Mozambique: Reflection and Change
by Lisa January

Mozambique's governing FRELIMO party reaffirmed its commitment to ending the war and rebuilding the nation's economy at its Fifth Party Congress which opened July 24 and closed July 31, 1989 in Maputo.

President Chissano Announces Peace Initiatives

President Joaquim Chissano announced the government's willingness to engage in a dialogue with Renamo. Renamo, called "armados bandidos" (armed bandits) by the Mozambican people, are internationally known for murder, mutilation, and rape of the rural population and have killed more than 100,000 civilians and turned another 1.6 million into refugees.

According to a position paper issued by the party congress, Renamo must renounce violence and support constitutional rule before negotiations can begin. Although Renamo leadership failed to attend a meeting with Mozambican Church leaders in Nairobi on July 19, 1989, President Chissano maintains that "We saw that the time was right to advance," and "To hear more closely from those Mozambicans who attack the people and the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Mozambique Redefines Economic Policy

FRELIMO reaffirmed its commitment to socialist principles, but removed Marxist-Leninist language contained in its platform. FRELIMO, once referred to as "the worker-peasant alliance" is now referred
to as the vanguard "of the Mozambican people". Foreign Minister Dr. Pascoal Mocumbi said that FRELIMO never described itself as a Marxist-Leninist party, but had made use of Marxist-Leninist principles. Prime Minister Mario da Graca Machungo described Mozambique's economic program as "socialism tailored to Mozambique's style - something for our particular needs at this particular time."

The program calls for "gradual socialism" of rural areas supporting initiatives of farmers who wish to set up voluntary farm cooperatives and family farms. President Chissano stated that "The nationalization of the education and health was and is correct, and should be valued and defended." The nationalization of healthcare and education is viewed as one of the principle gains of Mozambican Independence from Portuguese colonialism. He also stated that "The private sector has an important role to play in increasing production and improving the provision of services to the community."

In the wake of Renamo devastation of countless public schools, the party proposed legislation to legitimize private schools. However, no public schools will be denationalized and there are no plans for privatization in the health sector.

The next issue of the MSN Newsletter will be devoted to the Fifth Party Congress.

Mozambique Support Network
History and Mission Statement
by Allen Isaacman and Roberta Washington

Background

There is a long history of support for FRELIMO and the people of Mozambique by Americans dating back to the late 60's, just after the founding of FRELIMO. But Mozambique was not a household word and the number of people who knew about the struggle for independence in Mozambique was small. Nevertheless, in the early 70's national organizations such as the African Liberation Support Committee and the Committee for a Free Mozambique worked to inform Americans about the situation in Mozambique and to collect material aid. Groups scattered about the country, such as the Chicago Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, organized at the state and local level.

On June 25, 1975 Mozambique became independent. For many of us, it was Mozambique's socialist programs to develop the country and improve the lives of continued page 4
NewsBriefs

South Africans Cover For RENAMO Attack
(reprinted from AFRICA NEWS, Vol 31, No.12, June 12, 1989)
Eyewitness reports say South African soldiers provided cover for a recent attack on the Mozambican town of Ressano Garcia by the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO). Approximately 250 Renamo soldiers attacked the border town on the night of April 27, killing ten civilians and wounding 22. Damage to property was estimated at over $6 million. Ressano Garcia is the principal point of transit for Mozambican migrant miners working in South Africa. Eyewitnesses told the Mozambican Information Agency (AIM) that South African soldiers on the other side of the border cooperated with the attack. AIM reporter Cassimo Ginabay, who spoke to townspeople the day after the attack said that they "unanimously agreed there was South African involvement." In Pretoria, a South African Defense Force official denied any involvement in the attack, and said 147 Mozambicans who fled across the border during the fighting would be returned to Mozambique after being interrogated. The action appears to be part of a pattern of increasing attacks in recent months. But there is speculation in Mozambique's capital, Maputo, that the unusually blatant complicity in the raid from the South African side may have been a deliberate signal by pro-Renamo forces within the South African regime that they are not worried about pressure from Western countries—or from other South African officials—to stop aiding the rebels.

60 Drown in Mozambique Boat Capsizing
(reprinted from the St. Louis Dispatch, June 9, 1989)
MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP): A passenger boat capsized and sank Wednesday, drowning at least 60 people the state-run radio reported Thursday. Radio Mozambique said the accident occurred Wednesday at Inhambane Bay on the Southern Coast. The report, monitored by the national news agency, AIM, said the boat, named The Mozambique, was preparing to leave the port at Inhambane City to cross the bay to Maxixe. The radio said it was unknown how many passengers the boat was carrying.

