AFSC Team to Southern Rhodesia During the next two months of transition to self-government in Southern Rhodesia, Lyle & Flo Tatum, Bill Sutherland, and Jim & Pat Seawell will monitor the situation and see what can be done to relieve suffering in that war-weary country. The Tatums, who monitored the Zimbabwe peace talks (Lyle's first-hand accounts are available upon request), and Bill, AFSC's Southern Africa Representative, will be based in Salisbury. The Seawells, directors of AFSC's newly-launched Technical and Material Assistance Program for Southern Africa (TAMAPSAR), will work from their regular base in Lusaka, Zambia.

Bill Sutherland, AFSC's Southern Africa Representative, will be available for speaking engagements when he returns from his Southern Rhodesia transition team assignment in March. Bill will be reporting first-hand impressions of the February elections. For information about Bill's U.S. schedule contact Ginny Hill, AFSC in Philadelphia, (215) 241-7183

Fragmentation Bombs Hit Refugee Camp Even as the London peace talks on Zimbabwe were reaching their successful conclusion, Rhodesian forces attacked UN-administered refugee camps in Mozambique to which AFSC has been sending relief aid. Paul & Andy Epstein, AFSC-sponsored health workers in Beira, Mozambique, reported many wounded from Trongsa camp coming to their hospital early December with bones shattered by fragmentation bombs.

AFSC Material Aid Continues On December 14th a 15-ton shipment of clothing, textiles, footwear, blankets, tools, and school supplies contributed by Friends Meetings and others left Philadelphia for Mozambique, to be distributed among Zimbabwean refugees in Mozambique or for refugees returning home. Last year AFSC shipped over 45 tons of material aid to Mozambique for Zimbabwean refugees.

Refugee Nurses Supported In refugee settlements in Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, Tanzania, two South African nurses are treating hundreds of their fellow refugees under auspices of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. The AFSC, in line with its approach of encouraging self-reliance and releasing local skilled people for service, is supporting these nurses for a 12-month period until more permanent support can be found. Total costs for each are $10.00 a month.

Portland Conference on Southern Africa AFSC's Portland office worked with other groups to convene a 3-day conference in October attended by over 75 people. Conference themes included organizational approaches, building new constituencies and media strategies. Jerry Trimmer, AFSC Peace Education Division Southern Africa Coordinator attended and said, "The conference pledged themselves to increased organizing efforts for divestment and the ending of bank loans to South Africa.
Contributions from Friends allowed AFSC to send 30 copies of an encyclopedic text, Where There Is No Doctor (in Portuguese) to the Sofala Province medical services for use in training Mozambican "barefoot doctors". Dr. Paul Epstein, a trainer, writes that the book is a "real hit" among the trainees, each of whom wants his or her own copy.

Chris Coleman, Southern Africa Peace Education staff in San Francisco is working with the San Francisco City Employee's Credit Union, which holds a substantial amount of members' deposits in Wells Fargo Bank. The Union has begun discussions with the bank about ending its investments in South Africa. Other banks, such as California First and Bank of California, have already pledged not to make loans to South Africa or to firms doing business there. AFSC has worked on the bank loan issue for several years.

U.S. Friends Report on South Africa Visit

Barry & Kay Hollister, Sam Snipes and Marge Nelson traveled to South Africa in August-September '79 under the auspices of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). Their journey was chiefly for inter-religious visitations with Quakers in South Africa, four of whom had visited the U.S. under FWCC sponsorship in 78. They reported being warmly welcomed, though saddened by the tragedy around them. AFSC is interested in such visitations as one means of staying in touch with people inside South Africa, including Quakers there.

Quaker United Nations Office at Work

Steve Thiermann & Mary Wade report considerable activity around Southern Rhodesian and Namibian issues at the U.N. AFSC Africa staff are gathering at Quaker UN Office (QUNO) mid-January to give a look at development in southern Africa. Elsewhere, many world organisations are making repeated reference to the QUNO-initiated UN resolution urging asylum for South African war resisters. Based on the General Assembly resolution passed in December '78, the Dutch Government said it would grant South African resisters asylum.

Conference on War Resistance in South Africa

AFSC's Chicago office was the site for a 3-day November gathering of U.S. activists and South African exiles who refused to serve in South Africa's military. Their purpose was to plan ways of building U.S. public understanding and support for the many young South Africans resisting the draft. South African Military Refugee Aid Fund convened the meeting. SAMRAF is a Brooklyn-based organization of war resisters which is organizing demonstrations in Washington DC, New York, Chicago & San Francisco on January 12th to protest the call-up of 30,000 new South African recruits.

Black Colleges Jerry Herman spoke to representatives of twelve black colleges meeting in Baltimore in November. Conference received his presentation warmly, expressing great interest in the scope of AFSC's southern Africa work, and indicated a willingness to be part of AFSC's growing network on southern Africa.

Tatum's Attend Southern Africa Yearly Meeting

En route to Southern Rhodesia, Lyle & Flo Tatum of Haddonfield (NJ) Monthly Meeting, attended a gathering of about 30 Friends in the Southern Africa Yearly Meeting, held in Gaborone, Botswana, over the New Year's period. They report having enjoyed themselves, finding many opportunities to participate.

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