

# **NEWS UPDATE**

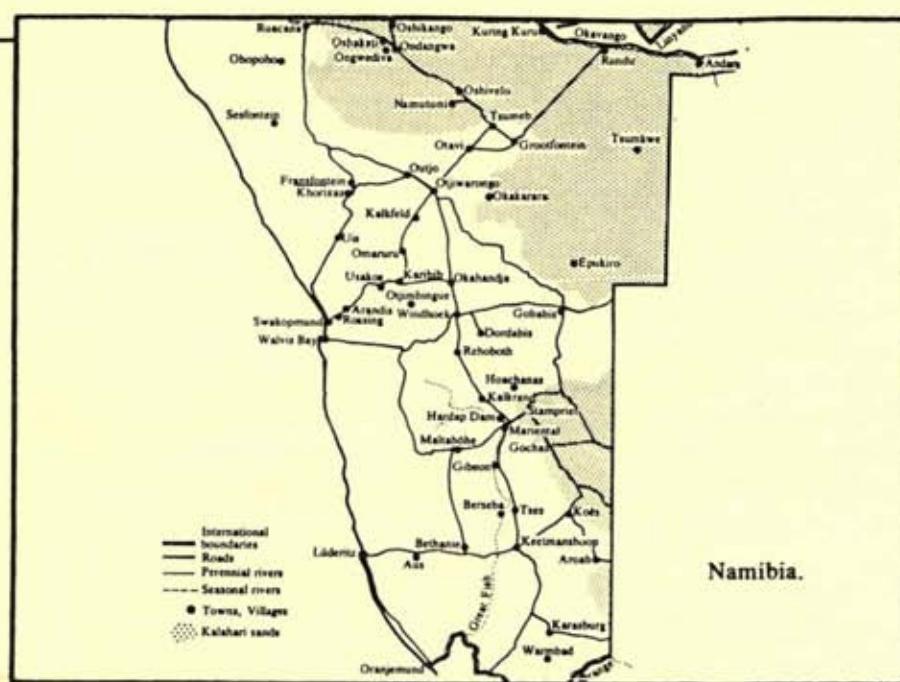
## **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

# **SASC**

**SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

SUMMER 1989  
ISSUE NO. 5

Welcome to our Summer '89 Issue of the Update. Once again, as we did last issue, Namibia is on our cover. Because as before, events that are unfolding there are critical situations that will effect the entire region. We therefore urge you to turn to page 5 as the first article you read in Update. It is about the current developments in Namibia's decades long struggle for freedom. And what you can do to help. As always, we look forward to hearing from you, our readers. It is only by your comments and suggestions that we can grow and make the Update a useful tool of information



**The following is a letter written by Comrade Nelson Mandela  
as it appeared in Facts and Reports to Gatsha Buthelezi**

Dear Shenge:

I thank you for the warm and well considered telex message you sent me on behalf of King Zwelothini and Inkatha on the occasion of my seventieth birthday. I also received your letter of 26 August, 1988 in which you wished me a speedy recovery from illness and in which you outlined your efforts both locally and abroad to secure the release of prisoners in South Africa. Apart from your telex and a telegram from Mrs. Helen Suzman, hundreds of similar messages came from well-wishers in the country and in different parts of the world. It is partly the unswerving support of such men and women and partly the achievements made by our organisation within and outside the country which have given prisoners so much strength and hope.

You will readily accept that it is not at all easy from my present quarters to comment fully and freely on the sentiments you so eloquently expressed in the above correspondence. It is sufficient to state that your persistent demand for the unconditional release of prisoners before negotiation can start is a stand which I have always welcomed as a positive contribution to the search for lasting peace in this country.

Obviously, my fervent hope is to see, in due course, the restoration of the cordial relations which existed between you and Oliver Tambo, and between the two organisations in the seventies. The most challenging task facing the leadership today is that of national unity. At no other time in our history has it become so crucial for our people to speak with one voice, and to pool their efforts. Any act or statement, from whatever source, which tends to create or worsen division is, in the existing political situation, a fatal error which ought to be avoided at all costs.

Far more information than I possess at the moment is required before I can blame any of the parties involved in the deplorable conflicts now taking place in Natal. All the same, I consider it a serious indictment against all of us that we are still unable to combine forces to stop the slaughter of so many innocent lives. The struggle is our life and, even though the realisation of our fondest dreams may not be at hand, we can nevertheless, make that struggle immensely enriching or absolutely disastrous.

