

The African Studies Association condemns the participation of scholars in clandestine intelligence operations. The African Studies Association condemns the clandestine use or employment of scholars by intelligence agencies and calls upon Africanist scholars to take no part in such activities.

In view of our constant resolve to safeguard the integrity and credibility of academic African studies and to counteract misrepresentations of the independent purposes of scholarly work in a free society, we express concern about the implications of your current proposal to fund academic research. We shall discuss this matter once again at the next meeting of our Board in the light of inquiries which we have initiated. We would, of course, welcome information that you might wish to contribute as background for our deliberation.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Sklar
President
African Studies Association

In the Case of Dennis Brutus:

October 29, 1981

President Robert Strotz
Rebecca Crown Center
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dear President Strotz:

I write to express deep concern about the threatened deportation of Professor Dennis Brutus. The Board of Directors of the African Studies Association has followed this matter closely. We now understand that Professor Brutus may be required to leave this country for a reason that is basically technical in nature. It does seem appropriate for scholars and civil libertarians to urge the merits of a broader view. My request to you is made in that spirit.

We do believe that Northwestern University should seek to avert an occurrence which would reflect badly on African studies in the United States. With its remarkable tradition of African studies, Northwestern is high in the esteem of Africanist scholars throughout the world. For more than a decade Professor Brutus has enhanced that tradition as a tenured member of the faculty. During this time he has made a significant contribution to African Literature, one which draws particular attention to the abhorrent denial of human rights in South Africa. We do not doubt that reasonable people would wish to have his contributions weighed against an unseemly deportation on the ground that his visa is not in order.

At our meeting last week, the Board of Directors asked me to request timely action on your part. An approach to the senior and junior Senators from Illinois in order to secure a waiver of the rule was frequently mentioned. Please let me know what action you can take at this time so that I may inform the Board and our members.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Sklar