UN INDEPENDENCE PLAN
SET TO BEGIN APRIL 1

It is our earnest prayer that soon the 75,000 Namibian exiles living in Angola, Zambia and around the world will be "meeting again at home," as John Muafangejo's print so wonderfully depicts. The signing of the Tripartite Agreement December 22, 1988, between Angola, Cuba and South Africa established April 1, 1989, as the deadline for beginning implementation of the ten year old Namibian independence plan, Security Council Resolution 435.

The release of all Namibian political prisoners and detainees is also set to begin on April 1; and repatriation of Namibian refugees is slated to begin June 3.

"Thus says the Lord God: 'I will put my Spirit with you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land.'"

Ezekiel 37:14

Although we rejoice and are hopeful, the goal of a just independence is still a long journey ahead. Beginning April 1, the UN will enter Namibia to monitor the withdrawal of South Africa's troops and oversee the demobilizing of 30,000 South African led territorial forces. But already, the UN peacekeeping force, known as UNTAG (United Nations Transitional Assistance Group), has been cut from 7500 to 4650. Yet it is the task of UNTAG "to ensure free and fair elections."

November 1, 1989, has been set for the election of an assembly to write a new constitution. But there is no date set as yet for election of a free Namibia government and for actual independence. Until that date sometime in the future, 435 leaves law and order, civil government and even elections in the hands of South Africa. The United Nations will "watch over" the process.

Perhaps you can see why Namibians are a bit nervous. Both "free and fair elections" and the UN timetable are not foregone conclusions. Monitoring and press coverage of the election/constitution process become matters of life and death. See stories inside for more information and direction on working with Namibians during this crucial time as the shape of their independence is being decided.

This Issue:
- Monitoring the Road to Freedom: Special Report #1
- U.N. Commissioner Dies in Plane Crash
- Killings Continue in the North
- Namibia Sunday Resources
- Action Alert - Funding for 435
- Response to Reader's Digest Sanctions Article
MONITORING THE ROAD TO FREEDOM: WALKING AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

The UN Peace Plan begins Easter Week in Namibia. At the Vigil of Easter, the lone flame of the Easter Candle flickers against the darkness of the night as we listen to a litany of stories recalling God's love for the world:

- giving birth to the world.
- saving Noah and all with him from the flood waters.
- bringing Israel through the Red Sea from slavery to freedom.
- making the dry dead bones of Israel live—bringing the exiles home.
- dying and rising in the cross of Jesus to set us free.
- bringing us from death to life, darkness to light.

But the darkness still remains. The powers of evil are alive and well and still in control in Windhoek:
- killings and atrocities continue in the North.
- thousands of pro-South Africa UNITA people are being issued Namibian identity documents to enable them to vote against SWAPO.
- Koevoet (the brutal South Africa counter insurgency force) is being integrated into the "civilian" police force.
- destabilizing forces are being armed.
- young Namibians are still being conscripted.
- smear propaganda aimed at SWAPO and church leaders is distributed by planes over the townships.
- police and army forces are campaigning for elections, calling people to meetings, offering them favors in exchange for votes.
- visas are denied to certain monitoring and press persons who are anti South Africa or pro SWAPO.

What are we to do in the face of such all encompassing evil? Can the Easter flame of freedom continue to burn amidst such great darkness? Hear this, all who long for resurrection to come to Namibia:

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 5:1

Join with these young Namibians. “Walk as children of the light.”

For our part, we can commit ourselves to vigorously expose the unfruitful works of darkness. Beginning with this issue, every Namibia Newsletter will feature a lift-out section “Monitoring the Road to Freedom” containing special reports and action alerts concerning the election/constitution process. We hope you will read them carefully and act. Decide to walk as children of the light!

A Luta Continua! The Struggle Continues!

For Freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 5:1

*NAMIBIA NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by National Namibia Concerns (NNC), with funding from the United Nations Council for Namibia.

National Namibia Concerns
915 East 9th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80218
(303) 830-2774

Namibia Concerns
333 Wartburg Place
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
(319) 589-0326

NNC Board President: Barbara Fullerton, Columbus, OH

Executive Director: Solveig Kjeseth, Denver, CO
Associate Director: Susan Burchfield, Denver, CO
Midwest Coordinator: Ilah Weiblen, Dubuque, IA

Photo by John Liebenberg
KOEVOET TO "HELP" WITH UN PLAN

In an interview published in the Weekly Times of Namibia on February 1, South Africa's Chief of Police in Namibia, General Dolf Gouws, revealed that almost half of the police he has assigned to enforce "law and order" during the forthcoming UN supervised elections are the dreaded counter-insurgency unit known as "Koevoet." This directly contradicts the arrangements for implementing the United Nations plan for Namibia's independence which stipulate that Koevoet must be disbanded.

On January 23, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar stated that "...the counter-insurgency unit, known as Koevoet, was said to number approximately 3,000 personnel. Monitoring the disbandment of the counter-insurgency units, including Koevoet, will be the concern of the military component of UNTAG..." (the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group).

General Gouws, however, argued that the 3,000 Koevoet members would not be disbanded and that they were already integrated into the 6,300-strong police force. He argued that to give them a police role during the transition would keep them employed and prevent them taking up arms against SWAPO. Gouws admitted that during the election campaign, the police would be regarded as "the enemy of the people," but said that "We'll just have to take it and bear it."

Namibia Communications Centre, London

NAMIBIAN COLONIAL ARMY TO LOSE JOBS BUT RECEIVE PAY

South Africa's Administrator General in Namibia, Mr. Louis Pienaar, has accepted that the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group for Namibia's independence (UNTAG) will disband Pretoria's 30,000 strong South West Africa Territory Force, but he revealed that the soldiers will continue to receive salaries or pensions during the transitional period.

In an interview Pienaar said he had allowed for all state officials and political office bearers to continue receiving their salaries during the transition and to submit requests to "privatise" their pension funds. These funds are believed to be a considerable proportion of Namibia's total savings. Protests were immediately voiced by taxpayers who objected to having to pay the salaries of redundant civil servants and soldiers.

Pienaar denied that there was any link between his assuming full governorship in Namibia on the same day (March 1) that whites in the territory go to the polls to elect an all-white Assembly.

Namibia Communications Centre, London

KILLINGS CONTINUE IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA

Four civilians have been shot dead in the Namibian war zone during February by gangs said to belong to UNITA, the rebel Angolan force of Jonas Savimbi. One of the dead men was Stefanus Mweshiange, brother of the SWAPO liberation movement's Defense Secretary, Peter Mweshiange. Local residents believe that the armed UNITA bandits had fled across the border to escape an Angolan army offensive. Two separate incidents follow reliable reports from Ovamboland and Kavango that UNITA units are being given sanctuary by the South African authorities.

In another attack, on February 14, two men armed with automatic weapons smashed their way into a house in Omungwelumwe, near the border, and shot the two occupants in cold blood. When police arrived the next morning they found the body of a third member of the gang who appeared to have blown himself up while planting a land mine. Residents said the police found a UNITA identity document in the dead man's pocket.

Earlier, on February 12, Stefanus Mweshiange and David Hamalwa, headmaster of a school at Oumbada, near Ondobe, were shot dead by an armed gang outside a shop. The two bodies were left lying in the open all night, as nobody wanted to break the dusk-to-dawn curfew.

When the murders were reported to the local South African base the following morning, residents claim to have had "a joking response." Later, an army spokesman said "two civilians were killed by unidentified gunmen armed with AK 47 rifles—the weapon most favored by SWAPO terrorists."

The army admits to a large arsenal of AK 47s captured from SWAPO guerrillas and Angolan soldiers. SWAPO has for several months been honoring a unilateral truce in its war of liberation against South Africa. Even if it had resumed hostilities, few people believe it would wish to kill the brother of its defense secretary.

Namibia Communications Centre, London
Recommended Resources

FIGHT THE NEWS BLACK-OUT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA!

A primary objective of the South African government when it declared a State of Emergency in July, 1985, was to limit media coverage of the situation within Namibia and South Africa. As one foreign correspondent states: "The purpose of the censorship was to prohibit images of violence and repression from reaching the television screens of Europe and North America." (Michael Burke, South Africa Unedited, 1987)

They have definitely succeeded in that goal. When the scenes of police beating the children with sjamboks and whips disappeared from the evening news, U.S. concern for conditions in southern Africa quickly faded.

We recommend three new resources which help to correct that:

**VOICES FROM SOUTH AFRICA** done by the American Friends Service Committee in 1988, is a series of video segments shot by freelance South African journalists risking imprisonment to demonstrate that the image of order and social progress that South Africa portrays is a false view. Intended for use in discussion groups, Voices from South Africa may be ordered with a "Primer" to facilitate its use. Order from AFSC national offices at (215) 241-7175, from AFSC regional offices, or from NNC in Dubuque or Denver.

**NO EASY ROAD TO FREEDOM**, by Kevin Harris is a new, impressive resource on Namibia. Shot in 1988, this 57 minute video introduces one to the people and the issues involved in the school boycott, the labor movement, the independent press, military conscription, and alternative schools. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is placing this video, along with a study/discussion guide, in all ELCA Synod offices. Order from the nearest synod office, or through NNC.

**SOUTH AFRICA NOW** is a weekly television news magazine, produced by Globalvision in association with The Africa Fund. The program features news, recent footage, analysis, background reports and cultural segments of current developments in the region of southern Africa.

South Africa Now is broadcast via satellite to stations around the country by the International Television Network. Check with your local Public Broadcasting network and with Cable networks in your area. If it is not available in your area, write to

Globalvision, 361 West Broadway, New York, NY 10013, for a packet of information on how to get South Africa Now on the air in your city. Plans call for extensive coverage of events in Namibia during the next months, so this will be a valuable resource.

The 1989 expanded edition of **WORKING FOR JUSTICE: A DIRECTORY OF LUTHERAN MINISTRIES** is now available. It contains a listing and description of more than fifty Lutheran-affiliated groups, organizations, networks, coalitions, agencies, projects and programs that are oriented toward justice concerns. The directory includes official programs of the ELCA as well as independent, "edge-of-the-church" grassroots ministries. Published by the Justice Network in the Lutheran Church (JNLC), it is available from them at 1100 East 55th Street, Chicago, IL 60615. $3.75

**BULK RESOURCES FOR YOUR NETWORK**

Do you need bulk copies of Namibia resources for a class or event? Call us for multiple copies of resource pieces on "Action," "Worship," "Resources," "Background." They are available for $10.00 per hundred copies. Sample copies of these and other resources are available in our Information Packet at $3.00. Namibia Newsletter also available in bulk.

**THEOLOGY AND THE BLACK EXPERIENCE**


This volume contains a collection of presentations made at the 1986 conference, "The Lutheran Heritage and the Black Experience in Africa and North America, held at the University of Zimbabwe in Harare. Videos and a discussion guide will be forthcoming from the Commission for Multicultural Ministries of the ELCA. For information, call the NNC office.
For the people of Namibia it has been a long journey toward freedom. For over 100 years their country has been ruled by white foreigners—first German and then South African—who stripped the people of their land and liberties, and waged bloody wars of conquest and occupation against the territory's Black and overwhelmingly Christian majority.

Since 1966, when diplomatic failure finally prompted the Namibian independence movement SWAPO to take up arms against the occupation army, perhaps 20,000 Namibians have died as a result of South Africa's war. Many thousands more, including thousands of women and children, church leaders, teachers, and health professionals, have been beaten, tortured, or detained without trial by South African army and police forces. A staggering 75,000 Namibians—1 out of every 20—are in exile to escape the repression and the apartheid system of legalized racism that South Africa imported to its Namibian colony.

A staggering 75,000 Namibians—1 out of every 20—are in exile to escape the repression and the apartheid system of legalized racism that South Africa imported to its Namibian colony.

For all of these reasons, the December 22 signing of the Tripartite Agreement between South Africa, Angola, and Cuba was greeted with joy in Namibia. Because in exchange for the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola the agreement commits South Africa to implement the 1978 blueprint for Namibian independence, United Nations Security Council Resolution 435. After the long years of war and suffering, peace and freedom in Namibia are finally in sight.

The Bitter Past
But Namibians' hopes for the future are tempered with the caution borne of bitter disappointment. Previous "agreements" on Namibian independence, including Resolution 435 itself, have been broken with impunity by the South African government, while America and the other Western democracies did nothing.
South African and SWAPO soldiers in Namibia; the repeal of racially discriminatory and repressive South African laws in the territory; freedom of speech and assembly; the return home of Namibians living in exile; and the release of all political prisoners and detainees (see box).

Resolution 435 also establishes a United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), composed of 7,500 peacekeeping troops (now cut to 4,650) and about 1,500 civilian police and administrators, to monitor implementation of the agreement by both sides and to supervise—but not conduct—the elections.

South Africa Keeps Control

That is an important distinction, for unlike Resolution 385, which established an interim United Nations government in Namibia, Resolution 435 permits South Africa's colonial administration to continue governing Namibia during the transition period. Under the terms of the UN plan, South Africa's Namibian police force, which includes the dreaded paramilitary unit Koevoet, will continue to operate. Furthermore, South African civil servants will remain in charge of government health and education facilities, as well as employment and social welfare services.

