What's Going on Here?

Los Angeles Times, March 19, 1989:
The Rt. Rev. Dinis Sengulane, Anglican bishop of Lebombo, Mozambique, found clearing customs at Los Angeles International Airport unexpectedly difficult last Sunday even though he was wearing the clothing appropriate to his office, and his passport bore confirmation of his religious office and visa stamps showing two previous U.S. visits.

He said he was subjected to intense interrogation by four customs agents who appeared skeptical that he was indeed a bishop. He offered to show them a letter of invitation from three Episcopal churches in Pasadena, San Marino and San Gabriel, where he was to address a Lenten series, but they were not interested. Apparently dissatisfied with his responses, despite fluent English learned when he trained for the ministry in England, and a thorough check of his baggage, the customs agents took him to a small interrogation room, had him remove shoes and coat, spread-eagled him in a corner and subjected him to what he described as 'a search all over my body.' He was released after signing a declaration that nothing had been taken from him.

Do I have the face of a criminal?' he asked. 'Perhaps they were influenced by movies on TV of smugglers dressed as clergy. Or was it my country, Mozambique, because the government is Marxist? Or was it racism?'

But then he paused with a new concern. 'I would be badly hurt to know that, as a result of my speaking of this, the agents might lose their jobs or not be promoted. That is not my intention.' He had yet another concern about the agents. 'It does damage to the person doing it if he thinks it is the normal way of doing things, when you do something that is worse than what you are trying to prevent.'

A public affairs officer at U.S. Customs said body search is 'very common,' adding that 'only those with a diplomatic visa are exempt.'

Mass Starvation in Mamba

The journey by land rover from the port of Nacala to the locality of Namahaca in the northern Mozambican province of Nampula takes two hours, even though it is only 50 kilometres.
The first 30 kilometres, to the town of Nacala-a-Velha, is paved. But the road north, into the district of Mamba, is a dirt track, full of potholes, and almost impossible to travel by truck.

Fifteen kilometres south of Namahaca you come to the Guiguriri river, where the original bridge has been destroyed. By placing planks between the large rocks in the river, it is possible to inch the land rover carefully over to the other bank.

Poor roads and improvised bridges are typical of conditions in much of rural Nampula, according to officials from the provincial Emergency Commission.

Eventually AIM reached the Namahaca Catholic mission, to be confronted with the horror of mass starvation. More than 400 people are living – or dying – in the immediate vicinity of the health post.

With the exception of priests, nuns and three other workers at the health centre, nobody is wearing anything that could be described as clothing.

Men and women have wrapped rags or bits of sacking around their waists to cover their genitals. Most of the children are completely naked. “As you can see, this is the depths of poverty,” said one of the Italian missionaries accompanying us.

At the entrance to the consultation room, miserably thin people are jostling to reach famine victims displaced by their actions.

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Marcelino dos Santos
Visits United States

by Lisa January

Marcelino dos Santos, President of the People's Assembly, most senior member of Politburo of FRELIMO Party and poet, toured the United States April 8 through April 26, 1989. As one of the primary strategists and leaders of FRELIMO before and since national liberation, His Excellency Marcelino dos Santos is respected as a political and intellectual genius of modern Mozambique. He met with foreign relations policy advisors, political leaders, clergy, writers, and Mozambique Support Network members. He eloquently stressed the importance of defeating the armed bandits to restore peace and economic development in Mozambique.

We must plant
by Marcelino dos Santos

We must plant
mother
we must plant
we must plant
among the stars
and on the seas
on your bare feet
and by the roadsides
in forbidden hopes
and on our open palms
in the present darkness
and in the future to be formed
everywhere
everywhere
we must plant
the reason
for bodies destroyed
and the earth bloodied
for the cry of anguish
and arms raised as one
everywhere
everywhere, mother
everywhere
we must plant
the certainty
of tomorrow's good
in the endearments of your heart
where every child's eyes
renew their hope
Yes, mother
we must plant
we must plant
along the road of freedom
the new tree of National Independence

reprinted from When bullets begin to flower (East African Publishing House 1972)
Newbriefs

President Chissano Meets Charles Freeman

President Joaquim Chissano met Charles Freeman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, to discuss the role which the United States could play to end the war in Mozambique. Freeman went to Maputo following Chissano's question on what the US role should be to establish peace in Mozambique. Freeman's visit to Maputo came after a Mozambican government official declared that some 'constructive role' by US or some other nation would be welcome, if it were 'intended to end the suffering of the Mozambican people, victims of destabilization'.

World Bank Loans For Mozambique

An agreement between the Bank of Mozambique and the World Bank for a $90 million loan to Mozambique was signed. The amount goes for the Economic Recovery program, which has been implemented by the Mozambican government since 1987. This is the third credit given by the World Bank.

Developmental British Aid To Mozambique

Great Britain is to grant 15 million pounds for the rehabilitation of Limpopo Corridor, a railway line that links Maputo port with Zimbabwe. An agreement for this purpose was signed in Maputo by the Mozambican Minister of Cooperation, Jacinto Veloso, and the British Ambassador in Maputo. In early March, the Mozambican minister discussed bilateral issues in London with the British Foreign Secretary, Geoffrey Howe.

Military British Aid To Mozambique

The British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced a concession of 14 million pounds for military training of Mozambican soldiers Zimbabwe and repatriation of Mozambican refugees from the neighboring countries. President Chissano, Prime Minister Thatcher and President Mugabe met in Nyanga, an eastern Zimbabwean military center. They discussed the current situation in Mozambique, as well as the trilateral cooperation within the program for military training and the rehabilitation of the Limpopo railway, that links Maputo port and Zimbabwe. Thatcher called the Renamo terrorists 'abominables' and deplored their 'particular brutality'. She said that the conversations at Nyanga center were an 'initiative' to eliminate terrorism in Mozambique. Thatcher briefed Chissano and Mugabe on her meeting with South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha. 'In South Africa, they have a lot to learn about the way which Mozambique developed and the Zimbabwean success', she said. She recognized that there is 'a change of point of views' in the Southern Africa region and 'a new atmosphere on these problems which can be solved by peaceful negotiations'.

Seven Priests Murdered by RENAMO

Renamo terrorists have murdered at least seven Roman Catholic priests from March 1980 to January 1989. According to the Mozambican Episcopal Conference, the priests 'met their death when they were carrying out their mission of bringing the word of God to the believers'. Two of the priests were Mozambican, Frederico Samuel and Joao Kamtredza; four Portuguese — Francisco Morais, Alrio Baptista, Antonio da Rocha and Silva Moreira; and one Italian — Xavier Torboli.

1989 Emergency Appeal Launched

The number of Mozambicans directly affected by the country's emergency situation, and therefore in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, has risen over the past year from 3.3 million to 4.6 million people, according to Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso. The figures at the same time in 1988 were 1.1 million displaced and 2.2 million affected. Not included in the figures are a further million or so Mozambicans who have fled over the borders into neighboring countries. In addition, the urban population (about 2.6 million people), though not directly affected by the emergency in terms of food aid, must also be counted, because the Mozambican countryside is no longer producing a surplus to feed the cities. The emergency arises from the collapse of much of the rural economy caused by South African sponsored banditry and aggravated by natural disasters such as drought.

Among the reasons for an increase in the numbers of those in need, Mr. Veloso pointed to military operations that had freed many thousands of peasants from bandit control. These destitute people had previously been beyond the government's reach, and are now in urgent need of assistance. Mr. Veloso said that last year 70,000 Mozambican refugees had returned voluntarily, and that a further 20,000 had been forcibly repatriated from South Africa.

The largest item in the appeal is food aid, followed by logistics — essentially the trucks, boats and aircraft needed to move these vast quantities of food. An item that has not appeared on previous appeals is an emergency road maintenance programme. Improvements to access roads would make it easier to reach many of the displaced and affected people, and would reduce the need for expensive airlifts.

New Resources

ONE NEW PUBLICATION is available from the Mozambique Support Network National Office, 343 South Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois 60604, 312/922-3286

SADCC and Sanctions by Joseph Hanlon (ICDA's SADCC Programme Coordinator, rue Stevin, 115 - B 1040 Brussels, Belgium, 40 pp., $4.00). Hanlon looks at the issue of sanctions against South Africa in terms of its effect on the entire Southern African region. Examining both the frontline states' various levels of economic dependency on the frontline states and the different sanctions programs that could be implemented, the author shows the responsibility of industrialized nations not only to isolate the apartheid regime but also to support its neighbors in establishing alternative means of trade and transportation. Furthermore, using historic examples of United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia and South African sanctions against Lesotho, he effectively argues that sanctions would weaken Pretoria and that its costs would be "an investment in ending the much larger cost of destabilization."

