

3 July, 1980

Greetings,

Enclosed are drafts of a statement on the proposed formation of a U.S./Mozambique Friendship Association and a cover letter to be sent to the Mozambican government. These are intended to present, in a general way, some of what was discussed at the meeting last month.

If there are suggestions or changes you would like to make in the text of either, please address them to Betty Capehart-Wright, 405 Edgecombe Avenue, Apt. C-5, New York, N.Y. 10032. Try to get them to her before July 10, to allow time for them to be incorporated into the final letter and statement. Also, we need, for identification purposes only, an occupation or group affiliation to list with your name.

It was suggested by some at the first meeting that a working meeting in July would be helpful to discuss some of the logistics involved in forming any new organization. Areas that we should give some thought to ahead of time and come prepared to discuss at a second meeting include: (1) the proposal of a first project to launch organization and a timetable for this; (2) selection of people to act as responsables for different tasks to be undertaken in the first phase; (3) how to bring in new members and definition of levels of participation and (4) a brief discussion of recent events in Mozambique.

The date for this meeting is tentatively July 16. The place is Jennifer's apartment at 7:00 p.m. Please indicate if the date and place are convenient for you.

Hope to see you in July.

A luta continua,

Roberta

Enclosures

Formation Committee for a U.S./  
Mozambique Friendship Association  
411 West 148th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10032

10 July, 1980

The Honorable Mr. Joaquim Chissana  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The People's Republic of Mozambique

Dear Mr. Chissana:

We are a group of long time FRELIMO supporters who met recently in New York City to discuss the formation of an organization which could concretely further the understanding between the peoples of our two countries. We are undertaking this effort at this time because we believe that it is important to us and other Americans who struggle for social change in this country and support the struggles in other countries to understand the problems confronted as well as the gains attained in the process of constructing socialism in post-independent Mozambique.

From our own experiences, we know that the building of such an organization with wide appeal will not be easy. Two of the more serious problems facing us at this time are:

(a) political factionalism on the left which dissipates the effectiveness of anti-imperialist work and (b) a shift of attention among many progressive groups from Mozambique and other countries to those more recently or not yet independent. With this understanding of the current U.S. political climate, we hope that we will be able to organize more effectively.

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The success of a U.S./Mozambique Friendship Association also depends to a great extent on the existence of very close communications between our group and the appropriate Mozambican structure. We know that it will also be necessary from time to time to call upon that structure or others for assistance in special matters where their contribution would be important.

Enclosed is a draft statement of objectives for the U.S./Mozambique Friendship Association which gives a general idea of what we would like to do. At this point it is important for us to get your reaction to our proposal and to know your own ideas on the subject. For this purpose it would be beneficial to our group if two of our members who will be in Maputo in August could talk with you or members of your staff at your convenience. Either Roberta Washington or Allen Isaccman will be in contact with your Ministry in early August.

Thank you in advance for your interest and assistance.

A Luta Continua,

Barbara Barnes

Sam Barnes

Mohamed Ibn Chambas

Jennifer Davis

Mimi Edmunds

Andy Epstein

Paul Epstein

Marty Hanlon

Sylvia Hill

Paul Irish

Allan Isaccman

Ruth Minter

William Minter

Stefanie Steele

Stephanie Urdang

Roberta Washington

Jim Weihart

Betty Capehart-Wright

(organization names are used for identification purposes only)

# WORKING DRAFT ON THE FORMATION OF U.S./MOZAMBIQUE FRIENDSHIP ASSOC.

## PREAMBLE

As Americans who are involved in the struggle for social transformation within the U.S. and in the support of anti-imperialist struggles in other countries, we believe there is a need for organizations which allow us to contribute in any way possible to those engaged in struggle. We believe that the U.S./Mozambique Friendship Association can be such a group. Equally important we see the formation of the U.S./Mozambique Friendship Association as the creation of a mechanism for the bilateral exchange of experiences of our two peoples. Because we recognize the immense difficulties faced in the post-independent period by Mozambique and other Third World countries in the process of constructing socialism, we feel that the support by progressive people of the world is as important now as during their liberation struggles. With this in mind, we propose the establishment of the U.S./Mozambique Friendship Association which would have the following objectives:

## OBJECTIVES

### A. Immediate Objectives

1. To disseminate information within the U.S. about the Mozambique revolution and the nature of <sup>the</sup> post-independent society (through newsletters, a speakers bureau, sponsored events, etc.)
2. To provide the Mozambican people with information about and interpretations of news events concerning the nature of U.S. society and struggles within it.
3. To develop a people-to-people rapport between such groups as American trade unionists, students, women and professional groups and their Mozambican counterparts.

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4. To promote cultural exchanges between the two countries.

B. Long Range Objectives

1. To act as a clearinghouse of information about projects for individuals and groups in the U.S. who want to provide material aid to Mozambique.
2. To review and channel applications from U.S. citizens and to provide an orientation to those Americans accepted by the Mozambican government.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the U.S./Mozambique Friendship Association shall be open to individuals who agree to work towards the objectives stated above. Membership shall reflect the multi-racial character of American society and shall be open to U.S. residents as well as U.S. citizens.