Soviet Union Reduces Military Advisors In Mozambique
USSR-Mozambique Relations Remain Cordial
(Mozambique Update, June 20, 1989)
General Alberto Chipande, Mozambique's Minister of Defense, has announced that the Soviet Union will send home a number of their military advisors, to be replaced by Mozambican officers. According to officials of the Defense Ministry, "the reduction of Soviet military advisors corresponds to a positive evolution in the process of training Mozambican specialists." Mozambican military officers and other technical, scientific, and economic specialists have received training in Mozambique and in a number of countries under existing agreements of technical cooperation. It has been the policy of the FRELIMO government to replace foreign technical cooperants, advisors, and other specialists with Mozambican nationals whenever possible.

Mozambique Receives Third Increment of World Bank Loan
(Mozambique Update, June 20, 1989)
The World Bank has released the third rehabilitation credit to Mozambique. The agreement between the World Bank and Mozambique, amounting to $90 million, was signed on behalf of the government by Valeriano Ferraro, Mozambique's Ambassador to the United States and Canada, On June 1 in Washington, D.C. In addition to the rehabilitation credit, co-financing amounting to $21.7 million has been provided by Switzerland and Finland. Sweden, West Germany, and Britain supplied 38 million in parallel co-financing. These funds will be used to support the agricultural, industrial, and transport and communications sectors.

The Federal Republic of Germany Forgives Mozambique’s Debt
(adapted from Mozambique Update, June 20, 1989)
The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) has written off $79.2 million of Mozambique’s debt. In addition, the FRG will provide Mozambique with a $20.1 million grant. In line with this new policy, all future aid to Mozambique will be made in grant form.

President Bush Bans Import of Ivory
Renamo Linked to Elephant Poaching
(adapted from Mozambique Update, June 20, 1989)
President Bush has imposed a ban on the importation of ivory into the U.S. to stop the slaughter of African Elephants. According to The New York Times and The Washington Post, the U.S. imported $32.2 million in ivory last year. Japan remains the largest importer and consumer of ivory, accounting for 40% of the world market. Hong Kong is the world’s largest exporter of ivory carvings. Since June 4, the U.S., Japan, and Hong Kong, in addition to Switzerland, Canada, and the members of the European Economic Community (EEC) have imposed a moratoria on ivory imports. Conservationists estimate that 800 tons of ivory have been exported from Africa during this decade. A large quantity is supplied by poachers who kill 200-300 elephants each day. According to former Renamo spokesman Paulo Oliveira, among those who kill elephants illegally are members of Renamo who smuggle ivory out of Africa via Malawi and South Africa.
U.S. Doctors, Technicians Give Emergency Medical Assistance to Mozambique

by Mackie MacLeod

Three New York City physicians who volunteered their skills in training and treatment to the staff of the overburdened Central Hospital of Maputo, Mozambique have returned to the United States with another mission: to increase the allocation of U.S. aid to Mozambican doctors treating victims of RENAMO attacks there.

Dr. Jeanne Smith, a noted hematologist and the President of the Harlem Hospital Medical Board; Dr. Colin McCord, a thoracic surgeon at Harlem who supervises a medical training program in Mozambique; and Dr. Jean Ford, a Fellow in Pulmonary Illnesses at Presbyterian Hospital returned to the U.S. after spending the last month of March teaching and training Mozambican medical personnel in Southern Africa’s second largest medical facility (excepting Baragawanath Hospital in South Africa).

Their purpose while in Mozambique was to witness the effects of RENAMO attacks upon rural civilians and the corresponding overload of the emergency, diagnostic, and internal medicine facilities; to train Mozambican healthcare personnel in advanced diagnostic and surgical techniques; and to recommend improvements in the operation and administration of the hospital and evaluate the need for additional supplies. The team also transported about 200 pounds of disposable surgical supplies for use by the hospital pharmacy and emergency room staff.

Dr. Smith also laid the groundwork for a “sister hospital” relationship between Harlem hospital, one of the largest medical facilities in the United States, and Maputo’s Central Hospital, through which additional human and material resources and supplies will flow in the future. The doctors’ mission is among the first activities of the Emergency Medical Assistance Project / Mozambique, organized by the Southern African Volunteers Program of the Institute for Technology and Development (TECNICA). At the request of the governments and liberation movements of Southern Africa, TECNICA has agreed to recruit and coordinate placement of medical, computer and other professionals; teachers; skilled trade union members; and agricultural workers from the United States for volunteer service in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The New York medical team is the first of 25 medical professionals that will work through the Emergency Medical Assistance Project with the Mozambique Ministry of Health during 1989.