Also available: Malangatana Greeting Cards (AA Enterprises, P.O. Box 533, London NW 9YB, England, $5.00). Four greeting cards, two each of two designs, from The Sacred Well by Mozambican artist Malangatana Ngwenya. The inside is blank, and envelopes are also provided. (AA Enterprises is a workers' cooperative set up to promote trade with Southern Africa's frontline states and to raise funds for the British antiapartheid movement.)
Prime Minister of Mozambique Addresses U.N. Conference On Emergency Assistance to Mozambique

His Excellency Mario de Graça Machungo, the Prime Minister of Mozambique, addressed the Conference on Emergency Assistance to Mozambique at the U.N. on the 14th of April 1989. The following are excerpts from his speech.

"On behalf of the people and the Government of Mozambique, I should like, through each of the delegations here, to express to the whole of the international community our profound gratitude for the solidarity and support that has been offered to my country. The understanding of the difficult situation of the millions of Mozambicans, and of which this Conference is further testimony, has made it possible to launch and sustain a major international effort to bring emergency aid to my country. This assistance has made it possible to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children, and, through efforts to reintegrate them into economic and social activity, create hope that they may rebuild their lives and their homes.

"In this effort by the international community to help displaced and affected people in Mozambique, we have counted on the active participation of governments and international organizations through the dedicated work of their technicians and officials, as well as the ordinary citizens of many countries who channel their generous support through non-governmental organizations. Many people, both at home and abroad, are also involved as individuals in the work of helping our country, often sharing with our people the difficult conditions that characterize the present situation in the People's Republic of Mozambique.

"The positive results that we have achieved as a consequence of this concerted effort by the international community encourage us to redouble our efforts to bring assistance more efficiently to people who are still absolutely destitute.

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The Right's New Propaganda Effort: Red Scorpion

by Allan Campbell

Following the mid-1980s genre of Vietnam veteran-exploitation movies which worked on the premise that unaccounted U.S. soldiers were still being held in Southeast-Asian prisoner-of-war camps (Uncommon Valor, Rambo), one of the genre's perpetrators, director Joseph Zito (Missing in Action), was hired by Jack Abramoff to perform a more topical and viler task: to direct a pro-UNITA propaganda film.

The film, Red Scorpion currently playing in theaters nationwide, stars Dolph Lundgren (Rocky IV) as a Soviet assassin sent to the fictional African nation of Mombaka to kill an anti-communist rebel leader named Sundata (and played by South African actor Ruben Nthodi), who is fighting to rid his country of Soviet and Cuban influence. Abramoff, the film's producer, is executive chairman of the International Freedom Foundation, a right-wing lobbyist group which also campaigns on behalf of Renamo.

The film stands as a grand counteroffensive against the international anti-apartheid movement on every conceivable level. Being filmed in South African-occupied Namibia over a year ago, Red Scorpion violated the United Nations' Cultural Boycott against Pretoria, and the South African Defense Force provided military equipment to the filmmakers, including vehicles and weapons. Some South African soldiers were also featured as extras.

A key scene in Red Scorpion is Cuban helicopters dropping poisonous gas on "Mombakan" civilians. This is also part of a much larger misinformation campaign by the far right that charges the Angolan government of using chemical warfare against its citizens. The campaign is being led by Howard Phillips, the founder and head of the Conservative Caucus, which has also called for Chevron to divest from Angola and wants U.S. funding of the U.N. Transitional Assistance Group in Namibia contingent on the complete absence of Cuban troops in Angola. The Conservative Caucus also plans to request that the U.S. Defense Department send 30,000 "surplus" gas masks to UNITA so their claims will be legitimized.

Until this year, no one has ever accused the Angolan government of chemical warfare, and the U.S. State Department has no solid evidence to back up such a claim. Basically it stands as an effort by the far right to confuse the public (and particularly Congress) about the actual issues of South Africa's attempts to keep its neighbors weak and dependent. As the International Freedom Foundation's Jack Abramoff demonstrated in his filming of Red Scorpion, these ultraconservatives have no qualms about maintaining a close alliance with the racist regime.

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"The Lovely Newlyweds"


AUGUST 1984. THE BRIDE WAS LOVELY as any bride on her wedding day. Perhaps she had illusions of a happy home with many children, a long life that would see her become a grandmother. She was young, very young. She had long been courted in marriage. Goats and cattle had been sent to her family after the first announcement and before the solemn public ceremony.

He too was handsome. He was elegantly dressed, despite the shortages, because on one's wedding day, one must be elegant, well-dressed and the envy of other young men who are inspired with visions of their own wedding day. The relatives were exuberant. It was Saturday, the day of the main celebration at the bride's home. There was festivity, dancing, laughter, joking between the bride's family and the bridegroom's family. There were the ribald songs that the bride's sisters and friends sang in mockery of the bridegroom, saying things like "the bridegroom's nose looks like a papaya." There were songs they had been rehearsing for weeks; on fine moonlit nights or when the pitch darkness was broken by romantic fires.

The older women (friends, acquaintances and neighbors of the bride's mother) were singing songs whose verses
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mothers’ arms. The mothers sit on the veranda with an air of desperation. The skin is pulled tight over their faces, faces of misery and exhaustion.

Enrica Limboni surveys the queue. She asks the mother of a child whose flickering eyes are its only sign of life to come to the front.

“All the children are in much the same condition she said. “It is difficult to know who to attend to first.”

Five people died on the morning we arrived in Namahaca. They starved, as have over 3,500 in the district of Membas so far this year.

We watched the funeral of one of the victims. The corpse, covered in an old blanket, was carried on a stretcher. The pall bearers were stronger and better dressed than most. At least they were wearing old trousers and shirts.

The Membas tragedy began in 1988, when the first sowings were lost. According to the missionaries, not merely was there drought, but few seeds were distributed to the peasant farmers, and there were no resupplies of seed to try and rescue something from the second sowings.

The only crop that survived the drought was cassava. People began eating their cassava in July, and within a month it was finished. Since August, according to the missionaries, the people have been eating wild roots and fruit.

The misery in Namahaca contrasts strongly with the scenes just 55 kilometres away in the port of Nacala, a bustling town, where anyone with the money can buy imported beer and Coca-Cola.

The provincial authorities, including the Nampula Provincial Emergency Commission, only became aware of the situation in Membas this year. They were alerted by the Archbishop of Nampula, Dom Manuel Vieira Pinto, who passed on to provincial governor Jacob Nyambir information that he received on 20 February from the missionaries working in Namahaca and in two other Membas localities, Cava and Mazua.

From 5 January to 17 February these missionaries had registered 3,591 deaths.

The missionaries’ document lists the deaths place by place, village by village.

Acting on the missionaries’ report, the provincial government appointed a member of the Nampula branch of the Disasters Control Office (DPCCN) to take charge of relief operations. According to the provincial DPCCN director, by 4 March 330 tonnes of maize, beans and vegetable oil had been sent to Membas. But the situation remains critical for that food, by the time of AIM’s departure, had not yet reached those who needed it.

On 1 March bandits of the South African backed MNR overran the district, capital of Membas, and looted whatever food was in the district warehouses.

Even if food reaches Membas town (perhaps by sea, since it is on the coast), distribution problems are formidable. Mazua locality for instance is a mountainous area, and the only road into it has been cut by the MNR’s destruction of a bridge over the Mecuburi river.

Other districts along the Nampula coast are also suffering from drought. Given the extremely poor communications, the provincial authorities do not know how many people are in need of support.

The provincial Emergency Commission fears that if measures are not taken rapidly the district of Moma, in the south of Nampula, could face the same conditions as Membas. The population of Moma, originally 45,000, has been swollen by 25,000 people displaced by war against the MNR in the neighbouring province of Zambezia.

Food aid arrived late in Nampula in 1988. For the first nine months, the province did not receive any food from outside. Food aid began to arrive in Nampula port beginning in August. The fleet of trucks available to distribute food in the province is very small.

Meanwhile, military activity has liberated substantial numbers of peasant families from bandit control. These people tend to be in poor condition, and arrive at district capitals and other towns in need of immediate assistance.

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journalist on Radio Mozambique’s Nampula provincial station, who spoke to AIM on April 10, the bandits attacked Iapala on March 12 and stayed there until the 15th. The local administrator, Antonio Valentino da Costa, estimated the number of raiders at around 800. They killed 12 people, and abducted 220, some of whom later returned. Agricultural marketing in the Ribaue district, of which Iapala is part, had been good, and a large quantity of food was awaiting transport, stored in Iapala’s warehouses. Much of it was to be sold to Mozambique’s relief body, the Disasters Control Office (DPCCN), in order to feed famine victims elsewhere in the country. But the bandits stole or destroyed all the food in the town. Total losses are 1,077 tons of maize, 450 tons of dried cassava, 107 tons of sunflower, 2 tons of cashew nuts, 212 tons of rice, 32 tons of sorghum, and 184 tons of beans.