The United Nations will oversee the process, but South Africa's authorities will register voters, prepare the voter rolls, print and distribute the ballot papers, and count the votes.

Even more importantly, although the ranking United Nations official in Namibia, the Special Representative, must "satisfy himself" that the constituent elections will be conducted fairly, it is South African officials who will actually run the elections. The United Nations will oversee the process, but South Africa's authorities will register voters, prepare the voter rolls, print and distribute the ballot papers, and count the votes.

Even with tight monitoring by the United Nations, control of the election process and the police and civil administration gives South Africa enormous influence over the lives of ordinary Namibians, and many opportunities to affect the outcome of the vote. Many observers fear that South Africa will try to use that influence to promote its allies and to intimidate supporters of SWAPO.

Elections, But Not Independence

If the Namibian independence plan is implemented on schedule, the Namibian people will conduct their first genuinely democratic elections on November 1.

But they will not be electing a government. Under the terms of resolution 435, the winners of that ballot will become members of a Constituent Assembly whose only responsibility is to draft the constitution for an independent Namibia. Completion of the constitution, a process estimated to last five months, will bring Resolution 435 to an end.

But the plan contains no formula for the formation of a government in Namibia, and is silent on such important questions as who controls security and administration in the interim between the end of Resolution 435 and inauguration of Namibia's first independent government. Under these circumstances, parties defeated at the polls could be tempted to seize power through civil disturbances and violence.

---

KEY

Both United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 and the Cuban troops from Angola establish timeframes. The key events in the complex process are as follows:

**March 31**
Withdrawal of first 3,000 Cuban soldiers from Angola completed under United Nations supervision. Gradual withdrawal of all Cuban troops from Angola continues.

**April 1**

Release of all Namibian political prisoners and detainees begins.

Withdrawal of South African army from Namibia begins.

**May 13**
Withdrawal of all but 12,000 South African troops completed.

Repeal of all racist and repressive South African laws completed.

Demobilization of Namibian soldiers in South Africa's occupation army completed.

Rules governing November elections published.

Plans for return of refugees completed.

**June 3**
South African troop levels reduced to 8,000 men.

Return of 75,000 Namibian refugees begins.
Walvis Bay

Walvis Bay is Namibia's only deep-water ocean port and is vital to the country's economic prosperity. But in 1977, the South African government declared that Walvis Bay was part of its territory, and would remain so after Namibian independence.

Although the United Nations has affirmed that Walvis Bay is an integral part of Namibia, the future status of the port remains uncertain. Meanwhile, South Africa has issued its citizenship papers to area residents, and built new military facilities along the harbor. South Africa has offered to negotiate use of Walvis Bay with a "friendly" Namibian government, but it knows that without the port, Namibia will remain economically and militarily vulnerable.

The Angolan War

Of all the obstacles still ahead on the road to Namibian freedom, none looms larger than the war between Angola's socialist government and the rebel UNITA movement led by Jonas Savimbi. For over a decade, South Africa has used occupied Namibia to arm and supply Savimbi's movement and launch its own bloody attacks against the Angolan army and their Cuban allies. Now, under the terms of the December 22 Tripartite Agreement, South African aid to UNITA must stop. But the treaty does nothing to end the fighting between Angolans or halt U.S. military aid to Savimbi. Escalation of the Angolan conflict runs a grave risk of intervention by the allies of the losing side--in violation of the fragile Tripartite Agreement on which Namibian freedom depends.

The Angolan war poses other dangers to the UN plan as well. According to South African and Namibian press reports, tens of thousands of UNITA soldiers and their families live in northern Namibia. Many of these Angolans have been given Namibian identity papers and may try to register and vote for pro-South Africa parties in the November elections. With South African officials in charge of voter registration, it may be difficult for UNTAG officials to identify and prevent Angolans from voting. Namibian church leaders are concerned that UNITA soldiers could be used by South Africa to intimidate SWAPO members during the electoral campaign, and destabilize the country after independence.

The Journey Ahead

Throughout the coming year, Americans will be asked to make many contributions to the liberation of their brothers and sisters in Namibia--contributions of time, talent, and resources. As citizens of the United States, we are in a unique position to help.

Our opportunity arises from our own democratic heritage as a nation, and the influence that our country can wield to assure that Resolution 435 is implemented fairly. We must work closely with our elected officials to assure strong American support for free and honest elections in Namibia. We can share our knowledge and concerns with others. In cooperation with our Namibian partners and United States officials, we should challenge any effort to weaken the UN plan.

For the Namibian people, it has been a long and tragic journey toward freedom. Their successful arrival over these next months may depend on the steps we take on the journey ahead.

1. PREPARE

South Africa has been busy for many years preparing for this transition period in Namibia. Their purpose is to maintain control even after independence comes. For example, they are resettling UNITA rebels in Namibia, giving them citizenship and a vote. We must also prepare. **Commit yourself now to keep informed.** Begin now to plan for getting important monitoring news on the radio, TV and in the newspapers in your area. **Prepare now for letter writing campaigns** by organizing rapid response networks in your area. It is clear that soon large amounts of money will be required—for both resettling 75,000 returning exiles, and for monitoring the election/constitution process. **Commit a portion of your own personal funds for 1989 to Namibia.** Now is the time to think about appeals. **Develop fund raising strategies** in your own congregation, synod or organization.

2. WRITE

**A. Write letters of support to Namibia.**

Express your solidarity and commitment to keep informed during this crucial year. Assure them that you and others are praying for safe return of the exiles and a free and fair election; and that you are carefully monitoring the situation and acting to make developments known to the U.S. Congress. Send letters of support to:

- Dr. Abisai Shejavali, General Secretary
- Council of Churches in Namibia
- P.O. Box 41
- Windhoek 9000
- NAMIBIA

**B. Write letters of advocacy to the U.S. Government.**

Urge that Congress appropriate full funding for the Peacekeeping Force (UNTAG), and for repatriation of exiles. Now is the time to be vigilant, for South Africa has broken past promises time and again. **Ask for careful monitoring of the election/constitution process. Urge Congress to guard against South Africa's interference and control.** Urge the U.S. to fund developmental projects for nation building. Send letters of advocacy to:

- The Honorale __________
- U.S. House of Representatives
- Washington, D.C. 20515
- The President
- The White House
- Washington, D.C. 20500

3. LETTER WRITERS UNITE!

Are you willing to write letters of support and advocacy as monitoring issues in Namibia or related legislation in Washington, D.C. develop? If so, please send a post card to our office, identifying yourself as a LETTER WRITER, listing your correct phone and address. We will then add you to our letter writing network that receives more frequent action alerts and updates, thereby making you an official "Namibia Nut."

---

Please duplicate this **Action Alert** for distribution. For updates and assistance, contact National Namibia Concerns, in Denver at 915 E. 9th Avenue, Denver, Colorado, 80218, (303) 830-2774 and in Dubuque, IA at 333 Wartburg Place, Dubuque, 52001, (319) 589-0326.
A RESPONSE TO THE READER'S DIGEST
by Peter Kjeseth

(Editor: NNC has received several inquiries regarding the February, 1989, issue of Reader's Digest. We even encountered its disturbing use given as evidence in a state divestment hearing. Printed below are excerpts from Peter Kjeseth's response. The full detailed text of Kjeseth's response is available from the Iowa NNC office.)

David Reed's anti-sanctions article, "Do South African Sanctions Make Sense?" in the February, 1989, issue of Reader's Digest has been quoted enough to warrant careful analysis. By clever selection of facts and by omission of large areas of truth, Mr. Reed has presented what appears to be an obvious, common sense position in a situation that involves more agony and ambiguity than he even suggests. What he does not say is more important than what he says. His article presents distorted reality.

The clever deception begins with the first word, thousands. What is not said here nor later, is that millions of blacks in South Africa and Namibia have been forced into marginalized, subhuman lives because of the economic inequities of apartheid.

Reed's reference to the divestment movement as a "made-in-America disaster" is false on two accounts. (1) Divestment and sanctions are a South African strategy and plea. (2) According to researchers at the University of Natal in Durban, it was both the Cuban/Angolan military victory at Cuito Cuanavale and South Africa's economic troubles that brought South Africa to the negotiating table and resulted in the Cuba/Angola/South Africa Peace Accord of December 22, 1988.

Slight-of-hand use of facts and deceptive rhetoric is also characteristic of Reed's climax paragraph: "Although some prominent blacks, notably Archbishop Desmond Tutu, favor sanctions... the overwhelming majority of blacks are opposed to such measures."

