

## LETTER

I entirely agree with Richard Sklar's letter appearing in the *African Studies Newsletter* [December 1973] on the question of the ASA taking official positions on political matters. I have in the past expressed my objection to scholarly organizations like the ASA adopting political resolutions of any kind. All of us have our views on political issues, but we cannot use the ASA as a medium to promote them. As Sklar observes, we are not a pressure group, and we should not degrade ourselves to that level. Frankly, I do not understand how the annual business meeting in November 1973 at Syracuse approved the admission of the resolution on Guinea-Bissau.

I must add that I knew the late Amílcar Cabral very well while I was Ambassador to Senegal in the sixties, and that, as one who participated in the movement for the overthrow of Portuguese colonial rule in Goa [India], I gave my full support to the PAIGC at a time when it needed it most. That support is still there for what it is worth.

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### REPORT ON THE AFRICAN STUDIES FOREIGN AREA COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

[Joint with the American Council of Learned Societies.]

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#### STAFF

**Rowland L. Mitchell, Jr.**, **Michael W. Donnelly**, **Dorothy Soderlund**.

In the thirteenth year of the joint committee's program of grants to individuals for research in the social sciences and humanities on Africa south of the Sahara, 13 awards were made [see *African Studies Newsletter*, August 1973, p. 10].

... With the renewal of support for its activities by the Ford Foundation, the committee in December initiated a new program to assist small groups of specialists on Africa to meet regularly in regional research seminars in the United States. Funds were subsequently made available for the following series of seminars: (1) At the City University of New York Graduate School and University Center, four meetings organized by William John Hanna, Director of the University's Comparative Urban Studies Center, on research on urban Africa, with participants from colleges and universities in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, metropolitan New York, and Pennsylvania. (2) At Indianapolis, five meetings organized by John B. Stabler, Executive Secretary, Indiana Consortium for International Programs, on ethnic minorities, tribalism, entrepreneurship and economic development, urbanization, and southern Africa. Participants are from colleges and universities in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio.