

Steve Tarzynski and Kathie Sheldon  
925 14th Street, No. 24  
Santa Monica, CA 90403  
213-451-8934

August 8, 1991

For the rest of the decade, [Mozambique] is destined to be an economic laboratory experiment in which the strategies and ideology of the donor community, the World Bank, and the IMF will be on trial.

Financial Times 1/15/91

Bill

Dear former cooperante,

As you may know, the Mozambique Support Network has faced difficult financial and political times in 1991. The national office has moved to makeshift quarters in a Chicago area church. Staff have been laid off. Many MSN chapters are moribund.

Foundations have not renewed MSN funding. Africa is not interesting to them anymore in the face of the headline-grabbing needs of the people of eastern Europe, the recession, and "donor fatigue" resulting from frustration with delayed improvements in Africa, especially Mozambique.

We are all feeling disoriented by the rapidity of changes in the socialist world in the past year. While eastern Europe has garnered the most press, Mozambique has also removed references to Marxism from its official documents, and Mozambican policy seems to be shaped by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It is with difficulty that we hear a continuing socialist voice from Mozambique. It is not the same society we committed ourselves to in the 1970s and 1980s.

Given that, it is still important to understand what factors have caused an apparent loss of commitment to the Mozambican liberation project and the support movement at home. The MSN national office and Prexy Nesbitt have asked us to contact the former cooperantes who helped organize MSN, and discuss where we can go from here. We would like to consider what MSN's mission should be in the new global circumstances, and how you individually can envision making a contribution.

We would welcome your thoughts on a broad range of questions, from your ideas on Mozambique's changes and new directions, to the events in your own life that make MSN

work central or marginal at this time. For instance, what do you think about Frelimo's politics in the 1990s? What is your outlook for the future of Mozambique? What could be done in this country to rebuild and renew the Mozambique support and anti-apartheid movements? Do you still care enough and have the energy to make another go of it?

Please write or give us a call. Your thoughts and continued or renewed involvement in the struggle for Mozambique's future are needed if MSN is to survive and be a player in the domestic and Mozambican scenes.

MSN is preparing for a fall national meeting, and your input will assist in this planning.

A Luta Continua?

Stew + Kathie

I hope that I will yet see days more prosperous for the province of Mozambique and especially for this part of Portuguese Africa where I was always well received and which, as if it were a second homeland, I love.

-- Carl Wiese  
explorer, 1891