

ASA ASA ASA AFRICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER ASA ASA ASA

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A STATEMENT OF CONCERN

In response to the interest among Africanists in the activities and policies of the African Studies Association, we wish to emphasize that the ASA is a membership organization. It is the conviction of the Board of Directors that the Association should represent the will and opinion of the majority of its members. It is the task of the Executive Secretariat to make this possible.

The following are the means by which members can have a direct voice in the policies and direction of the Association. The pages of this regularly published Newsletter are open to any member who desires to communicate with the membership. Individuals may avail themselves at cost of the Secretariat's service and mailing facilities to canvass other members on matters of ASA concern and business. Letters to the officers and directors of the Board will be transmitted by this office. Members who wish to consult with the Board at its periodic meetings are invited to do so.

An annual meeting of the membership is convened in late October or early November. In addition to panels of scholarly interest, there will be included on the formal program for 1970 and each year thereafter discussion panels on matters of serious concern. Suggestions for both types of panels are welcomed. Each year at the time of the annual meeting we are pleased to comply with requests that separate rooms and hours be set aside for groups of members who wish to assemble. Members may also submit items for inclusion on the agenda of the annual business meeting.

We remind the members of their rights and responsibilities under the revised by-laws of the Association. All members vote for the officers and directors; any ten members may nominate an ASA member for office. Article I, Section 9 provides (hopefully) for a satisfactory system of checks and balances on the governing of the Association. The actual by-laws may be changed by the majority vote of 25 per cent of the members. The responsibility of the members would seem to be that the Association itself reflects their interests as Africanists.