In my entire political career, few things have distressed me so much as to see our people killing one another as is now happening. As you know, the entire fabric of community life in some of the affected areas has been seriously disrupted, leaving behind a legacy of hatred and bitterness which may haunt us for years to come. It is a matter which requires the urgent attention of all people in this country. Nothing will please me more than to know that my concern and appeal have not fallen on deaf ears.

Once again, I thank you, the King and Inkatha for your inspiring message. My best wishes to you and Mndlunkulu.

Yours sincerely,

**Madiba (Nelson Mandela)**

## **ANC MAKES POSITION CLEAR ON THE MANDELA FOOTBALL CLUB INCIDENTS**

Recently there have been serious developments pertaining to the activities of the group known as the Mandela Football Club which have raised great concern within the mass democratic movement and struggling people as a whole. The ANC shares the concern of the people, and has, all the time, tried to intervene to find an amicable solution to the problem.

In the light of reports about its activities in the recent past, our organisation, complementing the initiatives of leading personalities of the Mass Democratic Movement, tried to use its influence to bring about the disbanding of the group. Unfortunately, our counsel was not heeded by Comrade Winnie Mandela. The situation has been further complicated by the fact that she did not belong to any structures and therefore, did not benefit from the discipline, counselling and collectivity of the Mass Democratic Movement.

Under these circumstances she was left open and vulnerable to committing mistakes which the enemy exploited. One such instance relates to the so-called Mandela Football Club. In the course of time, the club engaged in unbecoming activities which have angered the community. We fully understand the anger of the people and their organisations towards this club. We have every reason to believe that the club was infiltrated by the enemy, and that most of its activities were guided by the hand of the enemy for the purposes of causing disunity within the community and discrediting the name of Nelson Mandela and the organization of which he is the leader.

Our people should not allow this. The ANC called on our people to close ranks and exercise maximum vigilance against the vile machinations of the enemy.

Our position is that the problem arising from the activities of the Mandela Football Club can and must be resolved within the ambit of the democratic movement as the whole, both at local and national levels. This must be done in the shortest possible time.

To realise this, it is necessary that Comrade Winnie Mandela is helped to find her way into the structures and discipline of the Mass Democratic Movement. It will be of paramount importance that she cooperates with all those involved in the resolution of the problems. We are confident that the Mass Democratic Movement will open its doors to her in the interest of our people and the struggle. There is a need to create a climate in which all problems facing the community, including the unfortunate death of Stompie Moeketsi Seipei (a committed young lion who has made an immense contribution in the mobilisation of our youth and people in the struggle) will be discussed to foster unity, rather than let the enemy use them to achieve its ends.

The ANC takes this opportunity to convey its heartfelt condolences to the parents, relatives and community of Stompie Moeketsi Seipei.

It is with the feeling of terrible sadness that we consider it necessary to express our reservations about Winnie Mandela's judgment in relation to the Mandela Football Club. But we should not forget what Comrade Winnie Mandela has gone through and her immense contribution to the liberation struggle. She has not only suffered the anguish of over a quarter of a century of separation from her husband, but has also experienced unending persecution at the hands of the regime, such as banishment, imprisonment, torture and sustained harassment over a period of more than two decades. Bearing the name of Mandela, and in her own right, she increasingly became one of the symbols of resistance to racist tyranny both at home and abroad.

We firmly believe, without prejudging all the issues which have been raised in relation to the problem, that whatever mistakes were made should be viewed against the background of her overall contribution on the one hand, and the activities of the enemy on the other. Viewed in this light, we consider it important that the movement as a whole should adopt a balanced approach to the problems that have arisen.

The ANC, for its part, will continue to work for the unity of our people and we have no doubt that all those who have participated in attempting to solve this problem have done so in the best interest of our struggle.

