December 26, 1987

Leadership Core
Mozambique Support Network

Dear Friends,

I hope that you have had good holidays filled with family, friends, warmth and relaxation. I wish all of you a happy, productive and creative 1988. I write what is both a report, evaluation & internal newsletter. It is my effort to formulate a year-end response to a famous set of questions: WHERE DID YOU GO? WHAT DID YOU DO?

A. Internal and Organizational

The last five months have seen the MSN get seriously launched. There are now MSN people and/or organizations who are actually doing various concrete projects in the following places:

- Boston
- New York City
- Washington
- Atlanta
- Chicago
- Minneapolis
- Madison
- Des Moines, Iowa
- Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Idaho
- Seattle
- Los Angeles
- San Francisco
- Omaha, Nebraska

Additionally, Albany, New York, Flint & East Lansing, Michigan, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Denver, Colorado, and Cleveland are places where some Mozambique material aid or political aid work will soon begin.

I. Resources

There have been significant developments here. We now have available in the resource center the following:

Books
- Isaacman, *Mozambique: from Colonialism to Revolution*
- Saul, *A Difficult Road: The Transition to Socialism in Mozambique*
- Saul, *The Crisis in South Africa*
- Johnson & Martin, *Destructive Engagement: Southern Africa at War*
- Mikuti, *Breakfast of Sjamboks*, Mozambican Children's poetry
- Magaia, *Dumba Nengue: Run for Your Life, Peasant Tales of Tragedy in Mozambique*
Pamphlets, Brochures, Newsletters

MSN, "Apartheid Contras' War
MSN, "Information Packet on MNR"
MSN, "Mozambique Support Network Newsletter"
Minter, Ruth, "The War in Mozambique, A Testimony"
Africa Committee, NCCUSA, "Angola: A Matter of Justice"
UNICEF, "Children on the Front Line"
FRELIMO, "Mozambique: The Roots of Armed Banditry"
Embassy of Mozambique, "Mozambique Update" (Newsletter)
Mozambique Information Office (London), "Mozambique News Review"
American Friends Service Committee, "Voices for Apartheids: Other War: South Africa's Aggression Against Its Neighbors"
Washington Office on Africa, "Savimbi and South Africa: No Casual Affair"
Washington Office on Africa, "Renamo: Rural Terrorism at Work"

Additionally, we are trying to keep ongoing files of articles and pamphlets which appear about Mozambique in various US press. Occasionally, we reproduce some of these articles and distribute them.

Videos, Slideshows, Films

We have various videos, including:
"Mozambique: The Struggle for Survival"
"Mozambique: Killing the Dream"
"Destructive Engagement"

Copies of "The Struggle for Survival" have been distributed to various MSN groups. We have also received various videos from Mozambique Film and Television Departments including the very recent film "Frontiers of Blood." We are in the process of both transferring these from a PAL format to the USA format and (inexpensively) duplicating them. A slideshow/video group has been contacted to make a Support Mozambique slideshow for us. On this, incidentally, any of you with extra slides of Mozambique you are willing to donate please contact the office.

Buttons, T-shirts, Posters, Postcards

Lastly, we have in the office everything but the T-shirts which will arrive in January. The posters and T-shirts are based on work by the Mozambican artist Malangatana. There is also a nice poster of Samora Machel and Maurice Bishop with a "how long shall they kill our prophets?" inscription. The buttons read "Support Mozambique/Fight Apartheid" and came from the TCLSAC organization in Canada.

In Chicago, we now have access to a computer system with a modem and printer. An electronic mailbox will be added. The system is compatible with the Embassys's and hopefully with the Mozambique Information Office in London so that both can forward us AIM news telexes and other material.
II. Upcoming Plans

February-March Meeting Date

We need to get the leadership core from all points together for a good, thorough meeting, maybe 1 1/2 days. It is proposed that the meeting be held in Chicago on either the weekend of March 12-13 or March 19-20. An effort would be made by staff to 1) locate free housing; and 2) create a small scholarship fund for those in an absolute need, "longest travel" category. You will be contacted by phone for more information regarding this meeting.

There are three major tours on the drawing boards:
  A. Lina Magaia Tour of the USA (Jan. 18 – Feb. 20, 1988)
  B. Mozambican Church Pastors Tour of USA (Feb.7-Feb.26,'88)

A. Lina Magaia Tour

Mozambican woman journalist, Lina Magaia, will be in the USA and Canada for roughly one month. Her tour is an MSN undertaking. She has expressed a special desire to meet with women's groups and childcare workers as well as solidarity groups. Her general itinerary will be: California-Washington-British Columbia-Saskatchewan-Minnesota-Wisconsin-Illinois-Iowa-Georgia-Washington DC-New York-Massachusetts-Ontario-New York-RETURN. Details are being worked out now. We need speaking engagements for her with travel and $100-$250 honoraria, and free accommodations with nice and interesting people. The MSN national office is coordinating her tour.

