

U. S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

January 17, 1961

SUMMARY OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

ON THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE

U. S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

January 8, 1961

Committee members attending:

Vernon McKay, Chairman
Paul J. Braisted
William O. Brown
James S. Coleman
Luther H. Evans
Melville J. Herskovits
Mrs. Ruth C. Sloan
Mrs. Waldo E. Stephens

Others attending

Robert D. Baum, Department of State
John Hay, Department of State
Ann F. Jablonski, Department of State
L.A. Minnich, Jr., Department of State
Mrs. Doris F. Richmond, School for
Advanced International Studies
Kenneth C. Snyder, Dept. of State
George Warmer, Vice President,
Boston University

Conference Structure

The Committee approved the following title for the Conference: AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES: IMAGES AND REALITIES. Tentative approval was also given to the broad outlines of a program which might include as many as nine plenaries, four section meetings and seventy panel meetings, a total of about eighty programs. However, the Committee was unanimous in the view that, in working out the details of the program, the Chairman should attempt to reduce the number of meetings wherever practicable. It was pointed out that this might be done either by combining certain panels, or by having all the panels in each section combine more often for a section meeting. The question was discussed as to whether a functional approach to the panels on education might be more satisfactory than making the divisions along the various levels of education. It was agreed that this was worthy of further study, and that in any case, the subjects discussed in panels should be along functional lines wherever practicable. The Committee tentatively approved several suggestions in Section and Panel titles, which will be incorporated in a revised outline to be sent to Committee members later.

- 2 -

It was agreed that the chairmen of the 15 (or less) panels were of great importance to the success of the Conference. Each of the 15 panel chairmen would have two major functions: (1) to plan an effective program for the five meetings of his panel; and (2) to preside effectively over the five meetings of his panel. In planning the program, along the broad outlines laid down by the Committee on the Eighth National Conference, the panel chairmen would have the assistance of Chairman McKay as central coordinator with over-all control of the program. They would also have the assistance of the four Section chairmen. The latter, whose duties would be less heavy than at previous conferences, would (1) preside over the one or more meetings of their sections, and (2) advise the panel chairmen and Chairman McKay on the substance and coordination of the program.

The Committee authorized the Chairman to attempt to obtain fifteen panel chairmen at the earliest possible moment. The Chairman expressed the hope that each of the members of the Committee would be able to serve as the chairman of one of the panels. Committee members agreed to indicate their first and second choices as to the panels they considered themselves best able to chair.

It was also agreed that the rapporteurs in each of the fifteen panels would have an important role to play and should therefore be mature individuals with knowledge of Africa and with rapporteur experience. The functions of a rapporteur would be to (1) prepare reports on the discussions at each of the five meetings of his panel, (2) to consult with his panel chairman to assure that appropriate questions are covered during the five meetings, and (3) to consult with the Conference Rapporteur to assure coordination of reports from the various panels. Members of the Committee agreed to send Chairman McKay the names of suitable persons who might make good rapporteurs. It was also pointed out that some of the LOC members of the National Commission might be willing to serve as rapporteurs or in other capacities.

Conference program

The Chairman introduced a detailed outline of a possible conference program which he had prepared with the assistance of Mrs. Richmond and Miss Jablonski, after consultation with Mrs. Betty George of the U. S. Office of Education, Andre C. Simonpietri of the National Academy of Sciences, Lee Nichols of the United States Information Agency, Harry J. Krould of the International Cooperation Administration, and a number of others, including Kenneth Snyder and Mrs. Ruth Sloan. The Committee members agreed to take this first draft of a program home for immediate and thorough study, and to send Chairman McKay their detailed suggestions for speakers and topics within one week.

- 3 -

It was decided that speakers or panelists on the program might include not only Africans and Americans in well balanced proportions, but if the subject matter of a particular panel made it appropriate, Europeans and possibly an Asian or two. The Committee agreed, however, that since the focus of the conference was on relations between the United States and the new and emerging states of Africa, the number of Europeans on the program would inevitably be very small and should not exceed from two to five percent of the total.

Conference finances

It was reported that the State Department's contribution toward the expenses of this Conference would amount to \$50,000. Two contracts have already been charged to this fund which were entered into by the Department and Boston University for \$6,000 and Johns Hopkins University for \$4,000 to pay for the writing of conference papers, writing of the Conference Report, and for various administrative expenses arising from the development of the program. Travel costs of members of the Eighth National Conference Committee in connection with meetings held in the Washington and Boston areas are also charged to this fund. Other items to be covered are printing costs, conference supplies, rental of office space and equipment at the Conference; hire of local typists, and travel expenses of the 100 members of the National Commission and members of the Secretariat to the Conference in Boston.

The Boston Sponsoring Committee is raising \$25,000 to cover local expenses of conference activities such as cultural events, hospitality, and any other items for which a host city is responsible.

In addition, approximately \$75,000 to \$80,000 might be needed for other purposes: (1) about \$60,000 is needed to bring about 30 Africans to the Conference at a cost of \$2,000 to \$2,500 each, and (2) between \$15,000 and \$20,000 might be needed to pay the expenses of American participants on the program. It was pointed out, however, that these figures would be subject to revision in the light of the actual program the Committee decided upon.

To finance the bringing of Africans to the Conference, the Committee authorized the Chairman to write several letters on behalf of the Committee as follows: (1) a request for the cooperation of the Department of State in bringing to the Conference, under the Department's Leader Exchange Program, or through some other means, at least one person, preferably the Minister of Education or the Permanent Secretary of Education, from each African state and from as many African non-self-governing territories as practicable; (2) a request to the International Cooperation Administration for similar aid, especially for educators who might speak on scientific and technological panels of the program; (3) requests to the Carnegie Corporation, the Ford Foundation, and possibly other foundations if necessary, to bring over African educators and artists who could speak on panels in the Arts Section of the program.

