PETER KATJAVIVI CHALLENGES MIDWEST LUTHERANS

"There are forces bent on holding the Namibian people hostage indefinitely," according to Peter Katjavivi, former Minister of Information for the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). Katjavivi, now pursuing an advanced degree in political science at Oxford University, spoke at Wartburg Seminary on October 26, 1983. "The U.S. government's insistence on the so-called 'linkage' between the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and the holding of free elections in Namibia is the major problem of the moment," said Katjavivi. "In this way the USA has placed itself in the wrong camp and is supporting South Africa's continued oppression of Namibia."

SWAPO and the Namibian people are locked in a bitter struggle against the South African regime which continues its illegal military occupation of Namibia in defiance of United Nations resolutions and a 1971 decision by the World Court.

"What we need today is the kind of crusade against South Africa which characterized the united approach of the world against Hitler's Germany. The question is how long the people of Southern Africa and Namibia must suffer while the West plays its own political games and fights its battles on our soil."

(continued on page 5)

Peter Katjavivi, former Minister of Information for SWAPO

Dear Friends;

Last weekend we attended the annual Christmas concert at St. Olaf College. It was a magnificent production, with five choirs, bells, and orchestra. Hundreds of young people sang the wonderful news of the Christmas event: that into our dark world the Christ child has come, to bring light and hope to each of us.

In comfort and safety, as we listened again to the Old Testament passages, I was struck by the special meaning that these promises must hold for the suffering people of Namibia.

From Isaiah 40: "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended..." I thought of the faithful Christians in Ovamboland, whose daily experience is warfare—where landmines, and aimless killings, and curfews, and the sounds of gunfire are a part of every day and every night.

From Isaiah 11: "...with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth." I thought of the children, running barefoot in the muddy streets of Katutura. I remembered Christiana Noabes saying, "So many die during the cold months. They do not have enough clothes, and they are weak from lack of food."

From Jeremiah 23: "Then I will gather the remnant of my flock...and bring them back to their fold...I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing." I thought of the Namibian people whose families have been scattered. More than a hundred thousand people have been driven from their country.

I remembered Selma Ashipala, who as an eighteen year old, had arrived in the Kassinga refugee camp in Angola just before it was attacked by South Africa. She told of the destruction of this place of refuge. She told of running as the bombs fell, with one child on her back and holding another by the hand—fleeing into the bush, crossing a river where many children were caught in the current and drowned. She told of returning later to the incredible scene of the massacre. And she told how—for many days—the Angolan people would come to the camp leading small Namibian children whom they had found still hiding in the bush, terrified and lost. What powerful meaning this passage must hold for our Namibian friends: "I will gather the remnant...they will fear no more...none shall be missing."

Advent is a time of hope. God has entered our world. God has sent the Light—which even the darkness of sin, and hatred, and warfare cannot extinguish.

As we celebrate this Christmas season we need to remember in a special way the suffering and the pain of our sisters and brothers in Namibia. We need to support them with our prayers and through our actions, as together we claim the promise of the Child-King who calls us all to a kingdom of justice and righteousness.

In Christ,

Solveig Kjøseth

for the Namibia Concerns Committee

December, 1983
Pre-Caucus Push on Iowa

In preparation for the Iowa caucuses in late February, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Lutheran World Ministries (LWM) are sponsoring a program to mobilize local support for raising United States policy toward South Africa as an issue in the 1984 Presidential Campaign.

At present, the United States is South Africa's strongest ally. Washington has no desire to question Pretoria on either the apartheid system or the illegal occupation of Namibia. Maintaining the 'status quo' in South Africa endorses the oppression of the Namibian nation. The United States must demand that South Africa account for the severe human rights violations committed in the name of apartheid, and further, that South Africa explain its continued occupation of Namibia, now twelve years after the International Court of Justice declared such presence illegal, and nearly eighteen years after the United Nations revoked South Africa's mandate to guide Namibia toward independence.