What Mr. Reed does not say is that the list of supportive black leaders in church labor unions and political groupings is a long, impressive list. The only substantial black leader that Reed can name who opposes sanctions is Chief Gatsha Buthelezi. What Mr. Reed does not point out is that Chief Buthelezi's following has diminished considerably and that he is considered a captive of the white establishment.

Reed also says, "Most (black workers), however, are afraid to speak up because of a reign of terror imposed by the community-led African National Congress..." Here Mr. Reed has tipped the truth on its head. If it were terror which influenced the polls (described in full text) it would be the legalized terror of the South African government.

In Fact Paper FPI, The Human Rights Commission of Braamfontein, S.A. estimates the number of political detentions since 1986 to be 32,000. Here is the terror. Here is where we count the thousands. (Reed does not mention these thousands, which are more than he enumerates in job loss.)

Mr. Reed's article is a dangerous example of the very behavior and propaganda he denounces. His article takes advantage of the trust and good will of the reading public not only by what he says, but also by what he does not say.

[In addition to Peter Kjeseth's article, several fine new books and articles are available which expertly tell the story and the facts which Reed does not include. Write to our office for information. For updated progress on 1989 sanctions legislation in the U.S. Congress contact: Washington Office on Africa, 110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, (202) 546-7961.]
FREE NAMIBIA SUNDAY
MAY 7

In churches around the world, the first Sunday in May is celebrated as Namibia Sunday. The date commemorates the Kassinga Massacre of 600 Namibian refugees (mostly women and children) at a camp in Angola on May 4, 1978.

A bulletin insert, action suggestions and prayer petitions are printed as a special lift-out in this edition of Namibia Newsletter. Additional worship and education resources, videos and assistance are available from NNC. Namibia Sunday presents a unique opportunity to receive a special offering for Namibia.

PUPPET DRAMA ON APARTHEID
WRITTEN BY TEN YEAR OLD

Seeds do grow! Last summer Karl Jacobsen, age 10, learned about life in Namibia and South Africa at Holden Village Retreat Center, Chelan, Washington. During this school year he was assigned to do a project informing his 4th grade class about another community or culture. After doing research, Karl wrote and performed a puppet play about apartheid, telling the story of a white boy and a black boy. The play is excellent. The idea creative. Nice going Karl!

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES' FOUNDATION

As a response to the need for more adequate medical care, the community of Otjimbingwe, Namibia, developed the "Otjimbingwe Peoples' Clinic" (see Winter, 1988 edition of Namibia Newsletter). The director, Rev. Kapi Mujoro has appealed to friends in the U.S. for assistance in providing funds for medicines and supplies, an ambulance, and scholarships for local staff.

Global Health Ministries Foundation, founded in 1988 to support and supplement Lutheran overseas health care programs, is offering its services to channel gifts from friends of Namibia to this clinic. One of the most urgent needs now is for funds to purchase the necessary medicines.

You are invited to send your donation to: Global Health Ministries Foundation, 6125 Olson Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55422 or write to them for further information.

WISCONSIN MATERIAL AID APPEAL FOR NAMIBIAN REFUGEES

On October, 1988, the Free Namibia Committee of the South Central Synod. ELCA, together with the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin completed a year long appeal for material aid for Namibian refugees in Angola.

The Office of the U.N. Commissioner for Namibia helped to arrange the shipping of 1500 text books, 800 pounds of clothing and $2,700.00 of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. A tremendous effort - congratulations Wisconsin!

Financial needs have never been greater for both repatriation of exiles and other projects within Namibia, and also for education/action here in the U.S. during this crucial year of monitoring the election process. Please, let May 7 be an opportunity for your parish to focus on Namibia.
CLEVELAND RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK

The Cleveland Lutheran Namibia Task Force is developing a rapid response letter writing network from among its active participants. They plan to set up a phone tree to contact folks who would covenant to write the appropriate letters on important issues during the election/constitution process in Namibia this year. Namibia Concerns will keep them updated by computer modem as events take place in Namibia and issues arise in Washington, D.C.

The Cleveland group suggests this model be copied all over the country. Great idea! Please call or write us if you are able to set up a rapid response network in your area. For information from Cleveland write to: Cleveland Namibia Task Force, 2180 West 85th Street, Cleveland, OH 44102.

