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MOZAMBIQUE

support network newsletter

VOL. 1 NO. 3 DEC. 87

MOZAMBIQUE CONSULTANT PREXY NESBITT RETURNS FROM TRIP TO MOZAMBIQUE

On November 30 Mozambique government consultant Prexy Nesbitt returned from a three week trip to Mozambique. He went straight to the funeral of Mayor Harold Washington with messages of condolence from various Mozambican government officials.

Two major highlights of Prexy's trip were: 1) a visit to Inhambane province with President Chissano and the ambassadors from Britain, the Soviet Union, East Germany and Ambassador Melissa Wells from the U.S.A; and 2) several days spent in Zambesia province as a guest of Governor Rosario. Throughout the trip, a major concentration was identifying those persons and departments in Mozambique, who can best assist solidarity and/or material aid efforts initiated in the U.S.A. Throughout the meetings with numerous Mozambican officials, Prexy stressed that more and more activity is taking place in the U.S.A. by various national and local organizations to support Mozambique politically and materially. To illustrate his point, he shared with Radio Mozambique the new rap record and video A.F.R.I.C.A by the Stetsasonics. Mozambique Radio aired the song at the same time on November 21st as it was released in the United States. A full report of Ambassador Nesbitt's visit is available from the MSN office.

SPECIAL ALERT: UPCOMING TOURS

Three major tours are coming up immediately!!

1. Mozambican woman journalist Lina Magaia will be in the USA and Canada January 18-February 20, 1988. Author of the powerful new collection Dumba Nengue, hearing her is a must. Contact the MSN office for details.

2. The MSN is coordinating with the Africa Office of the National Council of Churches a visit to the USA by six Mozambican pastors. Tentatively, they will be in the USA for three weeks beginning February 7, 1988.

3. Members of the Boston MSN group are going on a Fact Finding Tour to Mozambique from February 18-March 3, 1988. Contact: Mr. M. McLeod at (617) 482-3170 in Boston.

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LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS:
THE KASTEN AFFAIR

A substantive victory was recently achieved when Senator Bob Kasten (R, Wisconsin) was compelled to drop the amendment he had offered prohibiting aid to Mozambique unless Mozambique met various conditions including the return of properties to the Catholic Church (properties, incidentally, which the church no longer wanted anyway). Another amendment was substituted saying that the President had to report to Congress on the extent to which the Mozambican government would: 1) dialogue with the Catholic Church; 2) assure due process and just compensation in any future expropriations; and 3) assure that Soviet-bloc military and security personnel would someday be reduced. A large number of people in Wisconsin raised concern with the amendment Senator Kasten initially proposed.



PRESIDENT CHISSANO RECEIVES
CONGRESSMAN HALL (D-OHIO)

Congressman Tony Hall visited Mozambique during the second week of December as part of a delegation of church and lay leaders. They discussed with President Chissano MNR's wholesale killing of civilians and Pretoria's regional campaign of terror. At the end they invited the President to join them for Washington's "Prayer Breakfast".

THEY SLEPT UNDER THE EARTH*

Not a long time ago
Men and women
Children and old people
Walked through the forests.

They slept outside their houses;
Under the earth.
They always heard
The sounds of bazookas
And the sounds of machine
guns

And shouts, shouts...
Men and women, shouted in agony
Children and old people,
shouted in agony

Hyenas howled in fear
Lions roared in fear
Pigs grunted in fear
Goats bleated in fear
Dogs barked in fear
Chickens cackled in fear
And ducks quacked in fear.

The soldiers fought and fought
For this great country
But our great Mozambique
Was not lucky.

We are now the victims
Of the armed bandits
Who kill our relatives and friends
And destroy our economy.

Our country is getting poorer
Because of the armed bandits
But the time will come
When our sons and daughters
Will live better than we do now
They will have peace;
The future is bright.

Paula Ester Maculuse

Age: 16

* BREAKFAST OF SJAMBOKS

RAP SONG ATTACKS APARTHEID

A.F.R.I.C.A., a provocative new rap song and video has become the latest weapon in the war against apartheid. A New York based rap band, the Stetsasonics, wrote the song to help the youth of America understand the crisis facing their peers in the Southern Africa region.

