

Introduction

Southern Africa continued to be the focus for the work of the Africa Fund in 1980. Events were directed toward Rhodesia and the negotiated settlement of the struggle for control there which was to lead to an independent Zimbabwe. A last effort was made by the white minority of Rhodesia to continue their domination of the country through an election held in April 1979 in which the two major movements behind the liberation struggle did not participate—ZANU and ZAPU, together forming the Patriotic Front. A short-lived government was formed headed by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, President of the United African National Council. It did not have widespread popular support and the power of the white minority was only temporarily sustained through it.

New efforts were made to negotiate a settlement of the struggle for independence toward the end of 1979. Between September and December discussions held in London, which included all parties, agreed upon a ceasefire, and a new constitution paving the way for elections in Rhodesia in early 1980. An independent Zimbabwe was to be born on April 18.

Unfortunately no such progress can be reported for Namibia. During 1979, South Africa continued to frustrate an agreement with the United Nations or with SWAPO which would permit elections under the United Nations' supervision leading the way to independence. Military confrontation continued. Thousands of refugees poured into Angola. No end to the conflict seemed to be in sight as the year ended. However, the precedent of the settlement in Zimbabwe offers some hope for the future.

In Northwestern Africa, the struggle of the people of the Western Sahara for self determination has resulted in a growing refugee problem in neighboring Algeria. It is estimated that there are 50 to 100 thousand Saharawi people in desert tent communities near the border with Western Sahara in Algeria.

In the United States there was a continued concentration on economic relations with South Africa. Interpretive literature was much in demand on university campuses, in churches, in the black community and in trade unions. The Africa Fund did its best to meet the demand for factual information.

Program and Projects

1. Refugee Assistance

Medicines, medical texts and equipment raised by support groups in North Carolina and San Francisco were shipped by the Africa Fund for Zimbabwe refugees in Mozambique by sea and air.

Two Africa Fund staff members visited and reported on the extensive refugee facilities established by the Polisario, the liberation movement of the Western Sahara at their tent communities in Algeria. Richard Knight travelled there in March, and George Houser visited the area in May and again in November. Growing out of these visits, public meetings on the situation were held in New...
York, and the Fund was able to ship donated anti-biotics in large quantities by
airfreight for use by the Saharan Red Crescent among the refugees.

Another large shipment of donated high-priority medicines were airfreighted
for the estimated 60,000 Namibian refugees located in neighboring Angola. These
refugees have been under constant attack by South African forces, and hundreds
of innocent refugees died in one air raid carried out by South Africa in 1978.
In November 1979, the trustees of the Africa Fund agreed that an important
emphasis in 1980 would be to meet the needs of Namibian refugees through
shipments of medical supplies, handicraft material, educational equipment and
vehicles to help with food transportation and ambulance duty.

Over three tons of medical goods were shipped to Africa by the Fund in 1979,
with a value of approximately $60,000. All shipments were handled in cooperation
with the relevant offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

2. Education, Research and Publications

Research of the Africa Fund continued to focus on U.S. government and American
corporate policy in southern Africa. This included an important study on the
role of the California-based Fluor Corporation in assisting South Africa to
reduce its dependence on foreign oil at a time when there is growing international
support for sanctions against the white minority regime.

Another important study critically analysed the so-called Sullivan Principles,
a code of conduct approach to change in South Africa through corporate action.
These principles have been adopted by over 130 U.S. corporations in response
to increased pressure from community, church and student organizations
demanding corporate withdrawal from South Africa.

Recent changes in the labor relations laws of South Africa as a result of the
report of a Commission headed by Professor Nic Wiehahn have given the impression
that change is slowly taking place in South Africa. A study of the Wiehahn
Commission report was done by the Africa Fund and published by the United
Nations Center Against Apartheid. The study shows that although there may be
some changes in labor practices, the basic situation in South Africa has
not been altered. The white minority maintains absolute control and denies
the black-majority a role in government decision-making.

The following is a list of 1979 publications:
Fluor: Building Energy Self-Sufficiency in South Africa.
The Sullivan Principles: A critical look at the U.S. Corporate role in South
The Wiehahn Report and the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Act: A new
attack on the Trade Union movement in South Africa,
by Michael Shafer.
South Africa Fact Sheet (updated 1979)
(This article analyses the "internal settlement" constitution which was
done away with as a result of the Lancaster House Agreement.)