The caucus system allows grassroots voices to be heard in the form of resolutions at the precinct, state, and even national level. This opportunity cannot be passed up!

Success of this project depends on organization. The AFSC and LWM are arranging for teams to travel through Iowa in the weeks prior to the caucuses. They will visit sites of strong support to aid in preparing resolutions which will then be guided through the system to the National Conventions next summer where final party platforms will be set.

(In preparation for the 1984 Presidential Campaign Namibia Concerns has sent a survey to each of the candidates. Namibia Concerns is also preparing a selection of sample resolutions for proposal at the caucuses and conventions. Copies of the survey and resolutions are available from Namibia Concerns.)

SWAPO Youth Leader Speaks at Wartburg

"Without the support of the United States government, South Africa would give in and Namibia would be free. This is our opinion," stated Selma Ashipala. Ashipala, a representative of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), made a clear distinction between the feelings of the American people, and the policies of our government. "Everywhere I go the people understand our struggle. They respond to our suffering. But the policy of this government is to support the oppressors. They openly declare that South Africa is an ally—a friend."

Ashipala fled Namibia in 1978 at the age of 18. She arrived in the Kassinga Refugee camp only a few weeks before it was destroyed by South Africa in an attack which killed more than 600 refugees. Ashipala now lives in another camp, Kwanza-suul where she works with children between the ages of seven and fourteen. There are nearly a thousand children in her camp. The purpose of her work is to teach these children the history of Namibia, to tell them what the struggle is all about, and to explain why they are hiding in the bush, far from their parents, without clothes, food and shelter. "Children, even the young children, accept the hardships of the camp if they understand the nature of the struggle. They do not complain. Sometimes visitors to our camp cry when they see the children, in rags and often without food, with only a tent or a tree to sleep under. The children ask 'Why are they crying?' When we explain to them, they say, 'There is no reason to cry. We are strong. We are 'combatants' (soldiers) for a free Namibia.'"

Selma Ashipala spoke at Wartburg Seminary while on a speaking tour coordinated by the American Committee On Africa. Her appearance in Dubuque was sponsored by the Namibia Concerns Committee of Wartburg Theological Seminary.

Sample of Presidential Candidate Survey

I. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the Reagan administration's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa?

II. The United States stands alone in insisting that Cuban troop withdrawal precede U.N. supervised elections in Namibia. To what extent should the Cuban presence in Angola influence U.S. policy on free elections in Namibia?

III. It has been charged that the Reagan Administration's policy of permitting increased exportation of high technology to South Africa has extended to sensitive military areas and may constitute a violation of nuclear non-proliferation agreements. How do you assess this charge? What changes do you think should be made in this area?

IV. The U.N. has recognized SWAPO as the legitimate representative of the Namibian people. Yet South Africa challenges this legitimacy and seeks to picture SWAPO as a Marxist terrorist organization. How do you evaluate SWAPO and its role in the future of Namibia?

V. How do you feel about IMF loans to South Africa in view of their human rights record?

VI. How do you evaluate the effectiveness of the disinvestment movement as a means of bringing pressure on South Africa to abolish the apartheid system and to withdraw from Namibia?

VII. The Clark Amendment continues to prohibit covert U.S. action in Angola. What stand do you take on attempts to repeal this amendment? Do you agree with Senator Walter Mondale's assessment of the role of SWAPO/UNITA in southern Angola? What do you think U.S. policy toward Angola should be?

VIII. How do you evaluate the new constitution which the South African voters recently adopted under the leadership of the Botha government?

IX. During the years Dick Clark served as our Senator from Iowa we were impressed with his work as chairman of the African Sub-committee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. How would you plan to make use of his expertise in foreign policy, and specifically African policy, when you set up your new administration?

