



M O Z A M B I Q U E

National Office
343 South Dearborn
Suite 601
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312/922-3286

message center 312/922-3915

**Support
Network**

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Contacts: Sylvia Ewing 922-3286
Lisa Brock 922-3915

Date: October 9, 1987
For immediate release

Support Group Welcomes
Mozambican President Chissano

During the week of October 3-7, President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique was welcomed to the United States by broad-based meetings of supporters in New York City and Washington D.C. Some of those present at the meetings included Abdullah Ibrahim, jazz pianist, George Houser, former director of the American Committee on Africa, filmmaker Robert Van Leirop, and the executive director of the National Rainbow Coalition Ron Daniels. The meetings were organized by the newly formed national support organization known as the Mozambique Support Network (MSN). The purpose of the MSN is to educate the American public about the situation in Mozambique and to organize fund-raisers, medical aid drives, and other humanitarian aid efforts. There are MSN chapters in cities from Boston to San Francisco and from Des Moines to Seattle.

During President Chissano's six days in the United States he met with President Ronald Reagan, presidential aspirant, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, numerous senators and representatives, members of the Congressional Black Caucus and national journalists. Throughout his visit, President Chissano stressed the desire of Mozambique to "consolidate its friendship with the United States, its government and its people."

Mozambique, with a per capita GNP of \$ 145/year, is currently facing war from a group of terrorist thugs know as "bandidos armados" or MNR. The terrorists are financed, directed, and armed by the South African government. The world-renowned aid agency Oxfam recently observed that largely due to MNR attacks, more than 4 million Mozambicans now need emergency aid. The 1987 UNICEF Report, Children on the Front Line, calculates that during 1980-86 over half a million children under 5 died in Mozambique and Angola because of South African backed terrorist wars. The most recent incident to receive extensive coverage in the USA was the July 18, 1987 massacre at Homoine in Mozambique's Inhambane Province, when the MNR killed 420 civilians, many of them children in hospitals.