

Extracts from "A Note on Africa Fund Projects in Mozambique"

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by: George M. Houser

I spent two or more hours talking with the Minister of Health, Dr. Helder Martins. He urged us as strongly as possible to continue to give assistance to their medical program. He said that it would cost about \$10,000 each to build what he called "sanitary posts" located in villages. The construction, he said, would be done from cement materials. Each communal village will have at least one such clinic. For about \$30,000, he said, a maternity wing could be attached to the clinic. The plan of the government is to establish 200 bed hospitals in each of the 10 provinces making up the country.

Dr. Martins is expecting the health care situation to improve but it will be a long process. He indicated that in December of 1974 there were 25 students that graduated from the medical school of Lourenco Marques University. 13 of these left the country with only 12 remaining to work with the government. But in December of 1975 there were also 25 in the graduating class with only 3 of them deciding to leave. The present entering class in the medical school will have 180 students for a 6 year course. It is expected that all of those who graduate will remain to help with the health development in the country.

As with most other programs of development, concentration will be given to the rural areas. In the field of health, priority is given to preventive medicine. Mass immunization campaigns against smallpox and other diseases are to be conducted. The success of the health campaigns will depend on the participation of the people. That is why the village health clinics are so important. This is where the people live and the clinics will depend on local skilled personnel.

Africa Fund
305 East 46th Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 838-5030