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Mozambique Support Network
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The Deeper Image: A Letter from Mozambique, 10 minutes

A very human look at the struggle to survive and grow in Mozambique in the midst of a de-humanizing war. This short film, conceived and narrated by exiled South African freedom fighter Albie Sachs, looks at the struggle through the eyes and creations of some of Mozambique’s most respected artists, combining the visual with a beautiful Mozambican musical soundtrack.

Stets Africa (1987), 5 minutes

Music video of their rap track about the struggle for a free South Africa. The video includes excellent footage from South Africa.

Albi Sachs tape (compilation), Portuguese and English

This tape is actually a compilation of 5 different video pieces. The first two segments are concerned with the terrorist attack on South African exile, lawyer and writer Albie Sachs, whose car was sabotaged in 1988. There is also a lengthy interview with Sachs on culture. Both of these are in Portuguese and are unsubtitled. The third segment is a film, “Sunday Judge,” written by David Lan, produced by the BBC and acted by residents of Canico, the reed city on the outskirts of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. Produced in 1984, the film is an enactment of the proceedings that take place in the People’s Courts, the neighborhood courts where domestic disputes are heard. With segments on divorce, violence and traditionalism, “Sunday Judge” focuses on the ambiguity of the “emancipation” of women as a result of revolution, raising questions about the familial and social responsibility of both women and men in the context of deeply rooted pre-revolutionary values. Some English narration with English sub-titles. Approximately 45 minutes. The fourth segment is an Australian-produced news magazine piece on the young Australian missionary Ian Grey who joined the Shekana missionary organization and ended up working with the MNR in Mozam-
bique before his capture, trial and imprisonment (he was subsequently released). The segment focuses on Grey’s father, who comes to Mozambique seeking the release of his son, and who receives an education in MNR terrorism. The final segment is an interview with Albie Sachs from his hospital bed after the bombing of his car (in Portuguese).

Homoine/Canal Zero segment on Zambezia/Tete Province: Combatting the Drought/Zambezia, Canal Zero segment (Portuguese)/UNICEF film on vaccination (combination video)

Homoine (Portuguese, 17 minutes) goes to a memorial at the site of the massacre by the MNR bandits. Scenes include a speech by Mario Machungo, who meets with families of the victims, and speaks with some foreign workers who were there. He also speaks with a man who lost his family in the attack.

Tete Province: Combatting the Drought, (15 minutes). A provincial director talks about the effects of bandit activity and the influx and place of foreign aid. Looks at well-drilling in Shangara district, talks to SRA. Veronica who first went to Zimbabwe and then returned to Tete, and to Mashanga Dua, a farmer who lacks implements and animals. Poor quality film, fine soundtrack.

Canal Zero (1987, 15 minutes). This segment looks at the problem of displaced persons in Zambezia and looks at life in a refugee center, one of the centers attempting to accommodate the 850,000 displaced in the province. Some residents of the camps and the President of the Mozambican Red Cross are interviewed.

Zambezia, (1987, 10 minutes). This short film, also focusing on Zambezia province, includes images of poverty, scenes of the army and of destruction by the bandits.

Canal Zero (Portuguese, 15 minutes). Reports on the Green Zones, including a discussion with an FAO agricultural engineer and a look at an experimental rice-growing station.

UNICEF film on vaccination (English narration, 17 minutes), with clips of President Machel speaking at the United Nations General Assembly.

Destructive Engagement. Tony Strasberg, dir.(1987, 55 mins.)
Destructive Engagement provides both a broad and an intensive look at South Africa’s policy of destabilizing its neighbors, the Frontline States. Strasberg moves from Mozambique to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Angola, speaking to political and economic leaders and to people effected by and charged with fighting against South African-violence. Among those interviewed are President Kaunda of Zambia, Chris Hani and Oliver Tambo of the ANC, and Carlos Cardoso, director of Mozambique’s national press agency AIM. Filmed in 1987, but hardly out of date, Destructive Engagement is definitely the film to use when introducing an audience to the current situation in Southern Africa.

Mozambique: The Scene of the Crime (1987, approximately 1 hour)

A comprehensive examination of the destruction wrought by the MNR bandits in Mozambique and the efforts of the people and the government to build the country in the face of it. Excellent footage and narration are in evidence throughout the film, which moves to many different areas of the country, beginning in Homoine which was the scene of one of the worst mass atrocities committed by the MNR. The film looks at the problems of transport in Southern Africa and the attempts to maintain the Beira railroad corridor in the face of constant MNR sabotage attempts. Much use is made also of interview material, including both national and local figures.

Walter Rodney: Crisis in the Periphery

This is a videotape of a lecture given by Walter Rodney. The video portion of the tape is rather poor in quality, but is not prohibitive, and the audio, much more important, is fine. For those who never had a chance to hear Walter Rodney speak this is an excellent opportunity to hear him speak on the underdevelopment of African and the Caribbean and on the world political economy.