The doctors’ mission and recommendations for increased assistance to the medical sector coincide with an apparent “sea change” in the U.S. policy toward Mozambique and the formulation of the Bush Administration’s allocation to Africa. Charles Freeman, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, recently visited Mozambique for “exploratory” talks on a new U.S. role there, declaring that “the U.S. is interested in peace and stability in Southern Africa”. Ambassador Melissa Wells has taken a lead role in a USAID program that traces and reunites Mozambican children orphaned or displaced by RENAMO violence.

For more information on the Emergency Medical Assistance Project / Mozambique, Southern African Volunteers Program, or to schedule interviews, please call Mr. Mackie McLeod, S.A.V.P. Field Director, at (202) 882-0770.

New resources

TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS are available from the Mozambique Support Network National Office, 343 South Dearborn, Suite 314, Chicago, IL 60604.

Telephone: 312/922-3286

Machel of Mozambique (Zimbabwe Pub. House, $10) is Iain Christie’s unofficial biography of the late President Samora Machel of Mozambique. Christie, a journalist, first met Machel in Tanzania in 1971, and talked with him a number of times after moving to Mozambique in 1975. The book is divided into three sections, the first placing Machel as a child in the historical context of his family’s resistance to Portuguese colonialism through the time he joined FRELIMO, the second tracing Machel’s role from the beginning of the struggle to the time of his death and the final section stands as an essay on Machel’s political and intellectual development. The author also discusses the evidence of South African complicity in Machel’s death and reproduces a set of correspondence between Graça Machel and the Mandelas at the time of Machel’s funeral.

Investor’s Guide to Mozambique (Office for Foreign Investment Promotion, $20) is, as the title suggests, a compact guide for those interested in investing in Mozambique. The Guide provides a short historical/geographical overview, a discussion of Mozambique’s economic structure and information on 10 specific production sectors (agriculture, mining, transportation etc.). Also included are 2 chapters on technical/legal aspects of investing in Mozambique, and a short, informative chapter with practical information for those travelling to Mozambique, with sections on shopping, medical care, immigration and leisure activities. The appendices feature a wealth of data making this a particularly useful reference work.
its people that was so attractive.

After independence, schools were open to all. The government launched a major adult literacy campaign. Free health care became a right of citizenship. Rents were reduced and cities desegregated. And FRELIMO undertook a campaign to eliminate institutions and practices which oppressed women. Although its socialist agenda has not been achieved yet, its core and vision remains.

The Need For a National Support Organization
For many, Mozambique’s independence signalled the end of the need for organized international support. But as we have seen in the case of Nicaragua and Angola, independence is often only the first step in a people’s struggle for liberation. This reality is painfully true for Mozambique which has only known the briefest period of peace since its independence.

In retaliation for the critical support Mozambique gave to the people of Zimbabwe in their struggle for independence, the Rhodesian military regularly violated the country’s borders, murdering thousands of civilians, and together with South African security, organized a terrorist force. The group known as the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR or RENAMO) sabotaged railroads, fuel storage reserves, and robbed, kidnapped and murdered Mozambicans in the countryside. After the independence of Zimbabwe in 1980, South Africa took direct control of the MNR. On March 16, 1984 Mozambique signed an agreement with the South African government which required Pretoria to end its support of the MNR. But South Africa has violated the Accord and has expanded its support for contra-like terrorism throughout the countryside. The South African-backed attacks have left half of Mozambique’s 15 million people unable to feed themselves and more than 4,600,000 peasants have been forced to flee their historic homelands. Several hundred thousands have crossed the borders to neighboring countries, desperately seeking refuge.

In many ways, support for the struggle for the survival of Mozambique is more crucial now than it was 15 years ago. Although the State Department has resisted efforts of far right politicians and organizations to support the MNR, their attempts continue. In 1987, the first MNR lobbyists registered in this country. It launched a well-financed campaign to convince the American public that the MNR was a legitimate nationalist movement representing the interests of the people of Mozambique. In the existing news vacuum supporters of the MNR, such as the Friends of Mozambique and the Mozambique Information Office distorted and manipulated events within that war torn country in an attempt to depict South Africa’s “contras” as “Freedom Fighters”.