B. Mozambican Church Pastors Tour

The MSN is doing this jointly with the Africa Office of the National Council of Churches, USA (NCCUSA), headed by Willis Logan. The NCCUSA and Church World Service (CWS) are handling all logistics of this undertaking. But the essence of the tour is that six (6) Mozambican church pastors – men and women – will come to the USA for 2-3 weeks. A new development is that their entire trip will be financed by NCCUSA. Hopefully, they will meet not only churches, especially black churches, but also community groups, labor and especially the media. The pastors will all be travelling separately. We are going to try to get English speakers but it may be that a particular contribution we will have to make is interpreters for whatever area they visit. Two special target regions are the State of Kansas and the South (especially North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama). Hopefully, California Newsreel is going to make some short video footage for each pastor/church worker to use with TV interviews or group meetings.
C. Fact Finding Tour to Mozambique

Macky McLeod is organizing this trip of predominantly black prominent persons, elected officials, media and community leaders, celebrities. They will be in Mozambique 7-10 days and it is anticipated that this will help broaden the base of black Americans concerned and mobilized for Mozambique. It is an important trip and Macky has just returned from a trip to Mozambique where he and friends there have begun the process of organizing for the delegation. For more details on this effort call Macky at (617) 482-3170 (w) or (617) 427-4907 (h). Macky is open to other suggestions for invitees to join the delegation.

III. Finances

The MSN currently has about $1,700 from unsolicited donations. This amount has come largely in response to the MSN brochure. A fundraising proposal has gone to the Funding Exchange, the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church, the Africa Fund and the World Council of Churches Program to Combat Racism. Additionally, Alan Issacman and Mikel Johnson (Iowa) have begun a fundraising subcommittee to begin an extensive fundraising effort. Indications are that the MSN can be quite successful in the upcoming fundraising efforts. Any ideas or contacts which any of you have please contact either Alan, Mikel or the office. One major item of expense will be Lina Magaia's round trip ticket (USA$ 1,458) Maputo-NYC-Maputo. It is hoped that this amount can be recovered through the honoraria and travel expenses she earns. Moreover, the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) and the Africa Fund may contribute to her fare.

IV. Challenges/Goals

What are some of the immediate problems which the Network and Mozambique support work in general face?

We must expand the MSN into other states and regions. Kansas comes to mind as an immediate example as does the Southwestern United States. I would like to see in the next 12-18 months the creation of well-functioning MSN groups - or at least the nuclei for them - in every state of the USA and certainly in the nation's ten largest cities. In this way we could have a base for responding to every right wing offensive - like the late November amendment by Senator Kasten (R, Wisconsin) to curtail funding to Mozambique until certain conditions were met (e.g., the return of church properties to the church, "no more anti-US rhetoric") - which might come up. More importantly, we could begin to go on the offensive pressing for more aid to Mozambique, non-lethal military support for Mozambique and sister city and sister state adoptions of Mozambique or its towns and/or provinces.

I think another priority is for us to organize solid, smoothly functioning MSN groups in our various locations. In too many places MSN activity wholly consists of one or two individuals who
do an extraordinary and utterly laudable job of "putting things on." What is needed, however, is a longer term vehicle, i.e., organizations - formal or informal but coherent and united around concrete material or political aid to Mozambique - which endure above and beyond individual members.

There are other challenges and goals which I could discuss but for the time being let me just share this small bit of thinking for some tentative thoughts prior to our February-March meeting.


This will be only a brief summary for a full report is being separately prepared for you.

In London I had an excellent meeting with Dot & Sandra of the Mozambique Information Office. Two major results: 1) the Chicago MSN office will be reproducing and distributing their publication, Mozambique News Review and; 2) US and Canadian groups, specifically the MSN, will be invited to the 1988 European Conference on Angola and Mozambique.

Highlights of my trip in Mozambique included:
- a 2 1/2 hour dinner with just President Joaquim Chissano and his aide;
- trips to and extensive travel in both Inhambane and Zambezia provinces;
- meeting with the inter-cabinet working group on North America;
- meetings with almost all Ministers;
- extensive meetings with the leadership of FRELIMO;
- a meeting with a multinational group of "cooperantes" from Holland, Canada, Britain, Sweden, Australia, Italy, Portugal and the USA to specifically discuss public reactions to 2 speaking tours undertaken in Canada and Holland.

I think the single most important achievement of my trip was to identify and (in some cases) help stimulate the creation of structures in Mozambique to assist us in getting information out about Mozambique. For example, there will now be a specific component part of the Ministry of Information which will be coordinating the production of literature, posters, videos, news, photographs, etc for use in the USA and other parts of the English-speaking world.

A second achievement is that now many more people in Mozambique, especially on the leadership level, are aware that the MSN exists and that there are people in the USA who are working and struggling in solidarity with Mozambique.

We have much work to do, friends, but we've finally and earnestly begun.

A Luta Continua.
P.S. An important final note: TecNica, the group that has done such great technological aid for Nicaragua (they have sent over 400 technicians, engineers, health workers) is right now headed for Tanzania and Zambia to meet the ANC and then to Mozambique for discussions on possible projects there.