The total losses for the State Agricultural Marketing Board, AGRICOM, are put at 445 million meticais (about 640,000 U.S. dollars). Large quantities of clothing, agricultural implements, and other consumer goods were also destroyed. Every building in Iapala was systematically wrecked, many of them with explosives. The AGRICOM warehouse was burnt. Other buildings left in ruins included the administrative offices, the administrative house, shops, the post office, and even the sports facilities of the local railwaymen’s club. On the outskirts of Iapala the bandits burnt down 985 houses of peasant farmers. The peasants in the Ribaue district have surplus crops, but it will now be very difficult to market them with the warehousing facilities at Iapala destroyed. This will leave peasants with unsold crops on their hands, and may discourage them from producing a surplus next year.

AIM 4/10/89

Health Post Destroyed

A group of about two thousand of South Africa’s MNR bandits murdered two people and caused immense destruction in a raid against the town of Nacaroa, in the northern Mozambican province of Nampula on April 4, according to a news item on Radio Mozambique on April 11. Nacaroa is the capital of the district of
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Erati, and it lies on the main road from Nampula to the neighbouring province of Cabo Delgado. An official spokesman in Nacaroa told Radio Mozambique that the bandit raid began at about 05.30 local time on April 4, and that the raiders stayed in the town until 17.00. The bandits looted food from the warehouses of Mozambique’s relief body, the Disasters Control Office (DFCCN) and of the Agricultural Marketing Board, AGRICOM. What they could not carry with them, they burned. The MNLF also destroyed the local health post, the police station, and the home of the District Administrator. They mined the approach to several homes of ordinary Nacaro residents, and installations of the water and sanitation services. AIM 4/11/89

Production Facilities Damaged

Bandits of the South African backed MNR have partially destroyed a major quarry at Salamanga, 60 kilometres south of Maputo, a kilometre south of Maputo, according to the quarry’s Head of Production, Alexandre Hubo, cited in the April 6 edition of the daily paper ‘Noticias’. The attack took place on March 22, and as AIM reported at the time, the bandits murdered 13 people and seriously wounded a further five. Mr Hubo said that the attack took place at around 17.00 local time when a large number of local people were gathered at the quarry complex, where, a few minutes earlier, a goods train had just left for Maputo. The train also carried passengers, and many people had been saying goodbye to friends and relatives. Mr. Hubo said that the bandits opened fire into the middle of this crowd, and then began attacking the quarry machinery. Among the dead were three employees of the quarry, including a 70 year old nurse. Installations and equipment were destroyed, including the quarry workshops, the health post, a tractor, a 17-tonne truck, two air compressors and a water tank. The bandits also stole foodstuffs and medicines for the workforce, and destroyed 55 houses. Residents told ‘Noticias’ that there were a large number of raiders and that they divided into three groups to loot and destroy the complex and the residential area. “As you can see, we are left with nothing,” Evelina Calane, one of the local residents whose home was burnt down, told ‘Noticias’ reporters.

Bakery Attacked

Bandits of the South African backed MNR killed three people in an attack on March 14 against the locality of Macoala-Rio, in Boane district, 25 kilometres west of Maputo, the daily paper ‘Noticias’ reported on March 16. The three victims were workers at a local bakery on the night shift. The bandits attacked the bakery at about 21.00 local time. They stole around 2,000 loaves, and several sacks of wheat flour and then blew up the bakery. Two of the victims died in the explosion, while a third was shot while trying to escape. The damage to the bakery is estimated at more than 20 million meticais (about 30,000 U.S. dollars). The bandits also looted a nearby restaurant and shop. The ruined bakery is the only one in the region, and several thousand local residents have been deprived of their regular supply of bread.

Missionaries Murdered

On March 27, South Africa’s MNR bandits murdered two Italian missionaries in the central province of Zambezia, according to a source in the Roman Catholic Capuchin religious order. The dead missionaries, Francesco Bortolotti and Camillo Campanella, were found dead in their homes after a raid by the bandits in the district of Inhassungen, about 20 kilometres south of the Zambezia provincial capital, Quelimane. Two other Italian missionaries, Giocundo Bagliara and Antonio Saitor, disappeared during the attack. The number of Italian missionaries murdered by the South African backed MNR bandits in the central Mozambican province of Zambezia has risen to three, with the discovery of the body of a monk whom the bandits had kidnapped. According to a source in the Roman Catholic Capuchin religious order in Maputo, the body of the monk, 59 year old Ureste Saitor, was found on March 30, buried in a shallow grave, about 20 kilometres from their mission at Macopio, in Inhassungen district. The fourth Italian missionary, Giocundo Bagliara, is believed to be still in bandit hands. This latest murder brings to at least ten the number of Roman Catholic priests murdered by the MNR between 1982 and the present - two Mozambicans, four Portuguese, and four Italians. AIM—3/29 & 4/1/89

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We salute and express our recognition of and gratitude to all the countries, organizations, bodies, peoples and individuals who have contributed so generously so that Mozambique may deal with the emergency situation, shaking off the spectre of death that threatens hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans, as well as creating conditions so that this situation may be gradually eliminated.

