KOFI AWOONOR BENEFIT FUND. On Monday, April 19th a Poetry Reading and Performance was held at the University of Texas in Austin to raise money for the defense of Kofi Awoonor, Ghanaian poet, novelist, and critic who has been detained without formal charge or trial by the Ghanaian government since the end of December, 1975. Dr. Awoonor is tenured in English and Comparative Literature at the State University of New York (Stony Brook), but was teaching on sabbatical at Cape Coast University, Ghana, at the time of his arrest. He was a visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin in 1972-73. Those wishing to contribute to the defense should mail their contributions to: Kofi Awoonor Benefit Fund, P.O. Box 14012, Austin, Texas 78761.

MIDWEST UNIVERSITIES CONSORTIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SOMALIA PROJECT. In October 1975, MUCIA signed a contract with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to assist the Democratic Republic of Somalia in developing its Central Agricultural Research Station and Training Center. The Ohio State University was designated as contract manager for MUCIA. Dr. Byron Boudurant, of the OSU Department of Agricultural Engineering, was named Field Team Leader, and Dr. Mervin Smith, Assistant Dean of Agriculture and Home Economics at OSU, became Campus Coordinator. Dr. Bondurant will be joined later this spring by a second long-term staff member, Dr. William Lyon, of the OSU Entomology Department. [Excerpted from the MUCIA Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 1, February 1976.]

LETTER ON THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA

Professor James Duffy
African Studies Association
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Dear Jim,

Members of the African Studies Association have been following, I am sure, with some anxiety developments at the University of Zambia this past year. The situation is complicated, as it always is, but the basic fact is that lecturers have been imprisoned and expelled from the country, and others fell under pressure to leave. The immediate cause seems linked to South Africa’s intrusion into independent Angola and Zambia’s ambivalent attitude (to say the least) to the government of Angola, an ambivalence not appreciated by many persons in Zambia.

In the wake of the expulsions, two problems are posed. One is that those expelled (or forced to leave) need positions. The other is that the University administration, which seems to have sided with the Zambian government in this affair, is seeking replacements.

It seems to me we collectively ought to do two things. One is to help those expelled or forced to leave to find new positions. The second is to discourage “scabbing” until the situation clarifies itself.

The Zambian government is entitled, like any other, to pursue policies it thinks appropriate. But we are not obliged to give moral endorsement to such policies, especially when the tactics and objectives are morally doubtful.

Sincerely yours,

Immanuel Wallerstein
[Past President of the African Studies Association]