August, 1977

Dear Friends,

It's been a while since we last sent you news, so there is much to share with you now. For instance . . .

*** A second boat and crew have joined the Books Project!

*** South Africa has apparently given up its push for a Turnhalle interim government in Namibia.

*** PNAG has been busy with local meetings and actions, and has begun a campaign against the importation of Namibian sardines.

We hope the details which follow will make up for the gap between bulletins, and we hope it won't be much longer before we can write you that Namibia is truly free of South African control.

"FRI" JOINS THE BOOKS FOR A FREE NAMIBIA PROJECT--NEEDS RADIO OPERATOR

The sailing ship FRI was launched by Greenpeace of New Zealand four years ago to promote world disarmament by sailing into nuclear test zones. In March the Fri's crew decided to join the Golden Harvest in carrying banned books to Namibia. They collected about a thousand books while in Singapore and India, and more books are being shipped to them from support groups in New Zealand and Australia. Since April the Fri has been in Sri Lanka, receiving support and publicity from the Gandian Sarvodaya Movement, and battling a bout of hepatitis which struck seven of the crew members. Like the Golden Harvest, the Fri has an international crew of men and women, but it also includes two children, ages 9 and 11, named Nelly and Isaac. Soon they will sail on to Diego Garcia, Mauritius and the East African coast, building support and collecting more books, before rounding the Cape to Namibia.

The Fri urgently needs a radio operator to join the crew, since their former operator, Roy Purvis, left to become skipper of the Golden Harvest. Radio contact with both crews will be especially crucial when the boats reach Namibian waters later this year, so if you know someone who could fill this need, please write or call us immediately.
ADVENTURES ABOARD THE GOLDEN HARVEST OR "OUCH! BUMP! ROCKS!"

The Golden Harvest crew is about to leave Banjul, Gambia, having spent some time there re-rigging the boat for the rugged Skeleton Coast, and recovering from a harrowing experience "on the rocks" off the Gambian coast. Theirs was the third boat to hit rocks at that spot since a lighthouse had closed down six months before—the first two were completely destroyed and ten crew members were killed. Many attempts to pull the boat free failed, and a supply canoe was wrecked coming out to assist. Knowing of the trouble, we in Philadelphia waited anxiously for news about the crew's safety and the boat's condition. Finally, after 6½ days, with the help of a high tide and rubber tires attached to the hull, the crew literally walked the boat off of the shoal. They say they learned many lessons from the experience and were especially glad to learn that they work well together in a crisis and can accomplish a lot on their own.

The repairs, on top of the re-rigging, are costing several hundred dollars and, although the Gambian government has helped by providing some materials, we are asking for extra help from all of you to meet these costs.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE GOLDEN HARVEST

The crew has very much enjoyed Gambia, and we have enjoyed sharing their experiences through weekly radio contact. After all the speaking they have done at schools, churches, government receptions and press conferences, they must know everyone in that small country by now! The project has received abundant publicity there, including radio coverage which is especially important in Africa, and two Africans who have been working with the crew may join for the rest of the voyage. Glyn Carter, who had worked on the boat in England and joined the crew in Senegal, ran into Alex Haley and received an autographed copy of ROOTS for the cargo.

The voyage to Namibia is obviously taking longer than any of us had expected. All of us, especially the crew, have been frustrated by the delays, yet we are confident that with important repairs out of the way, the rest of the trip will be smoother and faster. We are as committed as ever to transnational direct action intervention in Namibia and believe that the Books Project is still very timely. By the time you read this, the Golden Harvest will be sailing for Accra, Ghana (perhaps stopping briefly in Monrovia, Liberia) where an anti-apartheid group will receive them. They now expect to reach Walvis Bay in October at the earliest. Since the Fri will arrive about the same time, a rendezvous may be possible before either crew attempts a delivery.

UPDATE ON NAMIBIA NEWS

Events this May and June indicate that South Africa has had to abandon the push for a Turnhalle government because the Western powers have refused to back it. Diplomats from Canada, France, West Germany, the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. met with South African Prime Minister Vorster in April and again in June, saying that the proposed interim government was unacceptable in its present form. The new plan emerging from these negotiations would have South Africa appoint an Administrator General to govern until a constituent assembly was elected. While the U.N. would be allowed an observer, the Western powers would act as the main guarantors, a process carefully designed to ignore the U.N. Council for Namibia and keep any decisions within the grasp of the Security Council where the Western powers exercise control. Peter Katjevivi, SWAPO's Minister of Information, says that SWAPO would not take part in an election under such a "caretaker administration" and continues to lobby for free elections with full U.N. supervision. We can be sure that until a just solution is reached, SWAPO's armed struggle will continue to escalate and many more lives will be lost.
**TALK ABOUT TRANSNATIONAL!** Between the Golden Harvest and the Fri, citizens of Australia, Britain, Canada, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and the U.S.A. are on their way to Namibia to act out their support for the independence struggle. If you would like to join us in telling these voyagers how appreciative we are for the work they are doing and the risks they are taking, DO WRITE TO THEM, in care of us, or directly (soon) to:

- **Crew of the Golden Harvest**
  - c/o David Acquah, Chairman
  - Ghana National Committee on Apartheid
  - P.O. Box M-157
  - Accra, GHANA (West Africa)

- **Crew of the Fri**
  - c/o David Moody, Skipper
  - Poste Restante
  - Port Louis
  - MAURITIUS (Indian Ocean)

THE PHILADELPHIA NAMIBIA ACTION GROUP

Comings and Goings . . .