"... The implementation of the various actions within the Emergency Programme opened up a whole process which has made it possible to save lives and to begin the reintegration of people into the economic and social life of the country and reconstruction of the areas affected. Despite the many difficulties encountered in this process, the Emergency Programme, because of its positive impact in bringing relief and assistance to people whose very survival is in danger, must be enlarged and consolidated.

"... The world recognises the terrorist nature of armed banditry, documented in the reports by Robert Gersony and more recently William Minter. Your representatives who work with us in Mozambique have witnessed the nature and the effects of its action, the massacres of unarmed people, the destruction and looting of their possessions, the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who flee the terror, the destruction of infrastructure and the paralysis of economic activity. Armed banditry has no hesitation in attempting even to prevent relief operations, attacking, looting and burning trucks and other vehicles carrying food, medicines and clothes for the affected population.

"But, more than just affecting the Emergency Programme, terrorist aggression seeks to prevent the emergency situation being overcome by returning life in the rural areas to normal, by resuming agricultural production and by fully implementing the Economic Recovery Programme in all its aspects. However, this objective of banditry has been frustrated by the determination of the people and the Government’s actions, with the help of your assistance. We are gradually achieving progress in the
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process of bringing life back to normal and in recuperating economic activity.

"This gradual and favorable development, however, leads to a temporary worsening in the scale of the emergency situation in that military action by our Defence and Security Forces in 1988 has given thousands of families the chance to seek the protection of and the assistance from the Government.

"At the same time, sparing no effort, no means or mechanism within its reach, the Mozambican state has followed an intense and constant course aimed at establishing peace in the country and in the region.

"Inside the country, action is being taken to return life to normal in large areas. Under the Amnesty Law, more than three thousand Mozambicans involved in armed banditry gave themselves up and were reintegrated into society, a process that is continuing. The organization of the people for self-defence is progressing.

"... Our Government will always support the strengthening of trends towards a serious and constructive dialogue aimed at easing tension and promoting peace through the progressive elimination of the causes of destruction and death in our region.

"Although serious obstacles and problems remain, hope may justly be cherished that peace will finally come to our disturbed region, allowing our peoples to dedicate their efforts and capacities to the work of reconstruction and development.

"An analysis of the current situation (in Mozambique) led the People's Republic of Mozambique, with the backing of the Secretary General of the United Nations, once again to launch an appeal to ensure emergency assistance in the 1989-1990 period.

"The Appeal for this period follows the basic profile of the last one. The principal aims of the Emergency Programme continue to be:

"— to provide emergency aid to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Mozambican victims of armed banditry and natural disasters;

"— to support the socio-economic reintegration of the people so as to enable them to restore self-reliance and participate in the country's development;

"— to rebuild damaged and destroyed infrastructure.

"For 1989-1990, the Appeal indicates additional needs for trucks, most of which are to be distributed to private operators in the commercial sector, especially at a district level. We have also stressed the need for trucks to protect convoys of relief trucks which are frequent targets, in order to increase distribution levels, preserve the available transport and maintain the continuity of relief activities during the necessary period.

"In the context of the 1989-1990 Appeal, the provision of barges and finance for coastal and other shipping are also essential. An estimated 30% of the population is accessible by sea or rivers. The poor condition of roads and bridges requires two-pronged action — the continuation of airlifts to 30 districts and the rehabilitation of roads and bridges in the most vital areas.

"The Government has established mechanisms to facilitate customs procedures for the import of goods clearly identified as being part of approved emergency activity programs. Our customs policy exempts from taxes those goods destined for the free distribution to the people. Bureaucratic delays or the incorrect use of emergency goods should be reported to the authorities in order to ensure a rapid flow of international assistance to beneficiaries.

"Other components of the assistance requested are related to the areas of health, education, water supply, the resettlement of Mozambicans returning from neighboring countries and institutional support to strengthen the management structures in the Emergency Programme. Technical support and training for Mozambicans is extremely important in this regard.