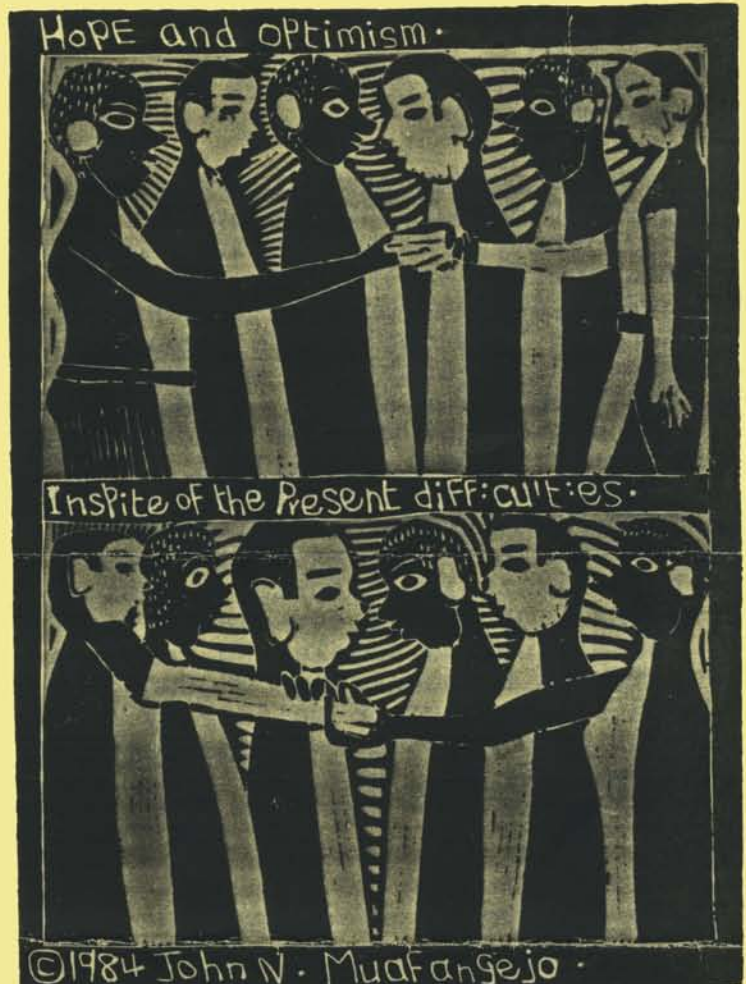
Apartheid is a moral disgrace and South Africa's policies place an entire region on a war alert. The youth of Chicago and their elders should listen to this music which features Rev. Jesse Jackson, Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress and Nigerian drummer Olatunji.

Proceeds from the sale of the video, record, and cassette go to the Africa Fund for humanitarian projects in the Frontline States. For more information contact Sylvia Ewing of the Mozambique Support Network at (312) 922-3286 or 3915 or write Marsha Landress at the Africa Fund 198 Broadway NYC 10038.

IOWA RESPONDS WITH HUMANITARIAN AID

In response to the critical situation, which currently grips Mozambique, the American Friends Service Committee has launched a major campaign to assist Mozambicans with the collection and shipment of money, food, clothing and medicine.

To become involved, contact:
The American Friends Service
Committee
Iowa Committee
Southern Africa Coalition
4271 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312
(515) 274-4851



ZIMOFA ENLISTS HELP WORLDWIDE

"The Zimbabwe Mozambique Friendship Association's (ZIMOFA) immediate concern is to save the children and elderly people who are dying of starvation and disease", stated Dave Popatial, ZIMOFA executive member. ZIMOFA was formed a year ago in order to assist Mozambique through the shipment of food, clothing and medicine. Mozambique has asked for 726,000 tons of food. The price of a ton of corn is about \$650.

PLEASE SEND CHECKS AND NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO:

ZIMOFA
P.O. Box 4203
Harare
Zimbabwe

1988 EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE

After a London planning meeting in early December, 1987, European solidarity groups from Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have decided to organize a broad, high visibility support conference for Angola and Mozambique. The conference will be held in the autumn of 1988 and will be entitled "ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE ON THE FRONT LINE." The conference will focus on South Africa's aggression and destabilization efforts against the Front Line states, especially Mozambique and Angola. No venue has yet been announced and US, Canadian, and Latin American solidarity groups will be contacted as plans continue to unfold.

NEW RESOURCES

The MSN national office now has "SUPPORT MOZAMBIQUE/FIGHT APARTHEID" buttons made by the TCLSAC group in Canada for sale. It also has post cards, posters and T shirts with designs by the famous Mozambican artist, Malangatana. Additionally, the office has received a large shipment of 1988 calendars from the Zimbabwe Mozambique Friendship Association (ZIMOFA). The following new books are available for \$5 each from the national office: Dumba Nengue: Run for Your Life, Peasant Tales of Tragedy in Mozambique by Lina Magaia and Breakfast of Sjamboks, Mozambican children's poetry edited by Lukas Mkuti. Other titles expected soon in the MSN resource center include: MOZAMBIQUE: THE REVOLUTION UNDER FIRE and APARTHEID'S SECOND FRONT both by Joseph Hanlon. Two excellent pamphlets newly available are: Carole Collins' new study, "Voices from Apartheid's Other War" (American Friends Service Comm) and "Briefing: The Roots of Armed Banditry" published by the Information Department of FRELIMO.

WHAT IS THE MSN?

The Mozambique Support Network is made up of organized groups and individuals in various regions and cities throughout the country. Many members of the MSN are people who have spent years working in various parts of Mozambique. The groups and individuals involved do educational campaigns, fund raisers, medical aid drives and other humanitarian efforts.

There are MSN groups in cities ranging from Boston to San Francisco and from Des Moines to Seattle. There are two national cochair, a secretary, an administrator and an executive group. The national office is located in Chicago, Illinois.

