

Members of the organizing committee: Dr. S. Abubakar (ABU), Dr. M. Adamu (ABU), Mr. N. Alkali (ABC/ABU), Dr. J.S. Hogendorn (ABU/Colby College), Mr. J.E. Lavers (ABC/ABU), Dr. P.E. Lovejoy (ABU/York University), Dr. J.P. Olinger (ABC/ABU), Dr. P.M. Redmond (ABC/ABU).

**African Responses to European Colonialism in Southern Africa, from 1652 to the Present.** California State University, Northridge (January 8-10, 1976).

Members of the African Studies Association are invited to present papers. Approximately twenty panels will be convened over the three-day period. The program has been designed to contribute to a better understanding of: 1) African reaction and resistance to the partition and conquest of southern Africa; 2) African responses to colonial administration; 3) the origins, form and goals of African nationalism; 4) the origins, form, ideology and goals of African guerrilla warfare; 5) the contemporary problems of political unity, economic development and Pan-Africanism in southern Africa. Participating scholars will be encouraged to explore all forms of African responses to colonialism in southern Africa: cultural, diplomatic, military, legal, literary, musical, religious, ideological, as well as collaborationist responses among rulers, individuals or groups.

Details about the conference and a preliminary program are available from: Dr. David Chanaiwa, History Department, California State University, Northridge, California 91324. Interested individuals are asked to write to Dr. Chanaiwa as soon as possible with specific titles for papers and brief abstracts.

Accommodations, food service and conference rooms will be made available by the University.

**Seventh Conference on African Linguistics.** University of Florida, Gainesville (April 15-17, 1976).

**Theme:** Language and Linguistic Problems in Africa. Tentative section topics: the national language issue; language planning, language instruction; the discipline of linguistics in the context of Africa; contributions of linguistic theory to African linguistics; historical and comparative African linguistics; Africanisms in the languages of the diaspora.

Suggestions for additional or substitute topics and comments on conference format generally are welcome. Details regarding deadlines for receipt of abstracts and other information will be mailed to past conference participants in the fall.

For further information, please contact either Dr. Paul A. Kotey or Dr. Haig Der-Houssikian, Co-Conveners (Center for African Studies, 470 LGH, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla. 32611).

**International Congress of Human Sciences in Asia and North Africa.** Mexico, D.F. (August 3-8, 1976).

For the first time in the century-long history of the Congress, specialists in the field of Asian and North African studies will meet in Latin America (at the Colegio de Mexico). History, sociology, economics, philosophy, art, literature, anthropology, and contemporary problems of Asia and North Africa will be among the main objects of analysis. Deadline for the indication of titles and authors: January 1, 1976. Inquiries should be sent to: J.A. Lozoya, Secretary General, 30 International Congress of Human Sciences in Asia and North Africa, El Colegio de Mexico, Guanajuato 125, Mexico 7, D.F., Mexico.

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## TRAVEL TO SOUTH AFRICA

24 March 1975

James Duffy  
African Studies Association  
Shiffman Center  
Brandeis University  
Waltham, Mass. 02154

Dear Professor Duffy:

I was shocked to learn (cf. *Financial Mail*, 13 Dec. 1974 and *South African Digest*, 13 Dec. 1974) that our Association's President-Elect, Dr. Victor Uchendu had recently accepted an invitation to be a key-note speaker in South Africa. He spoke in the land of apartheid in December 1974.

Our Association has passed resolutions expressing our collective opposition to the racist policies practiced by the White minority regime in South Africa. For the up-coming President of our organization, and an African at that, to travel to South Africa expresses a serious lack of regard for the position taken by the organization he represents. If Uchendu wishes to go to South Africa that is his affair, but I believe that such travel is highly inappropriate while serving in an official capacity within the ASA.

In this letter I would like to bring this serious matter to the attention of the Board of the ASA to consider passing a motion of censure. Furthermore I would appreciate the publication of this letter in a forthcoming issue of the *ASA Newsletter*.

If the Association is to continue to regain its credibility from the low ebb of Montreal, then such tactless decisions cannot go overlooked.

Sincerely yours,  
Dr. Richard Lobban  
Assistant Professor

April 8, 1975

Professor Richard Lobban  
Anthropology Dept.  
Rhode Island College  
Providence, R.I. 02908

Dear Professor Lobban:

Thank you for your letter of March 24, which we will print in the next *African Studies Newsletter*. I am sending a copy of your letter and enclosure to Professor Uchendu for any commentary he may choose to make.

At its meeting on 4 April, the Board of Directors voted the following resolution: "It is imprudent for members of the Board of Directors of the African Studies Association to visit South Africa and Rhodesia during their term of office because the Association does not wish its name to be associated with such visits. The Board recognizes that any Board member who is South African or of South African extraction or Zimbabwean or of Zimbabwean extraction is a special case." [This resolution was later amended by members of the Board. The final version appears on pages 4 and 5.]

Sincerely,  
James Duffy

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## COMMITTEE ON CURRENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON A.S.A. MEMBERS AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Committee on Current Issues wishes to endorse the resolution of the ASA Board of Directors at its April 4th meeting concerning the visits of Board members to or participation in activities sponsored by Southern African countries currently ruled by white minority regimes. We also suggest that this policy is relevant not only to Board members but also to the entire membership of the Association.