PENSION MEMBERS for JUSTICE

Pension Members for Justice (PMJ) is a new Lutheran group organized to address justice issues with regard to the pension plans and investments of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

PMJ's initial focus is divestment. A model resolution on divestment and supporting documents have been developed. PMJ hopes to have divestment resolutions adopted at as many synod assemblies as possible this spring/summer. Assistance and model resolution available from: Pension Members for Justice, 1821 N. 16th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53205, (414) 344-0616. To join PMJ, send $10.00 for an annual membership; $25.00 for sustaining membership.

STATE DIVESTMENT ASSISTANCE

For a listing of companies in your state that do business with South Africa, contact: American Friends Service Committee Africa Program, 1502 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, (215) 241-7169.

NNC BOARD TO MEET

The Board of Directors of National Namibia Concerns will hold its annual meeting April 7-9. Three new board members will be elected. Nominations (with the permission of the nominee) together with a brief description should be sent to the Denver NNC office. We are searching for a wide representation with persons who are willing to belong to a "working board." Funding will be a pressing issue.

DEFFENBAUGH TO SERVE AS LEGAL ADVISOR TO CHURCHES IN NAMIBIA

Ralston Deffenbaugh, Director for Lutheran Office for World Community in New York City, will serve as special legal advisor to the Lutheran churches in Namibia during the months of implementation of UNSCR 435. Deffenbaugh is coming at the special invitation of Bishop Dumeni of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia. He brings with him many years of experience and expertise in the Namibian struggle, including several months serving in Namibia as a Lutheran World Federation human rights observer for political trials. Deffenbaugh's presence in Namibia will also serve as an important communications link for U.S. Lutherans during this crucial monitoring period.

SPRING/SUMMER CONFERENCES AND CHURCH ASSEMBLIES

Many of you will be involved in planning conferences and church assemblies during the spring and summer months. During this crucially important year for Namibia, make Namibia central at your event.

Here are some ideas: Schedule a workshop or interest group. Invite a Namibian student to speak or have informal conversation. Place a resource piece in everyone's packet. Set up a display table and engage folks in conversation. Show a video. At ELCA assemblies - make sure a divestment resolution is introduced in the proper timeline, organize support and be prepared to speak. (Please see P.M.J. article.) At church conferences and assemblies, ask that a portion of the special offering be given to Namibia - for repatriation of exiles in Namibia and for continued education and action here in the U.S. Receive an offering of letters for Namibia from delegates.

Assistance, resources and videos for conferences and assemblies available from National Namibia Concerns (NNC).

Margaret Johnson of Sacramento, CA, prepared this display for her church synod assembly in 1988.
LOSS OF CARLSSON
A MULTI-LEVELLED TRAGEDY

An obituary in the London Guardian referred to the
death of Bernt Carlsson as a "poignant tragedy within a
tragedy." On December 22nd, Carlsson was on the ill-
fated Pan Am flight 103, returning to New York for the
signing of the Namibian Peace Accords.

Bernt Carlsson had accomplished much during the
two crucial years in which he served as the United
Nations Commissioner for Namibia. He should have
been a guest of honor at the signing ceremonies on
December 23rd. Instead the dignitaries paid tribute to
his leadership and observed a moment of silence in
tribute to him.

An experienced, respected member of the Swedish
diplomatic corps, Carlsson was a close friend of
assassinated Prime Minister, Olaf Palme, who, among
other things, had entrusted him with delicate attempts
to negotiate peace between Iran and Iraq.

According to Stephen Vines, also writing in the
Guardian, "Carlsson belonged to that venerable
breed of Scandinavians who are found in the most
unlikely places serving the global community... Carlsson shunned the limelight, preferring a behind-
the-scenes role. He instinctively distrusted grand
gestures and high-profile negotiations, believing in
stead in the art of consensus building. He was a better
listener than a talker, indeed an embarrassingly shy
person who battled hard to perform his public duties.
But he inspired trust among those with whom he dealt."

With the death of Bernt Carlsson, we at NNC are
feeling the loss of a valued friend and ally. In our deal-
ings with him, we experienced a gracious man whose
warm smile put us at ease, and whose unwavering
support for our work made it possible for us to con-
tinue. His courageous commitment to the cause of
Namibian independence will be sorely missed during
these crucial months.

SWAPO ELECTS INTERNAL MEMBERS
TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Seven prominent SWAPO members inside Namibia
have been elected to the organization's 50 member
Central Committee to prepare SWAPO's campaign
for elections that will give Namibia its independence
from South African rule. This is the first time that internal
members have been elected to the vital policy
making body.