All of us in PNAG feel fortunate to be working together. As a multinational, multiracial group and as men and women of different ages, we benefit from the diversity of each other's past experiences and from the insights which spring from our sharing. The sadness of departures, as when Ulla and Ilse returned to Sweden in March and Mark left to give more time to his other commitments, has been matched by the joy of welcoming new members like Laker from Uganda, Daniel who has been living at Youngest Daughter where our office is, and Betsy who is spending her summer here while on vacation from Princeton. Others, who cannot make full commitments but stay in touch and attend meetings when possible include Mark—a local fireman whom we met at a muffin shop, Vince—a lawyer who learned about O.N. at an M.N.S. Orientation Meeting, and Rick who came here from the national M.N.S. meetings in Kansas to work with a neighborhood medical service group.

This summer, Ken is helping out in the London O.N. office while Peter from Britain and Yukio from Japan are in Mexico for the International Seminar on Training in Nonviolent Action, along with people from other O.N. support groups: Esmine Jones from Jamaica and Manab Mendal from India. When they return in the Fall, Priscilla and Daniel will have moved to an M.N.S. community in Seattle and Linda will be leaving to attend the School for International Training in Vermont.

Visits from a Bishop-in-exile and a South African Army Deserter

Bishop Colin O'Brien Winter, who is in exile from his Anglican diocese in Namibia, visited us in late March and spoke at two public meetings. Shortly afterwards, he suffered heart trouble in New Hampshire and flew back to England under doctor's orders for a few months of rest. Ken and Joanie visited him recently at the Namibia International Peace Centre, a lovely old abbey near Oxford where he has been living with his family and a few Namibian students. This month the Winters are giving up the abbey and moving to East London where Colin will support the struggles of the inner-city poor while writing a novel. Copies of his new book, NAMIBIA, have been sent to the Golden Harvest and the Fri to include in their cargoes. Further copies are available from us for $4.95, or directly from the William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 255 Jefferson Avenue S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502. [For details about church involvement in the Namibian struggle, write to Bill Johnston, Episcopal Churchmen for Southern Africa, 14 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.]

A week after Colin Winter's visit, we hosted speaker Bill Anderson who had deserted his post in Namibia where he was stationed with the South African army. Finding it impossible to witness any more of the atrocities being committed by the South African army there, Bill fled to England and began to tell his story. Bill and other white South Africans like him serve as a reminder that whites as well as blacks are not free under apartheid—that we are involved in a battle for human justice as well as racial justice.
Picketing in Wilmington, Incarcerated at Seabrook

On May 3rd half of PNAG went to Wilmington, Delaware to picket the Annual Stockholders Meeting of the Newmont Mining Corporation, Namibia's largest employer and one of two American companies which own the Tsumeb mine, the world's biggest source of base metals. Inside the meeting, a representative of the United Church of Christ (which owns shares of Newmont) presented a resolution that pay and working conditions for black and white miners be equalized, but a series of church-sponsored resolutions over the years have not yet affected Newmont's policies. Profit still comes before people.

For more information on this and other corporate actions write to us or the Interfaith Council on Corporate Responsibility, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y.

PNAG's other half, meanwhile, was among the 1500 persons arrested for inhabiting a nuclear plant site at Seabrook, New Hampshire. Trying to communicate across armory walls gave us an inkling of what communications are like for Namibians cooperating in the independence struggle—some exiled outside the country, some confined within its borders, other imprisoned. For them, of course, there is much danger, too.

A New Campaign Target: The Del Monte Corporation

You may remember that before the Books Project was launched, PNAG met with East Coast managers of the Del Monte Corporation to protest the false labeling of Namibian pilchard sardines as products of South Africa. We guessed that the change to a false label was prompted by official U.S. government support for U.N. decree #1 which stated that products exported from Namibia without the consent of the U.N. Council for Namibia would be considered STOLEN GOODS. Now, two years later, that false label remains, Del Monte continues to exploit cheap Namibian labor under apartheid, and 700,000 metric tons of protein-rich sardines are brought to the U.S. by Del Monte annually while half the children in Namibia die of malnutrition before the age of 5.

Groups on the West Coast, including the Bay Area Namibia Action Group, have begun a boycott of Del Monte goods, and PNAG has been strategizing a complimentary campaign here. Actions planned for grocery stores in our West Philadelphia neighborhood have been postponed, however, because sardines are a seasonal product and have not yet been restocked on shelves here. Write to us if you'd like to see our literature and flyer for this campaign. If you ask, we will also share our simple and "exportable" ideas for Del Monte actions so that you can duplicate them in your own neighborhood.

Although other industries in Namibia are representative of far greater exploitation economically, we chose to focus on sardines because they are a common product easily accessible to the masses, unlike diamonds, minerals and Swakara furs. We also find powerful symbolism in the picture of a corporation taking food away from starving people and, finally, since Namibian sardines are sold worldwide under many different labels, such a project is potentially transnational.

OPERATION NAMIBIA
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TO: