

in portrayals which create serious misconceptions. We shall inform our members of your response to our concern.

Sincerely yours,
Richard L. Sklar

Ed. Note: The above letter was sent to 22 Map Companies. The following response was received from the American Map Corporation:

Dear Mr. Sklar,

We are in receipt of your letter dated 10 November 1981 in which you solicit response to the issue of 'sovereignty' as it relates to two areas in Africa: Western Sahara and South Africa. Our research department maintains a file on all nations of the world and our sources are: The individual countries themselves through the various ministries and departments, the Embassies, Consulates, and UN Missions; the United Nations; The United States State Department and various other published sources.

Western Sahara: Our research department has been following the issue of sovereign rule for the past 6 years. We have shown the development of changing interpolitical relationships but still maintain Western Sahara, formerly Spanish Sahara, as an independent entity, and will continue to do so until the situation officially changes.

South African Home States: Several years ago Transkei, the first of the home state designations, was incorporated into the delineation of South Africa. This was based on published material identifying Transkei as a New Independent Nation. Since that time, there has been clarification on the 'home state status. The only map published by us which delineates the home status is the map of the Republic of South Africa.

One point that I would like to make is that most publishers of textbooks, magazines & newspapers, as well as other communications media specialists, generally prepare their text materials from sources other than cartographic publications. Often the maps used as illustrations for these publications are prepared by graphic artists—not cartographers, who, by the way are very meticulous about research and reference sources they use.

Another important fact to be remembered is that we often publish a map with up-to-the minute changes, and as soon as it is on press being printed, a change occurs. These changes cannot be incorporated into that edition of the map but must be picked up on subsequent printings, which may be anywhere from 6 months to 1 year later.

I trust that I have provided you with answers to your queries. Should there be anything further we can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,
AMERICAN MAP CORPORATION
Bernice B. Cousins, Director
Cartographic Services

Re: Fulbright and Foreign Visitors . . .

Mailgram: 10/29/81
Senator Alan Cranston, U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510

Proposed cuts in State Department Budget will do irreparable damage to Africa related Fulbright and Foreign Visitor Program. African Studies Association urges that these programs be maintained in difficult period of U.S.-Africa relations. Request your assistance in restoring support for Africa related ICA Program.

Donald Cosentino, Executive Secretary, ASA.

More News for Those Who Don't Send Forwarding Addresses:

Dear Don,

I noticed in the April/June 1981 NEWSLETTER (page 22) that Joseph J. Lauer claims that the sentence about "the post office not forwarding periodicals" is a "blatant error." Having spent eight years in this business, I can assure you that even if a member leaves a forwarding card with the post office, one of two things will happen: (1) the periodical will be destroyed; or (2) it will be returned to you for a rather hefty charge, leaving you with the chore of sending out a replacement copy by first class mail. I don't know where Mr. Lauer gets his information, but if his post office forwards periodicals, it's the only one in the country that does. (The Berkeley post office can't even manage to deliver materials that *don't* require forwarding!)

At any rate, having maintained the association's mailing list for five years, I should warn you that the failure of members to keep you informed of their correct mailing address adds substantially to your financial and emotional overhead. You may find a more diplomatic way of phrasing matters than Duffy did, but I hope you get the message across, because this issue can nickle and dime you to death. . . .

Regards,
John Hevelin
Berkeley, CA

"You are not dealing with TIME-LIFE" . . .

The following letter was sent to a member who cancelled her membership after receiving notice saying she was now a "regular", rather than a "sustaining" member:

Dear Professor:

We have received your letter of 14 September requesting the immediate return of your membership and your meeting registration monies.

I am sorry that you find the association's membership policies "unpalatably bureaucratic." The by-laws of the Association are very clear on the matter of membership categories. I include a copy for your information. I hasten to add that those by-laws are devised by the Board of Directors of the Association, and approved by the membership. The use of deadlines for the receipt of membership dues is simply a device to keep an academic association, which depends on membership dues for the main part of its income, solvent. There must be some kind of mutual obligation between the members and the secretariat, the latter to provide stipulated services at stipulated times, the members to support the association, also at stipulated times. This past year dues reminders were sent out in December, repeated in the Spring *News*, followed up by a May mailing, and repeated once again in the June registration packet. The last mailings represented an extension, by three months, of the stipulated time for the payment of Sustaining Membership dues.