"Lutherans around the world should be as concerned about Namibia as the Jewish people are about Israel." Dr. David Preus, Presiding Bishop, The American Lutheran Church.
Solveig Kjeseth, Moe Wick, and Sheryl Biegert, three members of Wartburg Seminary's Namibia Concerns Committee who attended a national anti-apartheid conference in New York City, October 7-9, 1983. Sponsored by American Committee on Africa, in conjunction with the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid, the conference brought students from all sections of the country. Lutheran Colleges represented at the conference were St. Olaf and Luther.

One goal of the conference was to coordinate anti-apartheid activity on college and university campuses. Presentations were made by representatives of the national liberation groups from Southern Africa (the African National Congress, the Pan African Congress, and SWAPO of Namibia.) Kjeseth was invited as a resource person to chair the workshop on material aid. Biegert and Wick, Co-chairpersons of the Namibia Concerns committee, participated in discussions on U.S. foreign policy and on divestment.

Katjavivi (continued from page 1)

"The nations of the West are interested in our strategic minerals, not in our freedom. The United States could play a major role in our liberation, but there is no political will to do so."

According to Katjavivi, the Namibian people recognize that the ultimate responsibility for liberation rests in their own hands. Katjavivi also said that "the West has the power to speed up our freedom if it chooses to put pressure on South Africa. The Western nations will be judged by their actions. How can we call them our friends while they encourage and support our oppressors?"

Despite the horror of the present situation, Katjavivi remains confidently hopeful that one day Namibia will indeed be free. "We owe liberation not only to ourselves but to people everywhere who want to see injustices eliminated and who want all people to live in peace. There is no doubt that we will live up to that expectation. In the end, the truth will prevail."

Katjavivi's visit to the Midwest was sponsored by Wartburg Seminary's Namibia Concerns Committee.

AT THE UNITED NATIONS...
U.S. STANDS ALONE IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH AFRICA

On October 28th, 1983, after much debate, the U.N. Security Council voted on a resolution to condemn South Africa for its continued illegal occupation of Namibia. The resolution called upon South Africa to cooperate with the United Nations in setting up free elections in Namibia, and specifically rejected the "linking" of Namibian independence to "irrelevant issues" such as the Cuban troop presence in Angola. All members of the Security Council, except the United States, voted in favor of the resolution.

In another instance which emphasizes the U.S. isolation on the Namibian issue, the British Commonwealth nations have recently criticized U.S. policy on Namibia. These 48 nations, including Canada, Britain, and Australia, unanimously condemned "mis-taken American policies", and accused this country of obstructing progress toward Namibian independence.

The United States stands alone in supporting South Africa's demand that Cuban troops leave Angola before South Africa will agree to withdraw from Namibia. In the current issue of Dateline: Namibia, LCA pastor, John Evenson, explains the question of "Cuban linkage" in this way:

In 1981 the South Africans discovered a new pretext for keeping Namibia under colonial thrall—the presence of Cuban troops stationed in Angola. The Cuban forces were called in by the newly independent Angolan government to repel a massive invasion of its territory by South African soldiers and CIA-bankrolled mercenaries in 1975. There was not a single Angolan or Cuban soldier on South African or Namibian soil and there has never been any. Indeed, thousands of South African troops now occupy vast stretches of southern Angola.

Yet in an act of unparalleled political cynicism, South Africa—the aggressor—demands that Angola—the victim of aggression—send the Cubans home as a precondition for a settlement in Namibia. Not surprisingly, the Angolan government has declined to commit national suicide and unconditionally rejects this demand. In this, they have been supported by virtually every country in the world—with the exception of the United States and South Africa.
NAMIBIA CONFERENCES OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR
HEIGHTENED AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY TRAINING

Last March, Wartburg hosted the ALC's national
Namibia Advocacy Training Event. The effectiveness
of the conference exceeded our expectations. It has
fostered a significant amount of education, politi-
cal advocacy, and material aid programs; in the nine
months since that conference, requests for speakers,
resources and advice have more than quadrupled!