Against this backdrop, a number of Americans, most of whom had worked in Mozambique, felt it was imperative to organize a campaign to help make the general public aware of the origins of the MNR and its South African connection. We also wanted to document the positive strides for a better life which the Mozambican government had undertaken. In short, we felt that a strong case existed for the creation of a national support network for Mozambique.

Organizational Principles
In September 1987, eighteen people from seven states met in Washington, D.C. to discuss the formation of a national organization. Allen Isaacman and Roberta Washington, two long time Mozambique supporters, convened the meeting which resulted in the founding of the Mozambique Support Network, a non-racial, non-sectarian organization committed to the following principles:

1. To support Mozambique’s right to exist as a free and independent nation.
2. To support the people of Mozambique in the struggle for peace, development and the right to define and pursue their own political and economic agenda.
3. To support the international struggle against apartheid.
4. To link the defense of Mozambique, Angola and the other front line nations to the broader anti-apartheid campaign.
5. To strive to reach the broadest segment of the U.S. public with information and news about Mozambique through newsletters, news articles, seminars and public programs, trips to Mozambique and cultural exchanges.
6. To lobby in support of legislative and government policies which recognize the needs and aspirations for regional peace, social justice, and the development of the people of Mozambique.
7. To link support of Mozambique to the struggle against apartheid and racism in the United States.

In the final analysis, Mozambicans must decide the fate of Mozambique free from foreign intervention and as a part of their right to self-determination, including the right to choose a non-aligned socialist path of development.

The History of the Mozambique Support Network
In October 1987, the Mozambique Support Network sponsored a seminar on Mozambique which included a meeting with President Chissano. In November 1987, the Mozambique Support Network was incorporated in Illinois, the location of the organization’s headquarters. Each local group chooses to work on those projects which best suit its particular situation and interests. The office in Chicago has a large and varied quantity of educational material on Mozambique—films, books and press clippings.

Clearly, we are still at an early stage. But even at this moment we have scored several significant victories not the least of which was blunting the MNR propaganda campaign. Working together, we can and must do more. We look forward to your increasing involvement. A Luta Continua!
Mozambican Band Mixes Music and Culture In Seattle

Eyuphuru, a Mozambican musical group, gave Seattleites a taste of the culture of Mozambique, on July 23, in their first American appearance. The group, comprised of two guitarist, two percussionists, a bass player and a female lead singer, blended rich African traditional songs and rhythms with new African music. The group performed for at the YMCA Day Camp, the University of Washington School of Music, the Soul festival and closed with a benefit for the Mozambique Health Committee to raise funds for the Manica district in Mozambique.

Eyuphuru’s music is about the joys of Mozambican culture and the horror of South African backed Renamo terrorism. The performances allowed children and adults to participate in a cultural learning experience.

For more information about the Mozambique Health Committee and Mozambique support work in Seattle contact Diana McCloud at 206.543-6714.

New Film!
Mozambique: Riding Out The Storm

"Fine front-line journalism, full of immediacy and commitment, graphic and moving."—Montreal Daily News

Producer: Alter Cine
Director: Ole Gjerstad & William Turnley
29 Minutes, 1989

Video
Sale: $195 Rental: $60

16mm
Sale: $510 Rental: $60

Mozambique: Riding Out the Storm is the first film to give voice to the Mozambicans themselves who are desperately trying to survive the most brutal war on the planet.

Albertino Road, a young student teacher, leads us through the destruction—and gives us hope for the future. Albertino has survived five RENAMO guerilla attacks. We join him in his dangerous quest up-country to find his parents, cut off somewhere in the war zone. Traveling by train, truck, and on foot, he meets old neighbors, teachers, and refugees who guide him—and us—through their ravaged land.

We also visit a women’s agricultural coop and a refugee reconstruction project, both supported by western development agencies. These are small but crucial steps in a long journey.

For further information, or to order, please contact the South Africa Media Center, California Newsreel, 149 Ninth Street, Room 420, San Francisco, CA 94103.
What is the Mozambique Support Network?

The Mozambique Support Network is a not-for-profit organization that promotes and conducts educational campaigns, fundraisers, emergency aid drives, and other humanitarian efforts in the name of the People's Republic of Mozambique. Today Mozambique is under siege—South African-backed groups dubbed MNR or Renamo, called "bandidos armados" by the people in the country, have destroyed more than 1800 schools, hundreds of health-care centers and villages, and left 5.9 million people homeless and destitute. The United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund estimates that over 325,000 children have died as a result of the apartheid terrorists.

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