AFRICA'S DECADE...

AMERICA'S DECISIONS

The Program and Purposes of
THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA
WHY

the American Committee on Africa exists:

In the decade just begun, the majority of Africans will for the first time in modern history be represented by their own governments. At mid-century, few Americans had ever heard of such places as Guinea, Togo, Somalia. Few suspected that within that decade six countries would achieve independence, and that in the year 1960 alone this number would double. While African efforts to achieve equal rights and self-government have increased greatly in recent years, information about these developments has been sparse and sporadic in the United States.

To help support these movements and to inform fellow-citizens about them, a group of Americans of varying professional backgrounds joined together in 1953 to form the American Committee on Africa. Since then, the rapid changes in Africa have greatly increased the needs the Committee has been called upon to meet.

In 1955 the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously resolved: “The United States should administer its foreign policies so as to support other peoples in their efforts to achieve self-government.” As a group of private citizens united to help implement this policy, as well as to support equitable solutions for economic and other problems arising in newly independent territories, the American Committee on Africa is incorporated as a non-profit, non-governmental organization. Its main purposes are

- to interpret the meaning of African events to the American people,
- to support policies furthering democratic self-government, equal rights, and economic development in all parts of Africa,
- to support projects in Africa promoting these policies, and
- to be of service to students and other visitors from Africa to this country.
WHERE

the American Committee on Africa works:

At the United Nations • One block from United Nations Headquarters, ACOA follows closely all UN debates on African issues, providing information to UN delegations and helping African petitioners. When the General Assembly is in session, Africa-UN Briefing Sessions are held by the Committee to inform the public of African issues being discussed.

Throughout the United States • ACOA sponsors nationwide speaking tours of outstanding African leaders, such as Tom Mboya of Kenya, Joshua Nkomo of Southern Rhodesia, Kanyama Chiume of Nyasaland, Kenneth Kaunda of Northern Rhodesia, and others active in African independence movements.

ACOA holds meetings and conferences on Africa and on U.S. policy related to Africa. Speakers are provided or referred by the Committee to church, union, school and other groups at their request.

ACOA distributes its own and other organizations' literature on Africa. ACOA's own publications include the monthly magazine AFRICA TODAY, and a series of authoritative pamphlets dealing extensively with aspects of the African scene.

In Africa • ACOA staff and Board members visit Africa regularly and attend key African conferences, returning with important observations, contacts, and recommendations for ACOA's continuing work.

ACOA publications are sent to individuals and institutions throughout Africa as a means of keeping them informed of American thinking and concern.

THE AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID FUND, administered by ACOA, is the only organized effort in the U.S. by which legal and welfare assistance is being sent directly to Africans in need of such aid. Through the Fund and its predecessor, the South Africa Defense Fund, more than $55,000 has been sent to assist opponents of apartheid charged with treason in South Africa. Additional aid has gone to Africans and their families affected by political and racial persecution in Central and South Africa, and arrangements are being made for similar assistance in other African territories still under minority or colonial rule.
HOW you can help:

- Give to the Africa Defense and Aid Fund.
- Order AFRICA TODAY PAMPHLETS ($0.50 each) and other literature available through ACOA (reading lists sent on request).
- Subscribe to AFRICA TODAY, ACOA's monthly magazine ($3.50 a year).
- Become a member of ACOA. Patrons and Sustaining Members are entitled to all ACOA publications; Supporting Members receive AFRICA TODAY (any contribution of $10 or more automatically includes your $3.50 subscription to AFRICA TODAY); all members receive ACOA's annual report. Contributions and special gifts from non-members are also welcome.

American Committee on Africa
801 Second Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.

[Enclosure space for contributions and membership choice]

I enclose $_____________
my contribution in the category checked

☐ Patron: $100 and above
☐ Sustaining Member: $25
☐ Supporting Member: $10
☐ Contributing Member: $5
☐ as a contribution to ACOA or the Defense Fund without membership at this time

Name ____________________________________________ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Street ____________________________________________

City ________________________ Zone ________ State ________________________

Please make checks payable to the American Committee on Africa or the Africa Defense and Aid Fund.
HOW ACOA can help you:

- If you need a speaker on African affairs, ACOA can refer or provide one for your group.
- If you need to work out a program on Africa, ACOA can help you organize a single evening, a conference, or a study course.
- If you need information about developments in Africa, ACOA has many publications and a small library of African periodicals, documents, clippings, and bibliographies.
- If you want to know what American citizens can do to help Africans, ACOA can suggest projects you or your group can undertake or support.
- If you plan to travel to Africa, ACOA can offer advice and suggestions. On special occasions, such as the Nigerian Independence celebration, ACOA may organize trips to Africa for its members.

*Cover Photo: Jastrendu Kozonguizi and Rev. Michael Scott, UN petitioners for South West Africa*
NATIONAL COMMITTEE

John Gunther, HONORARY CHAIRMAN
Rt. Rev. James A. Pike, VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Sadie T. M. Alexander Dr. John A. Mackay
Rep. Victor L. Anfuso Will Maslow
Hon. Thurman Arnold Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy
Roger N. Baldwin Rev. Robert McCracken
Prof. Stringfellow Barr Dr. Alexander Meiklejohn
Judge Jane Bolin Sen. Edmund S. Muskie
Rep. Richard Bolling Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr
Mrs. Chester Bowles Dr. F. D. Patterson
Van Wyck Brooks Clarence Pickett
Dr. Henry Seidel Canby Sidney Poitier
Dr. Marguerite Cartwright Hon. Paul A. Porter
Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers Rep. A. Clayton Powell
Prof. Robert J. Corbett A. Philip Randolph
Gardner Cowles Dr. Ira De A. Reid
Max Delson Jackie Robinson
Peter De Vries Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hon. Herman Eberharter Hon. Francis B. Sayre
Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick Dr. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.
Lewis S. Gunther Dr. George W. Shepherd, Jr.
Oscar Hammerstein II Rev. Ralph W. Sockman
Rep. Wayne L. Hays Dr. Edward J. Sparing
Prof. Arthur N. Holcombe Mark Starr
Rep. Elmer J. Holland Dr. William E. Stevenson
Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey Rex Stout
Hon. Irving M. Ives Norman Thomas
Dr. Robert L. Johnson Rep. Frank Thompson, Jr.
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Howard Thurman
Hon. Goya Knutson Dr. Channing Tobias
Hon. George M. Leader Mark Van Doren
Prof. Rayford Logan Judge J. Waties Waring
Rep. William B. Widnall

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Donald Harrington, CHAIRMAN
Hope R. Stevens, Peter Weiss, VICE-CHAIRMEN
Elizabeth S. Landis, SECRETARY
Robert Delson, GENERAL COUNSEL

Nelson Bengston John V. Murra
Edward F. Gray Cleveland Robinson
Maxwell Harway Rev. James Robinson
Harold R. Isaacs Bayard Rustin
Dr. Joseph Jablow William X. Scheinman
Mrs. Sophia Yarnall Jacobs Adelaide Schuclkind
Stanley D. Levison
Frank Montero

STAFF

George M. Houser, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Homer A. Jack, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Dale Harrison, Ann Morrissett, Catharine Raymond,
STAFF ASSOCIATES

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, INC.
801 Second Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.