We feel that the logical next step is a series of
regional conferences to heighten awareness of the
Namibian situation throughout this country. Since
effective advocacy is best done in the context of a
strong support group, our goal is to encourage poc-
kets of activity in many areas.

Therefore the Namibia Concerns Committee is planning
a regional Namibia Advocacy Training Event for
Seattle on January 27th and 28th, 1984, followed by
two "Namibia Awareness" events to be held simulta-
aneously in Los Angeles and Phoenix on Sunday,
January 29th.

The resource people for these conferences are excel-
"tent! The list includes Namibian Pastors Emma and
Kapi Mujoro, their children Nsapanda and Tshensi,
Namibian student Gabriel Uahengo, John Evenson (LCA
Division for Mission in North America), Dumisani
Kumalo (American Committee on Africa), Bill Johnston
(Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa), and Edward
May (Lutheran World Ministries.)

Listed below are the times and locations of January
events:

In Seattle-- Grace Lutheran Church
6 p.m. January 27th
until 10 p.m. January 28th

Contact: Sue Burchfield
6312 195th SW
Lynnwood, WA 98036
(206) 776-2521

Los Angeles-- Christ Lutheran (Long Beach)
January 29, 1984
1 p.m. registration and films
3-7 p.m. speakers and workshops

Contact: Gloria Nies
5203 Havard
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 664-7091

In Phoenix-- Alzona Lutheran Church
January 29, 1984
2-5:30 p.m. Namibia Awareness,
6:30 p.m. Namibia Advocacy.

Contact: John Beck
6600 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85040
(602) 243-3122

There are tentative plans for Namibia Conferences
later in 1984 in Omaha, Fargo, Minneapolis, and
Columbus. We invite you to attend the conference
nearest you.
At least, those of us on the Namibia Concerns Committee do not see ourselves as "money raisers". However, the needs of the Namibian people are so great that we must try to help.

The following list contains some of the projects with which we are involved. Perhaps you or your group would like to choose one of these to support during the coming year...

We need to add two new items to this list. The first is the Skills Exchange Program. Within the next months, we hope to help several people with their plans to go to Namibia to assist the church there. It is exciting to experience the enthusiasm and dedication of these young people who are willing to make real sacrifices in order to participate in the struggle that is the daily life of the Namibian nation. The expense is great. Round trip transportation costs are nearly $3000. We hope to provide a portion of that cost as our way of participating in their experience. The first of these Skills Exchange Projects is scheduled to begin in less than a month, so there is a certain urgency to this request for gifts!

The second item on the list is less exciting, but very important. As requests for information increase, the Namibia Concerns Committee is hard pressed to find money for printing costs, for mailing expenses, and for film repair. During the last few months these expenses have been more than $500 per month. If any group would be willing to help defray these Program Expenses, the committee here would be grateful.

Three things to remember: All Namibia Concerns committee work is done on a volunteer basis, no salaries are paid, and gifts are tax-deductible through Wartburg Seminary. The need is great.

NEW ADVOCACY PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Three Lutheran church bodies and Lutheran World Ministries (LWM), the US National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, are intensifying their efforts to push for Namibian independence by initiating an 18-month, $175,000 program and hiring two new staff people. Named to the two positions are David Mesenbring, 32, of Seattle, a self-employed film distributor and speaker on South Africa, and Deborah A. "Duffy" Taylor, 27, a community worker in Minneapolis.

Their jobs will be to coordinate efforts to educate Lutherans on the issues in South Africa and help them push for change by helping presidential and congressional candidates aware of Lutheran opposition to apartheid and the world-wide insistence on Namibian independence.

The Lutheran Church in America (LCA), American Lutheran Church (ALC), and Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC) have been critical of the current Reagan administration policy in Southern Africa. Particularly, they have opposed the administration's linkage of Cuban troop withdrawal in Angola to any settlement on Namibian independence.

Edward May, Duffy Taylor, David Mesenbring: Left to Right

The Rev. Edward C. May, director of LWM's Office on World Community, who will be administrator for the program, said "We do not desire to have people of the churches judge candidates on this one issue... but it's important that candidates be aware of a constituency in the United States for independence of Namibia and political participation of all people in South Africa."

If you would like to receive information and updates on this program, please contact:

Duffy Taylor or David Mesenbring
731 21st Ave. S. 360 Park Ave. S.
Mpls., MN 55454 New York, NY 10010
(612)330-1009 (212)532-6350
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ADVOCACY

In this and future issues of the Namibia Newsletter, we will be sharing reports of some of the efforts that are being made on behalf of our Namibian friends. We can't begin to mention all of them—most of you will continue to work without recognition. But we want to give you a flavor of the Namibia advocacy movement as it spreads throughout our church.

For example:

- at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, the mailing list for the "South African Awareness Group" has grown to more than 100 names. They have shown several films, and staffed an information table at the big Christmas Festival;

- in Eagle Grove, Iowa, members of the Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church gathered 647 school books to send to Namibia;

- from Another Piece, the Northern Minnesota District Pastor's newsletter, comes the following article by Pastor Milan Davign, assistant to the Bishop:

The extermination of six million people because they were Jews, stands as one of history's most horrendous indictments of humanity's cruelty to humanity. The question is asked, "How could the rest of the world let that happen?" Most people who lived through that era say "we didn't know" or "there was nothing we could do." But the world of today has the right to ask, "Did they even care?"

A people again are being exterminated by ruthless oppression. Our Lutheran sisters and brothers in Namibia are beaten and killed while their country is being mercilessly exploited and their society decimated. South Africa is illegally holding captive the land of Namibia. The Namibians may rightly ask of us, "Do you care?"

If we care there are some things we can do now. We can write to our members of congress reminding them of our nation's support of South Africa's economy and government. We can ask them to support implementation of an unaltered U.N. Security Council Resolution 435 so that Namibia may be free. We can pray for peace and justice in Namibia. We can write to the South African Ambassador in the United States, Mr. B.G. Fourie, 3051 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, D.C., 20008, reminding him of our love and concern for the Namibian Christians. We can become better informed....

How could they let that happen? If we don't do anything we will have to tell our children and grandchildren along with the people of Namibia—we didn't care.

Milan Davign

when the Ohio District designated representatives to last spring's Namibia Conference, Barbara Fullerton was among the delegates selected. In the months following the conference, she has not only done the circuit of speaking engagements and film showings, but has begun to compile and circulate her own resources, including a seventeen page "Summary Report" on Namibia. This excellent resource contains several pages of historical and current information, including United States foreign policy, the response of the church, and a list of advocacy strategies. In addition she includes a comprehensive list of U.S. firms and their affiliates doing business in South Africa and Namibia, and a selection of sample letters to influential persons in government.

-in Southern Wisconsin, where the ALCW is linked to Namibia in the "Women to Women" project, there has been an unbelievable amount of activity. A more complete report will be in our next newsletter, but one incident is especially interesting:

Last spring, following the Namibia Advocacy training event, officers of the ALCW of the Southern Wisconsin District, drafted a resolution expressing their concern about the suffering of the Namibian people and calling for the implementation of U.N. resolution 435, which would provide for free elections in Namibia.

To South African authorities even such expressions of Christian concern are considered subversive!

A news article from the Windhoek Observer of May 7th, 1983, tells of the harassment of a news reporter, Gwen Lister, who had attended the U.N. Namibia Conference in Paris in late April. When Lister arrived home in Namibia, she was met at the airport by the Security Police who searched her luggage for two and a half hours, confiscating more than sixty items. As Ms. Lister wrote, "one need not be a radical or subversive (in Namibia) in order to be subjected to humiliation."

The ALC women of Southern Wisconsin can be proud that their statement of love and support for the Namibian people was listed in the Windhoek Observer as one of the "subversive" documents seized by the South African police!