Newly elected C.C. members at the Luanda
meeting February 8-11 are: Niko Bessinger, Nathaniel
Maxwell, Daniel Tjongarero, Crispin Matongo, Gertrude
Kandanga, Stephanus Goliath and Bryan Simataa. They

Upon return from Lasaka February 25, Witbooi
discovered his family had apprehended a man, Lucus
Roli, at their home in Gibeon. Roli confessed to having
been sent by a white policeman to place a bomb
under Witbooi's car. Pastor Witbooi has instructed his
lawyers to apply for protection for his family.
Call to Prayer and Solidarity

With the People of Namibia

"The Last Supper" by Namibian Artist John Muafangejo

"When one member of the family suffers, all suffer."
1 Cor. 12

Prayer and Action for Namibia

The suffering of the Namibian people has been intense for more than 100 years, first under German colonial rule and now under the illegal occupation of South Africa. April 1, 1989 marked the launching of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence.

While we rejoice and are hopeful with our Namibian sisters and brothers, we also share their caution. Will this road lead to a just independence? Law and order, civil government, voter registration, and even the casting and counting of votes all remain firmly in South African hands. Free and fair elections are not a foregone conclusion. November 1, 1989, has been set for the election of an assembly which will write a new constitution. No date is set as yet for election of a new government and actual independence.

This is no easy road to freedom. One of every twenty Namibians are presently living in exile. Plans need to be developed and funds raised for the repatriation of over 75,000 Namibian exiles. The task of monitoring voter registration, the campaign and election, and “law and order” is a life and death matter.

Christians in Namibia continue to play a courageous role in the struggle for freedom. Faithfulness to the Gospel calls us to find ways to join with them during this crucial year as the shape of their independence is being decided.

— pray for the people and the churches of Namibia.
— learn about their struggle, for resources contact:
  National Namibia Concerns
  915 East 9th Ave., Denver, CO 80218
  (303) 830-2774
— give financially to programs for exile repatriation, nation building, and education/advocacy.
— monitor the election process and continued South African control.
A Call to Prayer and Solidarity with the People of Namibia

During this 1989 year of the implementation of the United Nations plan for independence, the Council of Churches in Namibia (made up of Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and African Methodist Episcopal churches) continues to call to its sister churches in the U.S.A. for solidarity in prayer and action. The first Sunday in May, commemorating the Kassinga Massacre (May 4, 1978), is celebrated around the world as Namibia Sunday.

Psalm 126

When the day comes on which our victory will shine like a torch in the night, it will be like a dream. We will laugh and sing for joy. Then the other nations will say about us, "The Lord did great things for them." Indeed, he is doing great things for us; that is why we are happy in our suffering.

Lord, break the chains of humiliation and death just as on that glorious morning when you were raised. Let those who weep as they sow the seeds of justice and freedom, gather the harvest of peace and reconciliation.

Those who weep as they go out as instruments of your love will come back singing with joy, as they will witness the disappearance of hate and the manifestation of your love in your world.

Plan to set aside a Sunday for prayer and solidarity with the people of Namibia. Consider the following:

1. Organize a special offering of letters
   a. Urging careful monitoring of the independence process. Write to Congress, the President, and the U.N. Secretary General.
   b. in support of the churches in Namibia. Send care of: Council of Churches in Namibia
      P.O. Box 41 Windhoek 9000

2. Plan a special adult/youth forum or series on Namibia.

3. Receive a special money offering for Namibia.

4. Include the following petitions in your prayers:
   Let us pray for the return of Namibian exiles, and for the freeing of Namibians in prison. We remember especially this day, the victims of the 1978 Kassinga Massacre and their families. Gracious God, who has promised to gather the scattered ones, bring them home again to a safe and free Namibia.

   Let us pray for God's children in Namibia, the saints who have died in the struggle for freedom, and those who today seek to be faithful to God's liberating word. May justice and peace come soon to Namibia.

   Let us pray for the children of Namibia who have suffered greatly. We give thanks for their courage and leadership. We pray for their future - for uniting with families, for good education and nutrition, for strength and vision for the tasks of nation building.

   Let us pray for the oppressors, for those who are themselves impounded by the bonds of racism, hatred and fear. May we also repent our racism, and may our government turn to support the growth of justice and freedom in Namibia and southern Africa.

Resources, films, videos and assistance available through National Namibia Concerns

BULLETIN INSERT

The copy of the opposite side of this page may be duplicated. Run it on both sides of 8 1/2 x 11 sheets with the same edge at the top of the copy. Then cut.