To: MSN Leadership  
From: Prexy Nesbitt, Consultant  
FOR YOUR URGENT CONSIDERATION: NEW PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFENSIVE BY MNR/SOUTH AFRICA IN THE USA  

We have a very important challenge before us. South Africa and the MNR have launched a major public relations effort in the U.S. This past weekend major front page stories about the MNR appeared in the following papers: the New York Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Washington Post. A story is expected imminently in a forthcoming edition of Newsweek.  

The thrusts of these articles, based on an MNR-sponsored tour to central Mozambique, organized by South Africa, are assertions that: 1) the bandidos armados are a legitimate political force, 2) South Africa is no longer so involved, and 3) the greatly exaggerated atrocities are committed by special units of Mozambique government troops. (This last is to directly challenge the Gersony State Department Report.)  

The objective of these well-timed and prominently placed articles is to legitimize MNR as a political movement and Alfonso Dhlakama as a political leader. As you read through the articles you will observe a process we could identify as the "Savimbinization" of Dhlakama. (This is very significant as intelligence in the U.S. have for a long time been saying that the MNR "lacked a charismatic, central, anti-communist figure around whom to shape a movement.")  

It is important that we see this offensive in a broader context. The South Africans and their bandido-puppet-killers have been attempting a similar counter offensive in Canada through an MNR agent named Francisco Nota Moises, who managed to slip into Victoria, British Columbia. From there he is conducting a propaganda effort that includes distribution of thirty-five dollar "Freedom Fighter" silver coins that honor RENAMO. (The coin series also honors Oliver North; see the attached article from the Vancouver Sun, June 18, 1988.) The efforts of Moises are financed at least in part by Louisiana businessman James Blanchard, and California-based conservative Jack Wheeler, Director of Freedom Research Foundation.
Another activity which is a backdrop to this current offensive is the recent South African government effort to counter the growing momentum for the passage of sanctions in the U.S. Congress. This initiative includes two very effective anti-sanctions videos done by a Black American and Black South Africans; both videos are being widely distributed. In this regard we should also keep in mind the very insidious effort in the New York Times to project the notion that South Africa was about to begin training Mozambique government troops so as to better defend Mozambique.

I suggest that we initiate several immediate tasks:
1) To write, call, and/or visit the editorial boards of the newspapers mentioned above so as to protest the intent and accuracy of the articles;
2) To confront similar coverage which may run in local papers based on the Post, NY Times, and Inquirer stories;
3) To mobilize others in our areas to do likewise; and,
4) To intensify our own efforts to educate the U.S. public about what is really happening in Mozambique.

On the positive side, you will find enclosed an "op-ed" piece by Governor Mario Cuomo's wife, Matilda Cuomo, about the trip she and Harry Belafonte made to Mozambique.

A LUTA CONTINUA!

New York Times, July 31, 1988
New York Times, August 1, 1988
Washington Post, July 31, 1988
Vancouver Sun, July 31, 1988

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P.S. Please find also enclosed the August 8, 1988 Newsweek article, "Heart of Darkness"