- 4 -

To raise the funds necessary to pay the expenses of American participants on the program and any other expenses, it was reported that the Finance Committee of the National Commission was being asked to consider ways and means.

Boston Sponsoring Committee

Mr. Warner outlined the progress already made in organizing the Boston Sponsoring Committee. It would include five working groups on Art and Music, Education, Finance, Hospitality, and Public Relations. The Committee decided that the public announcement of the formation of the Boston Sponsoring Committee and the appointment of its Chairman, Erwin D. Canham should be made as soon as possible in a simultaneous release in Washington and Boston.

The Committee expressed the view that the Arts Section of the Conference program should be related to the evening music program and the art and other exhibits to be organized by the Art and Music working group of the Boston Sponsoring Committee. For this purpose, the Committee expressed the hope that Mr. Herskovits, who has agreed to chair the Arts Section of the Conference program, would be a member of the Boston working group on Art and Music. The Committee also expressed the view that the exhibits in Boston should include modern as well as traditional African art, and that it would be necessary to begin the process of assembling material for exhibits at once in order to have an outstanding collection by October. The Chairman called attention to the illustrated book on Asian art which had been published to describe the outstanding collection assembled for the San Francisco Conference in 1956. The Committee expressed the hope that something along these lines might also be produced for the Boston Conference. The Committee also called Mr. Warner's attention to the fact that a number of members of the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO represented national music and art organizations, which might like to help the Boston Sponsoring Committee. In particular the Chairman called attention to an offer he had received from Commission Member Lawrence M. C. Smith, 1707 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania, to make available African art from the Commercial Museum in Philadelphia. Commission Member Henry H. Hope, Chairman of the Fine Arts Department of Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, had also twice written the Chairman about the arts program.

The Committee decided that three of the four evenings of the Conference program might be devoted to art and music. These might include a reception and art exhibit at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts on Sunday evening, October 22, an evening of African music and dance on Tuesday evening, and possibly an African drama on Wednesday evening. The King Kong drama company and the Guineé Ballet Africain were mentioned as two possibilities.

The Committee expressed the wish that the entertainment on all three evenings should be definitely African and not just cultural.

Background papers

The Committee thanked Doris Stephens for her careful work in preparing an outline of a possible background book for each delegate to the Conference. The Chairman appointed a subcommittee to examine this and other possibilities for background books and papers, consisting of Mr. Braisted as chairman, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Stephens and Professor Gwendolen Carter of Smith College if she is available.

The Committee authorized the Chairman to write a letter on its behalf requesting the State Department to update its publication entitled "International Education Exchange and Related Exchange of Persons Activities for Africa South of the Sahara", and to make 2,000 copies available for the Eighth National Conference.

Invitations

It was reported that the Secretariat of the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO had now compiled a mailing list of approximately 1100 non-governmental organizations and 5700 individuals interested in Africa, which should be reviewed by the Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, with the view of selecting potential delegates to the Conference. The Chairman asked Mrs. Sloan, Mr. Baum and Mr. Hay to serve as a subcommittee to review the invitations list.

In response to Mr. Warmer's request for information as to what types and how many people from Boston might be invited, the Chairman asked the subcommittee on invitations to study the question and to give Mr. Warmer this information in order to assist him in providing appropriate names for the mailing list.

Interpretation Services

Mr. Hay reported that the State Department would need more information concerning the amount of services needed before it could provide estimates of the cost of providing interpretation services for French-speaking Africans. The Chairman recalled that IBM had provided simultaneous translation equipment for about 200 participants at the American Society for African Culture Conference last summer, and might be approachable for help for the Eighth National Conference. The Committee agreed to give Mr. Hay a more precise estimate of the services needed after it had decided on the program and knew how many French Africans would be used and where.

Other Items

The Chairman agreed to study further, in consultation with others, the question of the approaches needed to secure President Kennedy as the keynote speaker.

- 6 -

In response to a question from Mr. Warner on the proper working of the relationship between Boston University and the Conference, Mr. Hay, after consultation with Mr. William S. Dix, Mr. Minnich, and Mr. McKay, wrote the following to Mr. Warner:

"I am pleased to set forth the substance of our telephone conversation today concerning the relationship of Boston University to the Eighth National Conference. Having discussed the matter earlier today with Dr. Dix, Dr. Minnich and Dr. McKay, I can assure you that all agree the Conference should be referred to as the 'Eighth National Conference of the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO, arranged in cooperation with Boston University.'

"I am glad that you also agree to the importance of identifying with the Conference the other leading educational institutions in the Greater Boston Area. I understand that you intend to do this by inviting prominent people from Harvard, MIT, Radcliffe, Wellesley, and other institutions in the area to play leading roles on the Boston Sponsoring Committee. By identifying these institutions actively with the local planning, and by featuring them along with Boston University in publicity releases, we would hope to make clear that the Conference is being actively supported by the entire Boston intellectual and cultural community. This would in no way derogate from the substantial contribution that Boston University is making to the Conference. On the contrary, I would hope that by stressing the national character of the Conference and the universal nature of its support, we would enhance the prestige of Boston University, the Commission and the Conference as well."

It was decided to hold the third meeting of the full committee in Boston on February 25 and 26. Miss Jablonski agreed to look into the problem of hotel reservations for this meeting.