"We think it is useful to mention that the Government is going to make six thousand million meticais available to finance activities within the gambit of the Emergency Programme from counterpart funds obtained from food aid sales. Apart from these activities, the promotion of programs in the social field to give help to the sectors of the population in absolute poverty will have positive repercussions in the stabilization and normalization of the population affected by the emergency situation.

"Analysis of the execution of the Emergency Programme in 1988 led to an adjusted strategy for 1989-1990. We plan to focus free distribution on displaced people and on the most severely affected people in order to match distribution to existing logistical capacity. More emphasis will be placed on financing complementary projects in the agricultural sector.

"Institutional difficulties last year demonstrate the need to improve management capacity and provide the executive structures with more qualified staff.

"Planning of the Emergency Programme activities must be established on the basis of an ongoing process. To ensure this is the case, the Government will strengthen the coordinating, executive and control capacity of the Provincial Emergency Commissions and give more support to provincial and district structures, avoiding the excessive development of parallel structures. New activities will be concentrated in a few provinces, particularly in health, education, water supply and road maintenance.

"In order to achieve the objectives of the Emergency Programme, the Government encourages the greater involvement of non-governmental organizations, religious organizations and public and private entities and companies. This will help to extend our capacity for intervention and implementation of the various projects.

"It is essential that we continue ensuring an effective and dynamic link between the Emergency Programme and the Economic Recovery Programme. Experience shows that through this correct combination of efforts lies the reintegration of affected and displaced people into the country's normal life. The greatest difficulties in 1988 resulted from the capacity to distribute aid, which was affected by a scarcity of logistical means and by security problems caused by terrorism.

"In some cases, promises of aid took a long time to materialize, donations were slow in arriving or resources were late in being made available. We felt the need for donors to improve even further the process of implementing aid, particularly in the area of logistics.

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"A shortage of funds for internal distribution was a serious problem. To solve it, financial support is requested so that the Emergency Programme can cover these costs.

"The people of Mozambique had to engage in a ten-year colonial war. At the dawn of independence, when all efforts were turned towards national reconstruction, Rhodesian aggression was violently increased by South Africa through armed banditry and by turning terrorism into a policy for relations between the states. More than one hundred thousand Mozambicans lost their lives because of the terrorism of the armed bandits. UNICEF estimates that in addition, about half a million children have died as an indirect result of the war because of the destruction of health infrastructure and persistent malnutrition. Millions of Mozambicans are suffering extreme poverty, unable to provide for their own subsistence.

"In spite of these difficult tests of their capacity and determination, the Mozambican people and Government the economic crisis and work for the country’s recovery.

"...The international community has been able to complement our efforts at home and offer their solidarity and material aid to the Mozambican people. We are sure that you understand our present need and will continue to help Mozambique tackle the causes of the emergency situation tormenting our people.

"The Mozambican people know and will always know how to take the full benefit from the solidarity and assistance which is offered to them. Aid from the international community will be an outstanding contribution towards eliminating hunger and overcoming the emergency situation, with the aim of bringing the country’s situation back to normal and realizing more and more its enormous potential."

Newlyweds
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meant to teach the bride how to face her new situation, songs to remind her that a woman must serve her husband, not to forget her role as a spouse and mother, and bear in mind that the sacrifice is forever, as marriage is a serious business. There were songs reminding the bride she must be patient and warm-hearted with her in-laws, and treat them as if they were her real parents. They also sang songs advising the bride to have a lot of patience because where she was going there they would call her a witch, a bitch or other names to which she was not accustomed. That is the way of marriage.

On that Saturday, the women were also singing songs directed at the bridegroom to remind him of his marital rights and duties.

The bride’s retinue and her bridesmaids were also beautiful. They wore their finest clothes and shoes. They were primped and coiffed in the latest styles and cut encouraging glances at the handsome young men, some of whom formed the bridegroom’s retinue. The men too were in their best clothes and glanced furtively back at the girls. Flirtation between the male and female attendants is an essential part of any wedding, and the path to yet more weddings.

Everyone was beautiful on that Saturday: children, young people, women and the elderly — beautiful and happy because two young people were to be joined in matrimony and would thus extend the family, the community and the country.

They danced. Record players, tape recorders, drums, tins, hand-clapping all combined to produce the harmony that bodies interpreted in steady and rhythmic movement.

There were lots of gifts too: plates, sieves, mortars, pestle, pots, mats, baskets, money. The objects were given to the bride to the accompaniment of songs, laughter, joy and humor.