The imminent accession to political independence by liberation movements of Mozambique, Angola, and Guinea-Bissau has forced the South African regime to devise new techniques to bolster and camouflage its political position. It seeks, today, to create an illusion that it has begun to move towards a meaningful détente and dialogue with other independent African states. It has mounted a massive and well-financed propaganda campaign, particularly focused on the United States, to picture a growing climate of support for South Africa by scholars as well as other political and military figures.

Scholars in the Association cannot ignore either the publicity uses to which the Southern African governments may put their scholarly products or visits or the request of the Organization of African Unity to end visits to South Africa. The Committee on Current Issues is of the opinion that Association members should consider carefully the social and political implications of their otherwise seemingly innocent academic or professional activities when they involve dealings with the Southern African governments.

The Committee does not challenge the rights of individual scholars to travel to any part of the world, to participate in professional activities that are clearly within the purview of academic freedom and private individual rights. In the case of Southern Africa, however, these rights may come into conflict with other equally compelling rights and obligations. The professional activities of ASA members, especially of its officers, do reflect on the Association. The consequences of such activities must be weighed against the rights of the individual in question. ASA members and officers, both individually and collectively, should take adequate and responsible measures to protect the Association from deliberate exploitation by governments whose social and political philosophies and actions are clearly against the best traditions of humanity.

At the same time, we also suggest that certain visits to these parts of Southern Africa may serve the common good of the African inhabitants, scholarship, and the Association, but only when adequate precautions are taken to avoid misuses of the scholar's presence by the regime or the media.

The Committee believes strongly that moral responsibility, not just individual academic freedom, must be maintained if a free scholarly community of interest is to be sustained within and without the Association. The actions of the South African government have raised a real conflict between the duties of moral responsibility and those of academic and individual private rights.

June 5, 1975

*Ladun Anise, Allen Isaacman, Edgar Lockwood,  
Maxwell Owusu, Richard Ralston, Ann Seidman,  
David Wiley.*

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## TOWARDS AN AFRICA-BASED BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTER

The sponsors of the Africa Bibliographic Center (ABC) hope to enlist the long-term interest of African governments and citizens in a new pan-African venture. Eleven years ago, at a conference in Ibadan in April, 1964, Mrs. Margaret Amosu, then the Librarian of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ibadan, put forward her own suggestions for a pan-African library, and the conference recommended the "setting up of a central documentation center for Tropical Africa." The recommendation was not taken up, but over the past ten years it has become increasingly anomalous that it is easier to find information on Africa almost anywhere else in the world than within Africa.

Few aspects of African studies are so dominated by the resources and expertise of the industrialized world as the field of bibliography and documentation—covering a whole range of libraries, information sources, documents and archives. In many African countries university libraries are having to serve as national libraries, and the whole of independent Africa currently has less to spend on information, library and documentation services, than the budget of just one of the largest libraries in some of the developed nations.

A detailed outline for the ABC was jointly presented by Kebreab W. Giorgis, Associate Librarian of the National University Libraries, Addis Ababa, Talaat A. Wadood, the Librarian of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and the present author, Professor of Librarianship, Federal City College, Washington, D.C. (then Associate Librarian of the Haile Sellassie I University Libraries) in a discussion paper at the International Congress of Africanists Third Session held in Addis Ababa (December 1973). The proposals were then tentative, but were endorsed in principle in a Congress resolution. The hope is to reverse the constant drain of important historical and contemporary documentary material out of Africa and to make best use of the funds available to Africa by setting up a strong central information and library base for all Africa, sponsored by the OAU and possibly by other agencies.

The ABC would, though initially located in one place, act as a resource for all of independent Africa (eventually as funds were available regional centers could follow) and its initial sponsors believe that it is an integral and necessary condition for the development of research within Africa, just as the OAU has been necessary for Africa's political and economic development.

It seems likely to be at least another decade before we can be sure of fast, cheap surface transport links to all parts of Africa, though projects like the Tan-Zam railway and the Trans-African highway are opening up exciting possibilities. In the first phase the ABC would therefore give priority to services that can be provided through intra-African air mail. We would like to see schemes directly available to individual readers as well as to large libraries, and to researchers and organizations who are now remote from the major existing library collections in Africa.

We would like to use some of the modern technology of the microfiche (which puts scores of pages of a book or document on to a small, light piece of film) or even the ultrafiche (which can carry two or three thousand pages on a film about four inches by six inches) to cut the cost of sending books around the continent. We would also hope to use the possibilities of photocopying and to take advantage of the gradual shift from hard cover to cheaper and lighter weight paperback books.

The precise components of the ABC would need to be discussed and determined between the participant African states—but some services have already been proposed in the formal and informal discussions in Ethiopia and several other countries.

The ABC might have an African Lending Library which would concentrate on collecting African publications as well as the publications in highest demand and most expensive from outside Africa (and possibly beyond the financial resources of the smaller African libraries). The Lending Library might have a collection of magazines and newspapers and of books on a scale that should make it possible for researchers to turn first to Africa for information on Africa, instead of looking outside: a goal of 20,000 journals and 300,000 books during the first decade of an ABC would make the continent nearly self-sufficient in information on its own growth and development. The Lending