

The Rockefeller Foundation

1133 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

RECEIVED

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: (212) 869-8500

AUG 10 1979

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday, August 15, 1979

PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE

STUDY COMMISSION ON UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA

Sterling Wortman, Acting-President of The Rockefeller Foundation, today announced the formation of an independent study commission on United States policy toward southern Africa. Composed of eleven distinguished Americans, the Commission will conduct a comprehensive examination and appraisal of the policy options available for dealing with the issues confronting the United States in South Africa. Developments elsewhere in southern Africa will be examined as they affect policy toward South Africa.

Members of the Commission are:

Robert S. Browne (President; Black Economic Research Center)

Robert C. Good (President; Denison University)

Charles V. Hamilton (Wallace S. Sayre Professor of Government;
Columbia University)

Ruth Simms Hamilton (Professor of Sociology and Racial & Ethnic
Studies; Michigan State University)

Alexander Heard (Chancellor; Vanderbilt University)

Aileen Hernandez (Urban Affairs Consultant)

Constance Hilliard (Executive Director; African-American Scholars
Council, Inc.)

C. Peter McCollough (Chairman of the Board; Xerox Corporation)

J. Irwin Miller (Chairman, Executive and Finance Committee;
Cummins Engine Company)

Alan Pifer (President; Carnegie Corporation of New York)

Franklin A. Thomas (President; Ford Foundation)

Mr. Thomas is chair of the Commission.

"The decision to go forward with this project," says Dr. Wortman, "was based on a feasibility study conducted over a ten-month period. The study involved consultations with many different people in government service and private life as to the potential value that such an enterprise might have, the pitfalls and difficulties involved, and how it might best be organized. In addition a survey was conducted of the character and quality of current information, the gaps to be filled and individuals who could perform this work. This process of exploration convinced the Foundation that, despite inevitable risks, the Commission is an appropriate way of meeting the need for an independent, detailed, widely credible statement and analysis of the relevant facts and interests, as well as the policy choices open to the United States.

"The Commission's membership," Dr. Wortman continued, "reflects a broad spectrum of background and experience. Members have agreed to serve in their individual capacities, and not as representatives of the institutions or groups with which they are affiliated. They are committed to find the facts, evaluate the policy choices involved, and disseminate their findings.

"We feel particularly fortunate that near the end of the feasibility study last December Franklin Thomas agreed to serve as chair. He brings

to the Commission an unusually impressive array of qualifications including a deep interest in Africa and a reputation for thorough study of issues and for objective interpretation of findings."

The Commission seeks to complete its work in 18-24 months. It will consult with private groups and individuals concerned with U.S. policy toward South Africa, members of Congress and officials from the executive branch. In early 1980, the Commission will make a fact-finding trip to South Africa and other involved countries. Publication of the Commission's report is scheduled for early 1981.

Marc Feigen Fasteau, a New York attorney, is Staff Director of the Commission, and Milfred C. Fierce, Associate Professor of Afro-American History at Hunter College, is Research Director.

The Commission is established as an independent, tax-exempt non-profit corporation, the Foreign Policy Study Foundation, Inc., with offices at 6 East 43rd Street, New York, New York. Members of the Commission constitute its Board of Directors. The Rockefeller Foundation has made a grant of \$600,000 to the Foreign Policy Study Foundation, Inc. as part of a two-year funding plan for the Commission.

Contact: Linda Potter
(212) 867-7025

Attachment: Statement of Purpose