The bride was beautiful. She smiled now and then, but more often she bent her head with a serious look so as not to appear happy to be leaving home (one cannot reveal this even if it is the case). She held a white scarf which she passed from one hand to the other.

People were eating, drinking and dancing. The time came for the bride to say goodbye to her parents, uncles and aunts, grandparents, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors, and the noise grew. She was weeping a little, as is proper.

About five in the afternoon a long train of specially chosen attendents began the journey on foot to the bridegroom’s home. The bride’s white dress would be soiled furtively back at the girls. Flirtation between the male and female attendants is an essential part of any wedding, and the path to yet more weddings.

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When they arrived it was very late at night. The reception committee kept them waiting at the threshold before permission was finally granted for the entry of the bridal pair and their retinue. In the meantime there was dancing, shouting, laughter, with some people keeping closer to the bride and others to the groom.

At last they were welcomed into the specially prepared hut, where the best chairs indicated the place reserved for the newlyweds.

Here too there was eating, drinking and dancing, but the main festivity would be on the next day, Sunday. Yet even this late at night was for merrymaking and much singing.

The bridegroom’s home was made up of several independent huts for each unit of the family. The festivity would continue in the hut intended for the couple. The bride’s attendants were preparing to help the bride change out of her wedding dress while the bridegroom’s attendants kept him company.

Suddenly they found themselves surrounded. More than forty men armed with rifles, knives and hatchets encircled them. It was the matsanga, the armed bandits. The one in charge instructed twenty-one people, in three groups of seven, to go into the main hut.

Men, women, and children entered the hut.

"Find the bride and groom and get them too."

The order was obeyed. Other bandits were sent off to pillage the hut and steal what there was, to add to what had already been stolen. The people who had been kidnapped loaded their own and others’ possessions for the bandits. A sewing machine, a gift the bridegroom had bought for his bride, was taken too.

People were crammed together in the hut. Those who were outside were made to watch what was going on.

The bridal couple were still handsome when they had gone into the hut, but were sweating with fear as they were pushed on with bayonets at their backs. The door was tied shut on the outside.

An order was given: “Set fire to the hut.”

The fire was lit. The thatch of the roof burned. The fire took hold. Men, women and children and the bridal couple were inside. Men, women and children on the outside stood watching, at gunpoint.

The fire gained strength. The hut was surrounded by armed men with sharpened hatchets.

The door, pushed desperately from within, sprang open. A direct blow of the hatchet sliced at his head. He fell. On the ground he was struck in the belly with a bayonet. He died.

Inside and outside could be heard cries for help.

Another attempted to come out. He met the same fate. The bride’s clothes caught fire. The clothes of everyone inside caught fire. The pole and thatch roof collapsed in flames on top of the people who remained. Someone broke open a section of the wall to escape and was caught on a bayonet. He fell and died.

Outside the horror was revealed on people’s faces. Numerous eyes, in powerless bodies, looked on. All this went on for an hour. People died. The one in charge of the mob of forty armed killers gave orders for withdrawal. A long chain of men, women, old and young, flanked by bandits and firearms, knives, hatchets and bayonets, formed a human snake weaving through the bush.

The bride and groom remained there in ashes. Their dreams died with their bodies.

After many twists and turns of the journey came the dawn. The chief of the bandits ordered a halt. He then explained, “The soldiers killed three of our men. Each one is worth seven. Do you understand?”

There had been a clash in which three bandits had been shot down by soldiers carrying out their duty defending their people and country.

Newlyweds

New Africa Secretary Open to Renamo

The new Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Herman J. Cohen, at his debut confirmation hearing on May 3, 1989, said he was ready to talk with Renamo. In what appears to be a shift in U.S. policy, Cohen, responding to a query from Renamo supporter Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), said, “I feel the situation in Mozambique is so bad and the need for peace is so great, I will talk to anybody if it would help.”

Eight African State Heads Call on USA to Cease Support for UNITA

Eight Chiefs of State from the Congo, Gabon, Mozambique, São Tome and Principe, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe met with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola on May 16 in Luanda. The eight leaders expressed their support for the Angolan Government’s Peace Plan and initiative for national reconciliation. Additionally, they called on the USA to cease its divisive aid to UNITA and other acts of interference and destabilization of the region. A follow-up meeting will be held in Kinshasa, Zaire at the end of June.
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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Mozambique Support Network
343 S. Dearborn • Suite 601
Chicago, IL 60604
312. 922-3286

Mozambique
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Chicago, IL 60604
312. 922-3286

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