



BIKES NOT BOMBS

PO Box 56538 Brightwood Station, Washington DC 20011 301/589-1810

Spring 1988

Dear Friend,

Innocent civilians, health clinics, and schools targeted for brutal attacks by contras...a nation newly freed from tyrannical rule only to be thrown into a war supported by a nearby economic giant...an economy in ruin and desperately in need of affordable transportation resources to sustain health, education, and development programs that have been strained to the breaking point by war and shortages...

It's not just Nicaragua in this plight, but Mozambique, a very poor country in southern Africa. As in Nicaragua, the Bikes Not Bombs Campaign is responding to the suffering in a positive fashion. Through our Bikes for Africa project, we are providing bicycles to those working for health, education, equitable development, and famine relief, so they can spend more time working and less time walking or waiting for buses or trucks that often never come.

Our work in Mozambique began two years ago when the Mozambican Ministry of Health issued an international appeal for bicycles for its health workers. An emergency shipment of our bicycles accompanied health supplies sent by the American Jewish World Service. Since then we have stepped up our activities, sending further shipments and, since last year, supporting Eric Schulman as our full-time volunteer field worker in the capital of Maputo.

But scarce resources have limited our efforts. That's why we need your help. Let me fill you in on the situation in Mozambique and what you can do to respond in a positive way to the tragedy in southern Africa and to help get Bikes for Africa rolling.

From independence in 1974, Mozambique has faced huge problems: scarce capital, few educated workers, and an economy battered by Portuguese colonialism and the struggle for independence. On top of all these problems, the apartheid regime of neighboring South Africa in the late 1970s organized a rebel force, called Renamo, to destabilize its neighbor, strengthen South African economic dominance, and discourage Mozambique from harboring those seeking democratic rule in South Africa.

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A Project of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy

After flirting with the Soviet bloc in the 1970s, Mozambique has turned to the West for support. Mozambique's president visited the White House in November for continued support against rebel attacks and the drought that threatens one-half of its 13 million people with famine. With a deteriorating economy, a per capita income under \$250, a high birth rate and the devastation of war, the Population Crisis Committee ranks Mozambique first of all nations in the world in its Human Suffering Index.

A front page story in the Washington Post on January 24, 1988, conveyed the horrors perpetrated by Renamo, South Africa's hired guns:

"More than 100,000 have died in the last three years as a result of the war; 610 were killed in two massacres alone in 1987; 3.2 million displaced people require emergency food supplies, and more than 500,000 have fled to refugee camps in neighboring countries...The 300 person town of Inhaminga has swelled to 7,110 because of the influx of refugees seeking food, many of them still foraging for caterpillars and cassava roots to eat while they wait for periodic airlifts of emergency food.

"'The first day they arrive, always one or two of them die. More of them die on the road walking here,' said CARE director David Neff. A mile away, on a crude landing strip, three tons of Italian rice brought in by a DC3 cargo plane lay waiting for the local women to transport it to town. **The women carry the 100-pound sacks on top of their heads because there is no gasoline for Inhaminga's only truck.**"

Beyond immediate relief, Mozambique needs sustainable transportation. Besides helping supply bicycles and high quality carts, Bikes Not Bombs' Eric Schulman, now in Mozambique, is offering assistance to development and relief groups. Through bike assembly, maintenance and widespread use, the bike project hopes to increase productivity, income and jobs, and decrease capital outflow. But this work can only continue with your support.

A bike can quadruple the productivity of a health worker, and that can make the difference between life and death. **Help send bikes to Mozambique today.** Your tax-deductible contribution, sent in with the coupon from the brochure, can help make a world of difference. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,



Michael Replogle
Co-Founder, Bikes Not Bombs
President, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy