Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wiley:

When Mozambique became independent in 1975 more than 95% of the population could neither read nor write. Since then the Mozambican government has initiated a massive campaign to ensure that all its citizens have access to education and that the tyranny of illiteracy forever broken. "Education for us" observed President Machel, "is the principal instrument for our liberation, for our real political, economic, social and cultural independence".

The results have been impressive. In four years the number of children attending schools has increased from several hundred thousand to more than 1.7 million. A new curriculum has been developed which emphasizes the vitality of Mozambican history and culture long denied by the Portuguese colonial regime. For the first time peasants and workers are attending illiteracy classes. At present more than 400,000 adults are participating in such programs. Particular emphasis has been placed on educating young girls and women who suffered from the double exploitation of both the traditional and colonial societies.

To meet the rapidly expanding student population, more than 20,000 teachers and literacy workers have been retrained or have participated in refresher courses. And despite more than 350 rhodesian attacks, which have necessitated a doubling of Mozambique's defense outlay during the last two years, health and education continue to receive a third of the total budget--a testimony to FRELIMO's commitment to improve the quality of life for all its citizens.

Despite Mozambique's emphasis on self-reliance, the young nation, frankly, lacks the financial capacity to provide books, reference material and basic educational equipment for its expanding student population. We can help.

In the end of 1977 a number of people organized the Mozambique Education Fund. Within a little more than a year we collected $5000. Although by the standards of American foundations this is a mere pittance, the books purchased formed the basis of a national reference center which the Minister of Education noted in her accompanying letter is "very valuable and much used". This year we are expanding our activities and contacting foundations, church groups and unions. (Any suggestions which you have would be greatly appreciated).

The base of our support, however, will continue to be individual donations. To those of you who already contributed, our profound thanks and a plea that you once again give generously. To those of you who have not yet contributed, we urge that you do so.

We hope to collect a minimum of $10,000 in individual donations which would provide books for a number of schools and literacy centers as well as basic texts for the Ministry library. We fully intend that every dollar collected be used to purchase and ship books. On behalf of all of us associated with the Mozambique Education Fund, let me thank you again.

All contributions, which are in fact tax exempt, should be sent to the address indicated below.

Thank you.

MOZAMBIQUE EDUCATION FUND, INC.

Main Post Office • P.O. Box 9864 • Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440
Maputo, 29 December, 1979

Dear Mr and Mrs Isaacman,

We would like to thank you for your efforts in collecting funds from various charitable organizations for the Mozambique Educational Fund.

This fund has already collected over 5,000 dollars for the library of the Ministry of Education and Culture. Thanks to this money, we have been able to establish the library where none existed previously, equipping it with a very valuable and much-used reference collection, for all the workers of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Any further contributions from the Mozambique Educacional Fund would be most welcome, whether for the Ministry library, or for the many other educational establishments throughout the country. In this respect, we agree with your proposal to try and extend your activities to include foundations, religious and other charitable organizations.

We suggest that you maintain close contact with Mozambique’s Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Jose Carlos Lobo.

Gracias, Machel,

Gra Machel,

Minister for Education and Culture