

Project Possibilities Suggested From  
George Houser's Trip To Africa - September 1978

ZIMBABWE

1. Health services for refugees in Zambia & Mozambique.
  - a) Continue to send medicines, especially anti-biotics, as it is possible. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees will help with shipping costs.
  - b) Preventative items needed: water purifiers, mosquito nets spray for mosquitos, powdered milk, tampax, tooth brushes and tooth paste, blood counting machines, tents, mattresses, transport for moving wounded people and pregnant women, detergents and disinfectants.
  - c) The UNHCR officer emphasized the need for items which could brighten the lives of refugees, such as: transistor radios, battery clocks (batteries are available in Mozambique), exercise books, clothing, ball point pens, footballs, knitting equipment.
  - d) Microscopes are particularly needed.
  - e) Artificial limbs for amputees. I talked with six young men who had been wounded and lost a leg or part of a leg either by stepping on a land mine or by machine gun fire. The International Red Cross sponsors the program for artificial limbs. Each leg costs about 16,000 escudos, or about \$500.00. It takes some time for a wounded person to receive an artificial leg. So, they also need crutches very badly. I was told there were at least 100 waiting to be fitted for artificial limbs but that it might take some time, even a couple of years for this to be taken care of.
2. A camera is needed for the information offices of ZANU & ZAPU.

SOUTH AFRICA

1. ANC school and institute at Morogoro.

An area near Morogoro has been provided by the Tanzanian government. It is an old sisal plantation. There are some buildings already on it but need renovating. I saw a copy of the plans for the buildings they hoped to construct. It would take a couple of years or more for these buildings to go up and considerable money must be raised. The site has about 200 acres. The plan they outlined envisions about 850 students. There are about 100 students there on a transit basis at the present time. In addition to a plan for regular classes in the school, they want to have medical facilities. Water will be piped in rather than coming in from wells. Already there is some Scandanavian money, particularly from the Swedes and Norwegians. The Dutch seem to have promised some funds.

2. PAC center near Bagamoyo.

A center is to be established with Tanzanian government support near Bagamoyo. There are already 42 South Africans there, but they expect to handle up to 200. Mostly these will be new arrivals from South Africa and they will be there pending departure for other places. In the mean time, they will do their own farming. A second project is an institute and training center to be located somewhere in the Sudan. The exact place is not known yet but the Sudan government has agreed on the project. It will be a center both for education and for training cadres for later positions in an independent government. Some money has been promised I've been told from UN agencies as well as from the Danes and Norwegians, as well as the OAU. Plans are being drawn up at the moment.

MOZAMBIQUE

1. Mozambique Health priorities.

In talking with the person at the Ministry of Health who is in charge of equipment in the international cooperation section, I was told that their priorities were microscopes, stethoscopes, and the surgical kits for doctors to be available at local health centers around the country. A separate memo has been prepared on this with more detail.

2. The Africa studies program at Eduardo Mondlane University.

Discussion with Aquino de Braganca, the director of the program. The program would like us to supply needed publications to the program at the university. They would like our publications as well as publications from other organizations that would be particularly useful to them, and they would like important UN documents. They also talked about the need to compile the papers that Eduardo Mondlane might have left at some of the institutions where he studied or worked in the US, such as the UN, Northwestern University, Oberlin College and Syracuse Univ.

3. Schools for children with learning problems.

Equipment for schools for children with learning problems. This activity comes under the administration of the Ministry of Health. I visited a couple of schools where there are about 75 children. The equipment they have available is dismal and the teachers have virtually no training for the specialized problems of these children. One problem is that the children live quite a distance away and they need transportation to get to the school. Transport is not available. So they rank this very high on their list of needs. They have 6 teachers with no special training in dealing with retarded children. Interestingly they have no discipline problems. This is not a boarding school although they wish it could be but they have no facilities for it.

I was given a whole list by the school administration and later a longer list by the Ministry of Health. They need such things as blocks for children to play with, balls, knitting materials, just anything that children can use in their play time. The list includes educational games, puzzles, story books, color games, games for beginners in arithmetic. They also need tape recorders with tape and sound amplifiers.

4. Personnel recruitment.

I talked with a number of people regarding personnel recruitment in the US. Janet Mondlane is now head of the section on International Cooperation in the Ministry of Planning and Finance. At the moment Janet said that the Mozambique government was not actively seeking this kind of cooperation from the US government. However they are interested in what might be done privately for qualified persons to go to Mozambique. Many of the Ministries have their own departments of international cooperation. Although she was not encouraging us to push the US government to do anything about this, she said anything we could do in our individual and private capacity to locate qualified people would be appreciated.