

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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ABRIDGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

- WHEREAS, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states as a basic premise that "disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people"; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association has adopted as policy the principles of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, declaring "threats to the freedom of expression of any person become threats to the freedom of all"; and
- WHEREAS, South Africa's State of Emergency and total crackdown on news reporting make imperative our concern for all in that imprisoned country, especially the thousands held in incommunicado detention, while remembering that the record of banning of people and books, of unequal library funding and education, and of aggression and slaughter in South Africa is infamous and of long duration; and
- WHEREAS, The record of human rights violations in South Africa has led ALA to adopt a resolution calling for divestment, which is to the credit of its membership, the time has come for American librarians to put further pressure on Pretoria and to support the efforts of South African librarians to resist these oppressive policies; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association call on all American librarians to support the struggle for freedom, justice, and equality within a multiracial democratic society in South Africa; and be it Further
- RESOLVED, That ALA write the appropriate government agency in South Africa expressing opposition to the present system of unequal library service and education, and to the widespread censorship of the press and banning of authors and their works; and be it Further
- RESOLVED, That ALA go on record as opposing any future reentry into the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) of the South African Library Association in its new guise as the South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science, until the Institute takes a strong stand in favor of open membership and equality of library service and education; and be it Further
- RESOLVED, That ALA urge bibliographic utilities, such as OCLC, and other cooperative ventures, not to expand their services or make investments in South Africa under the present regime; and be it Further
- RESOLVED, That ALA urge that the Dewey Decimal area tables and history schedule for South Africa planned for the 20th edition by Forest Press, that were prepared by SAILIS, be revised to reflect the history of all South Africans; and be it Further
- RESOLVED, That ALA urge American libraries to develop collections on South Africa that reflect the full diversity of viewpoints and experience in that country, particularly to consider securing materials from such alternative and authoritative sources as the African National Congress, the Africa Fund and the American Committee on Africa, the International Defense and Aid Fund, the South African Institute for Race Relations, and Raven Press, and these publications be made accessible through library catalogs by the assignment of sufficient and appropriate subject headings; and be it Further
- RESOLVED, That ALA invite library colleagues in South Africa to tell American librarians how we may help them achieve a free flow of information, open and responsive library service, and a more just and humane society.



ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
July, 1986, in New York City
Transmitted by

Thomas J. Galvin
Thomas J. Galvin, Secretary of Council

COUNCIL MINUTES
1986 Annual Conference

98-497 stipulating that the appointment of the Archivist of the United States be made on the basis of professional qualifications and in opposing the appointment of John Agresto, and further, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Senator William Roth, chair, U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and that a press release be issued by ALA on this issue.

INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE NUCLEAR AGE (CD#57:MD#2) -
Exhibit 15. Without discussion, it was

VOTED, That the American Library Association urge librarians to establish up-to-date collections of books on national security in the nuclear age, and to stimulate interest in this issue.

RESOLUTION ON THE ABRIDGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA
(CD#58:MD#1.1 - Substitute Resolution presented by original movers) -
Exhibit 16. Without further discussion, it was

VOTED, That the American Library Association call on American librarians to support the struggle for freedom, justice, and equality within a multiracial democratic society in South Africa, and further, That ALA write the appropriate government agency in South Africa expressing opposition to the present system of unequal library service and education, and to the widespread censorship of the press and banning of authors and their works, and further, That ALA go on record as opposing any future reentry into the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) of the South African Library Association in its new guise as the South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science, until the Institute takes a strong stand in favor of open membership and equality of library service and education, and further, That ALA urge bibliographic utilities, such as OCLC, and other cooperative ventures, not to expand their services or make investments in South Africa under the present regime, and further, That ALA urge that the Dewey Decimal area tables and history schedule for South Africa planned for the 20th edition by Forest Press, that were prepared by SAILIS, be revised to reflect the history of all South Africans, and further, That ALA urge American libraries to develop collections on South

Africa that reflect the full diversity of viewpoints and experience in that country, particularly to consider securing materials from such alternative and authoritative sources as the African National Congress, the Africa Fund and the American Committee on Africa, the International Defense and Aid Fund, the South African Institute for Race Relations, and Ravan Press, and these publications be made accessible through library catalogs by the assignment of sufficient and appropriate subject headings, and further, That ALA invite library colleagues in South Africa to tell American librarians how we may help them achieve a free flow of information, open and responsive library service, and a more just and humane society.

NEW BUSINESS: President-Elect Regina Minudri/Dennis Day moved that current committee subcommittees having members not on the parent committee be permitted to continue through Annual Conference 1987 and further, that Council refer the matter of subcommittee membership and appointing authority to the Committee on Organization requesting recommendations from COO to Council by Midwinter 1987. President-Elect Minudri pointed out that some subcommittees were now operating in what appeared to be violation of the bylaws (there being no stated authority for for the current practice of appointing non-committee members to subcommittees of the association's committees). President Lynch noted that as a result of Councilor Biblo's comments at Council I, Councilor Norman Horrocks raised this matter with the Executive Board at its meeting on Tuesday. Dr. Horrocks, Chair of the Policy Monitoring Committee, explained that in cases where ALA's Constitution and Bylaws are silent, Robert's Rules of Order apply, and that those Rules state that in normal practice, subcommittee members must be members of the parent committee unless otherwise authorized. He noted that though past Association practice of the Association has authorized nonmembers of parent committees to serve on subcommittees, he hoped that Council would support the motion so that any question could be clarified by COO. ALA Treasurer Patricia Schuman asked for a definition of "current" as stated in the motion, and President Lynch stated that her interpretation would be that any committees appointed at this Annual Conference would be considered current. Councilor Herbert Biblo/Mary Biblo proposed an amendment to state that committees appointed prior to Annual Conference of 1986 should be allowed to continue, Mr. Biblo's statubg that action taken at this Conference and found to be faulty should not be allowed to continue. Several Councilors spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment which FAILED, whereupon, it was

VOTED, That current subcommittees having members not on the parent committee be permitted to continue through Annual Conference 1987, and further, that the Council refer the matter of subcommittee membership and appointing authority to the Committee on Organization requesting recommendations from COO to Council by Midwinter 1987.