The Africa Fund is the U.S. distributor for a series of pamphlets on Zimbabwe
by the Catholic Institute for International Relations (London). This series now contains nine different titles, the most recent are: "The Struggle for Health", "The Food Problem", and "Education for Employment". Also, the Africa Fund is the distributor for "South Africa's Nuclear Capability" by Dan Smith of the World Campaign Against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa. The Africa Fund also distributes a number of other materials especially those of the International Defence and Aid Fund-London. Our Southern Africa Literature List was updated twice during the year. It now lists some 100 titles.

Literature sales for 1979 were about the same as for 1978. A slight decrease was partly the result of a larger accounts receivable category and partly the fact that in 1978, there was a single order that was not repeated in 1979.

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In addition to the educational materials distributed by the Africa Fund, members of the staff spoke widely on issues relating to Africa and also participated on many television and radio programs.

Among some of the interesting programs: Jennifer Davis, Research Director, debated on the divestment issue in Chicago. The program consisted of herself, Senator Dick Clark and the President of the University of Chicago.

George Houser, Paul Irish, Jennifer Davis and Dumisani Kumalo appeared on the television program, "Sunrise Semester". Dumisani Kumalo appeared on the PBS program, "Another Voice". George Houser appeared on the ABC-TV program, "Like It Is" on the question of Western Sahara.

Dumisani Kumalo went on a speaking tour of colleges and universities in the spring of 1979. This tour was well received.


3. Emergency Assistance

During 1979 the Africa Fund expended more than $16,000 in response to requests for emergency assistance. Over $9,000 was spent in response to requests from Zimbabweans, and over $6,000 from South Africans. In all, about 30 different individuals were given emergency aid.

The Africa Fund does not have large amounts to dispense. There is no regular scholarship fund, for example. Yet, many of those who request assistance are students faced with immediate problems. Frequently, because so many students are refugees from southern Africa, they have been cut off from their family for temporary periods of time. Or the scholarship assistance they are receiving cannot adequately deal with an unexpected problem which arises. The Africa Fund is sometimes able to help with immediate funds for travel, or to meet an unexpectedly large telephone bill, or to cover rent for a temporary period.

In one notable case in 1979, the Africa Fund was able to give some assistance to a group of South African actors whose off-Broadway production did not last as long as had been expected. Eleven of the group who had been performing in the
production called "Umbatha" decided to stay in the United States for further study. They needed assistance. The Africa Fund was able to help with contributions towards food and rent for a temporary period for this group.

4. Special Grants

There were two special grants made by the Africa Fund in 1979. One was a contribution of $9,500 to the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee. This grant was approved by the Trustees at their November meeting. This was in response to a urgent request from SANROC for an educational program aiding South Africa refugees in promotion of non-racial sports. The Trustees approved the grant "for physical and sports education in South Africa and among refugees". This program is now being carried out and reports which we have received indicate that it is doing well.

The second special grant was for $4,000 to Southern Africa magazine. This publication has been doing an unusually fine job over the last several years acquainting the American people with the significance of events in southern Africa. They made urgent appeal to the Africa Fund for assistance and we were able to respond as a result of special contributions to our work.

Finances and Mailing List

The Africa Fund raised $246,062.31 in 1979 and spent $213,104.79. Thus income over expenses was more than $32,000. However, the Fund opened 1979 with a deficit of over $18,000. Thus at the beginning of 1980 there was a balance of approximately $15,000 in the Africa Fund. This balance, however, must be seen in the light of project obligations which were not completed in 1979 amounting to about $20,000. These project obligations will be met in 1980.

Contributions account for most of the income for the Africa Fund.Approximately 30 individuals, organizations and foundations contributed more than $135,000. Something over $26,000 came from small individual contributions. An estimate of the value of drugs and other materials we sent to Africa was over $62,000.

The contributors mailing list of the Africa Fund has hovered around the 5,000 mark for the last several years. During 1979 names of about 1,000 past contributors were dropped because we had not heard from them for 3 years. At the end of 1979 the mailing list stood at 4,544.

Organization

The work of the Africa Fund is carried on by approximately nine staff members, most of them working part-time. In addition, we have been fortunate the past two or three years to have our regular staff augmented by interns, frequently under the work-study programs sponsored by various universities. In 1979 we have had eight interns. Four were with us for the summer period from Harvard, Princeton, University of California and Cornell University. We have had additional interns from Kalamazoo and Bennington Colleges, from Columbia University and The New School For Social Research. They have been a great help to our program.

They were two additions to the trustees of the Africa Fund in 1979. Robert Potter of the Law Firm of Patterson Belknap Webb and Tyler and Professor
Tilden LeMelle, Director of the department of Academic Skills at Hunter College.
Stanley Scheinbaum of Los Angeles was added as a member of our Advisory Committee.

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