THE JOSINA MACHEL ORPHANAGE

Deep in a valley in Niassa Province, near a place called Chilolo (Luatize), is the Josina Machel Orphanage. It has not been there for very long. Previously it was at the top of a mountain, but the present place, apart from not being so cold, offers greater security. It also makes it possible for active members of the orphanage to engage in production.

THIS IS THE TIME

This is the time we were waiting for. Our guns are light in our hands; the reasons and aims of the struggle clear in our minds.

The blood shed by our heroes makes us sad but resolute. It is the price of our freedom. We keep them close in our hearts from their example new generations revolutionary generations are already being born.

Ahead of us we see bitter hardships. But we see also our children running free our country plundered no more.

This is the time to be ready and firm. The time to give ourselves to the Revolution.

Josina Machel

Situated about five day's march from the border, the orphanage is itself a small village which provides shelter for 37 war orphans of up to five years of age. There are 7 five-year-olds, 12 between one and four, and 18 new-born babies.

Last year there were 43 children, but 6 of them recently left for the Mondlane Pilot Centre to attend primary school.

The children are looked after by fifteen militants of the Women's Detachment. However, our comrades face difficulties. In the first place, they not only have to care for the children, but also grow crops for the whole camp. The need to increase the staff is therefore making itself felt, especially since this factor has made it impossible to take in the large number of children awaiting entry.

SUPPORT THE JOSINA MACHEL ORPHANAGE

Enclosed is $ to be used to support the ORPHANAGE PROJECT.

I have the following non-financial support I would like to offer:

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________

(Checks to CFM ORPHANAGE PROJECT)
Send to: CFM, 616 W. 116th, NYC 10027
DAILY LIFE IN THE VILLAGE

The daily life in the village is very simple. The women cadres get up at 5 o'clock in the morning. After washing and dressing, some of them sweep while others heat water. At 6 o'clock the children are woken and given their baths. Then they are given milk. When there is any, they are given tea and bread.

Then the children play with balls made of rags or other toys which are made there. The seven oldest boys leave for school. A few cadres stay with the children while the others go off to work: doing the laundry, pounding maize or cassava, tilling the fields and preparing food for the children.

At noon everyone comes back for lunch. After lunch, work is resumed until 4 o'clock. During the cold season a fire is lit in a big room and all the children brought there to play together.

By 7 o'clock in the evening the children are in bed. Every Sunday the women in charge of the children hold a planning meeting at which they make a critical analysis of the work with a view to improving it.

The normal programme of the garrison militants is more or less the same. Those who have not been on sentry duty get up at 5 o'clock. Groups are then sent out to patrol the whole area. Some remain in the camp to guard it and the others go to the fields with the Women’s Detachment militants, either joining in the agricultural work or building and repairing houses.

There is a medical assistant working at the orphanage and serious cases are sent to the nearest hospital.

The children are given singing lessons.

THE NEEDS OF THE ORPHANAGE

Clothing and bedding: blankets, children’s clothing such as woollen sweaters, shirts, trousers, girl’s clothing, underwear, hats, socks, shoes, towels, nappies and knapsacks for children.

Foodstuffs: powdered milk for infants, powdered baby food, powdered protein, baby bottles, concentrated soups.

Since the orphanage’s agricultural plot does not produce enough and we cannot depend too much on gifts from the local population, we need money to buy such items as meat, fish, bread, vegetables, eggs and fruit in Tanzania.

Medicines: Against diarrhoea, skin diseases, infections, parasites, malaria, bronchitis, eye infections, and also vitamins.

Toys: For children ages 1 to 5.