**ANC, Lusaka, February 18th, 1989 Mandiba**

### **NEWSBRIEFS**

#### **ANGOLA**

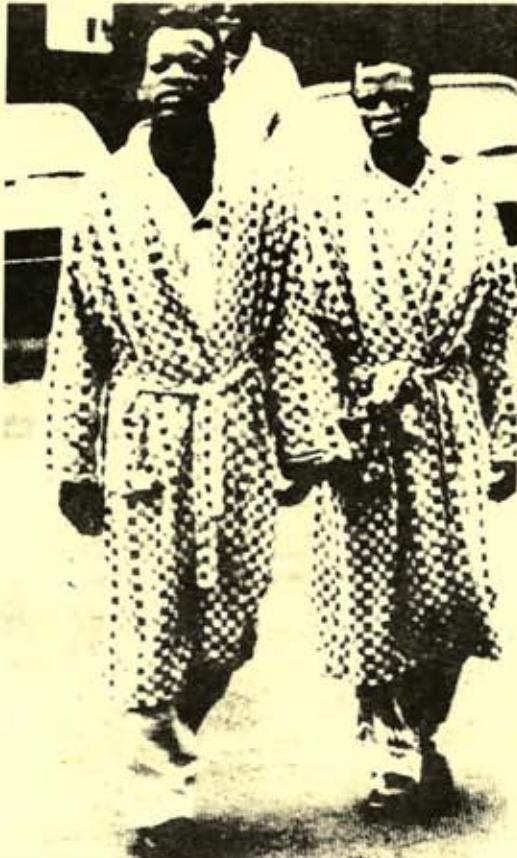
Last year Angola, as well as Egypt and the Philippines, were sent contaminated food by the European Economic Community. The 1986 nuclear accident at Chernobyl sent fallout throughout Europe and tons of various foodstuffs from powdered milk to meat were contaminated with radiation. The food was outside legal limits of radioactivity for European consumption and was shipped, sometimes as "aid" to the Third World. In some cases it was discovered, sent back to Europe, repackaged or mixed with the uncontaminated food and sent back to the Third World. As we go to press, it has been reported that a regional summit took place addressing the situation in Angola. Due to conditions in the region, South Africa and its surrogate UNITA, have been forced into negotiations with the ruling party, MPLA, who are recovering from years of economic destabilization due to the US/South Africa sponsored contra war.

#### **ZIMBABWE**

A corruption scandal in Zimbabwe shook the government and caused the resignation of Defense Minister

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

South African Hunger Strikers



#### ZAMBIA

Two ANC members were injured by a land mine in Zambia, outside Livingstone....A regional summit was proposed by Zambian President, Kenneth Kaunda, that would include Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola, Congo and Gabon...Six South African Front-line States offered to reinforce UNTAG forces in Namibia with their own troops to end the fighting there.

#### MALAWI

Dr. Hastings Banda, President of Malawi, continues to oppose sanctions against the racist South African regime. South Africa is the biggest source of imports for Malawi, and Great Britain the largest recipient of their exports, mostly tea and tobacco. Malawi is the only African country with formal diplomatic ties to South Africa and bears watching as Namibian independence is implemented, as it might provide logistical help in destabilization attempts by South Africa...

#### SOUTH AFRICA

An Italian concern is negotiating with the South African government for the building of at least one toxic waste plant in South Africa. And sites in Namibia are being considered...The guerrillas of Umkhonto we Sizwe launched the largest mortar attack in the history of the conflict in South Africa in May. A South African Defense Force radar installation in the Western Transvaal was raided by 21 comrades and damage was done to the radar station and living quarters. No casualties were reported...Britain ordered the expulsion in May of three South African diplomats from Britain following the

exposure of links between South Africa's state-controlled arms industry and Protestant extremists in Northern Ireland. The National Union of Mineworkers accused the Anglo-American Corporation of union intimidation. Miners were striking because of severe working conditions. The Corporation has banned union meetings; it infiltrates and videotapes the meetings that do occur. A corporation spokesperson stated that they do break up meetings, "Only when they fear they would lead to violence"...A white anti-apartheid worker, David Webster, was killed with a shotgun outside of his home. Webster was active in helping families of detainees...U.S.S.R. returned to South Africa to discuss their "observer" status in the independence of Namibia. Diplomatic relations were broken 33 years ago when South Africa accused the U.S.S.R. of espionage and became upset with the repeated insistence of the U.S.S.R. to invite Black guests to their embassy functions....Mobil is pulling out of South Africa because of the "very foolish tax laws" adopted by the U.S. Congress eliminating federal tax credits paid by the U.S. companies to the South African government....Bush nominee, Herman Cohen, states that South Africa has complied with the Namibian Independence Agreement. Cohen stated that South Africa was withdrawing and the trouble came from the "Namibian guerrillas" who were entering Namibia.

#### RESISTANCE AND REPRESSION

Throughout South Africa's history, there have been many examples of repression made by the apartheid regime. In response to the resistance of the people, in recent months, the Common Purpose Law has been an often used tool of repression by the state. Over the years, the ANC has had to employ many methods for countering attacks by the government. Most recently, we are seeing hunger strikes being used by those who have been detained. Examples of both the resistance and repression follow: In early June, the Uppington 14 were sentenced to hang for the 1985 death of policeman Lucas Sethwala. The 14 were with others outside the home of Sethwala protesting a rent increase. When Sethwala opened fire into the crowd, injuring a small child, the crowd protested the actions of the policeman by throwing stones. Sethwala came out of his house "to try to escape" and was killed. In a recent interview with Johnnie de Laing, attorney for the 14, he stated that a series of rallies will take place to protest the judgment, the first having taken place on June 14 in Cape Town. The Common Purpose Law was also used earlier this year when applied to the 12 Black youths convicted of killing 5 other Black youths. The Common Purpose law, a terrorist tool of the apartheid regime, states that in a gathering of people, the police have the authority to identify whom

they believe to be the leaders and arrest them. The selected detainees do not have to be responsible for the act committed. It is sufficient if they share the goals of those who do.

The Law and Order Ministry has been embarrassed by the spate of detainees who have sought refuge in various embassies. As a result, Brigadier Mellet has ordered all hunger strikers to be sent to Grootvlei Prison, 200 miles from Johannesburg. For example, four detainees broke out of Hillbrow Hospital where they were taken while hunger striking and sought refuge in the West German Embassy. The men had been detained between four months and two years without being charged. When the government was asked to comment, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlock indicated that release warrants had been issued shortly before they escaped. Foreign Minister, Roelof Botha, told the West German Embassy that the men would not be detained or arrested if they left, but Brigadier Leon Mellet of the Law and Order Ministry was not prepared to back that statement. After 37 days on hunger strike, Sandile Thusi, detained without charge since June 16, 1988, stopped his hunger strike after the Law and Order Ministry struck a deal with Reverend Frank Chakane of the South African Council of Churches to review Thusi's case if he would start eating.

#### **DISSENT IN WHITE SOUTH AFRICA**

-In March of this year, Botha returned to public life. The Parliament wants an early "election", but only Botha has the power to call one. Initially, Botha said that he will stay in power until the "election" which has to take place next year, but after speaking to the Parliamentary caucus, agreed to call an "election" for September 6, 1989. Botha will stay in power until then and F.W. de Klerk will represent the National Party at that time. Their opposition will be the Democratic Party and the Conservative Party. De Klerk is expected to win and has the support of the press.

-In Carltonville, a boycott by blacks of white-operated stores because of the council's decision to put "Whites Only" signs in two parks has led the owners to petition the Conservative council to remove the signs. The boycott is losing the owners millions of dollars a month, but the council is refusing to comply with the petition. -Justice van der Walt ruled that an anti-apartheid committee in the township of Alexandra was quite justified in organizing rent strikes, consumer boycotts and a peoples' court. The judge ruled that people were only trying to improve their living conditions, something that the local council refused to do.

#### **THE CONTINENT**

Note: since January, university students throughout capitalist Africa have been in ferment. From Zaire to

Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Nigeria, Senegal and Zambia, students have been protesting, rioting or petitioning their governments and have faced intimidation and even shootings in response. This has not been reported in the western press, who have been busy claiming Chinese student protest as a sign of socialism failed...



#### **NAMIBIA**

After 74 years under the illegal occupation by rule of South Africa, Namibia is finally close to independence. It has been a slow and violent process marked by several attempts at change in the past, all aborted by South Africa. This creates a cautious optimism now; the celebratory spirit has been dampened by the recognition that South Africa, at any time, may sabotage the plan. In spite of the problems that have already occurred, this is a victory and cause for rejoicing.

Britain gave Namibia (then South West Africa) to South Africa in 1910. Since that time, South Africa has maintained unrelenting oppressive rule to the majority, an extension of its internal apartheid policies. SWAPO, the party of Freedom, Justice and Solidarity, was founded in 1957. Its war of liberation began in 1966, the culmination of the movement from reform to armed struggle. Although never banned, its leaders and many adherents have been in exile due to massive government repression. In 1978, the UN passed Resolution 435 which called for Namibian independence. But aside from some false starts by South Africa, this has been largely ignored. This time, the withdrawal of South African troops has been linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Cubans and South Africa have been fighting since Angola's inde-

pendence in 1975. The U.S., of course, has been a major champion of South Africa's position and participated in forging a treaty last December which delineated this agreement. In the past, South Africa said it would not tolerate a SWAPO flag over Namibia which the apartheid regime has seen as a buffer against the ANC and communism - they see SWAPO as opening the door to both. However, the financial burden of fighting in Angola and administering Namibia, plus the impact of international reaction, led to a gamble with independence.

The irony of April Fool's Day being the beginning of the transition period of preparation for elections in November did not escape many. Black Namibia's fears of crushing reaction were realized almost immediately. PLAN (People's Liberation Army of Namibia) troops crossed into Namibia to return to their homeland and were massacred by South African troops. Newsweek called their return "either a bizarre miscalculation or a tragic misunderstanding". Whereas they expected to meet UN troops, they instead met an all-out South African attack, an opportunity the South Africans savored. The Wall Street Journal wrote that the casualty figures (250+) and the timing of the battles indicate that South African intelligence had been tracking PLAN troops long before April 1 and that the Namibian security force (created by South Africa) was prepared to strike. Significantly, SWAPO was not a participant in the treaty of December, 1988 (signed by Angola, Cuba, South Africa, the U.S., the USSR) and did not review all the stipulations of the agreement. The UN role has come under heavy criticism. Of 4,650 peace-keeping troops planned for the independence process, fewer than 1,000 were in place April 1. In addition, when faced with the battles between SWAPO and SADF, (South African Defense Forces), the UN representatives called in South African troops to quell the siege. Importantly, South Africa retains full administrative and police control over Namibia during the current transition period.

The net result of this incident was great loss of life for SWAPO (more than in any other fighting with South African forces during their occupation) and a smug "I told you so" from South Africans which included a threat to abort the independence process. It is also clarified further the lengths South Africa will go to sabotage this process and the destabilization efforts likely to occur in the future. There are 80,000 SWAPO followers to be repatriated. Campaigning will begin in July with an election for the Constituent Assembly to follow in November, 1989. It will be this body's responsibility to draw up the constitution and establish procedures for the first election of an independent Namibian government. SWAPO has accused South Africa of certifying Angolan rebels, UNITA and other South Africa supports, (totalling 30,000 people) as citizens of Namibia in order to pull the vote from SWAPO. If

SWAPO achieves a two-thirds majority, it will draw up the constitution itself. However, other groups are unifying to prevent this.

Forensic evidence supplied by "South Africa Now" proves that the SWAPO comrades killed over the April 1st weekend were assassinated execution style. Unlike the South African reports of SWAPO incursions engaging the SADF, survivors reported looking for UNTAG contact sites to surrender. The comrades were ambushed by SADF and Kovoet forces, overpowered, and shot once in the head. Civilians in the area also reported that SWAPO supporters wearing T-Shirts with the SWAPO logo were killed. Western press accounts reported without confirmation the South African disinformation that troops, on orders from Sam Nujoma, had crossed the border to launch an attack. Opposition to SWAPO and Namibian independence includes white right-wing fanatics like those in Swakopmund, a German-speaking Atlantic resort town filled with Nazi and Hitler memorabilia, but it will be necessary for SWAPO to allay the fears of moderate whites that there will be violence against them and to counter years of South African propaganda that SWAPO is controlled by the USSR and will drive whites out. In contrast with these fears, SWAPO is planning a "mixed economy", not wholesale nationalization. For years it has prepared, by sending members for advanced education in other parts of the world and developing international ties, to be able to assume national leadership of this nation. Contrary to the dire consequences white businessmen have been predicting for two decades, the specter of independence has created an economic boon. Instead of the ouster of white capitalists (50,000 whites have fled since 1966) and the collapse of the economy, income is rising due to the influx of diplomats and UN observers. Real estate prices, hotel rates and rents have doubled. White Namibians have always seen the UN as a villain due to its support for SWAPO, but now the UN is welcome. There is a great demand for housing (200 embassies planned), vehicles and products. Ironically, many of the products on sale are from South Africa; therefore, UN money will be routed to South Africa, despite its call for sanctions. The UN is renting facilities and equipment from the SADF.

Unresolved issues are:

1. Control of Walvis Bay (the major port);
2. Status of police paramilitary units created by South Africa;
3. Voter qualification.

Rights to Walvis Bay have been hotly disputed between South Africa and the Namibian people for years. It moves 85% of Namibia's exports, including minerals. It is the terminus of the main railway line into the interior of southern Africa. It would be difficult for Namibia to survive without access to the only deep-water port on its 700-mile coast. SWAPO maintains that Walvis Bay belongs to Namibia. Britain gave it to South

Africa in 1910 along with the rest of the country. For now, South Africa has stated that it will allow independent Namibia to use Walvis Bay - that is, unless relations become hostile.

The complex relationships and stakes in southern Africa make this long-awaited event cause for cautious excitement. After the initial jubilation, the realities of South Africa's power to undermine the process have been evident. If this transition is smooth and peaceful and whites remain in Namibia, South Africa will be pressured to negotiate with the ANC. SWAPO, the internationally-recognized leadership of the Namibian people must not only be prepared to counter attacks by South Africa, but simultaneously set in motion a new government capable of sustaining a viable economy, uphold the struggle of southern Africa against the apartheid state, strengthen international ties and heal their nation torn by years of war and repression.

## 435 TIMETABLE

For the past 21 years under the leadership of the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO), Namibia has resisted the illegal occupation of South Africa and its military force of an estimated 100,000 soldiers.

### UN Resolution 385

In 1976, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 385, the forerunner of 485, which presented a formula for bringing Namibia to independence. It required Pretoria to immediately withdraw from the territory transferring power to the UN. The latter would thereafter hold a territory-wide election in Namibia to select delegates to draft a constitution for an independent Namibia.

The power of this resolution was diluted when some members of the Security Council, particularly the US and Britain, raised the issue of "linkage". Cuban troops in Angola posed the dual threat of "communist infiltration" in the region and military might against incursions by South Africa. Therefore, they held the issue of Namibia's independence hostage to the removal of Cuban troops - the "link" from 1978 to Resolution 435 reiterated the original intent of 385, a plan for Namibian independence, and added the question of sovereignty of Walvis Bay, to be resolved after independence is achieved.

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED THIS YEAR

April 1 - UNTAG (United Nations Assistance Transition Group), arrived in Namibia to monitor UN ceasefire already in force.

Mid-April - Demilitarized Zone established 50 kilometers either side of the Namibian/Angolan and Namibian/Zambian borders - but selected location exempt until the end of June.

Mid-May -

- A. South African force reduced to 12,000;
- B. SWATF (South West Africa Territorial Force) command structures dismantled;
- C. Exiles and refugees begin to return;
- D. All discriminatory and restricted legislation repealed.

Early June - South African forces reduced to 8,000, completion of release of political prisoners and detainees.

July 1 -

- A. All South African military bases closed except Grootfontein and Oshivello;
- B. South African forces reduced to 1,500;
- C. Official start of election campaign, voter registration begins.

Early November - National Election of Constituent Assembly.

Mid-November - All remaining South African troops withdrawn and military facilities closed. Constituent Assembly convened to draw up constitution.

Unspecified Date - Independence. Anticipated within five months of the election.

## NEED FOR WORLD OBSERVERS OF 435 ELECTION PROCESS

The UN-recognized representative of the Namibian people (SWAPO) has put out a call for international observers to monitor the South African defense forces' actions until the elections

The Southern African Support Committee, along with many organizations in L.A. and the U.S. have heeded the call for financial support and observers. We are presently working to organize the L.A. 435 Observer Committee to Namibia. SASC recognizes the critical importance of this request from SWAPO - Council of Churches of Namibia. We urge those of you who can afford to go or can sponsor someone from your church, civic groups or clubs, to contact our organization. We especially urge people of color to get involved and make the trip as observers as well!! Let's show our solidarity for the people of Namibia by contacting the

**L.A. to Namibia Committee Today - (213) 733-2109 or (213) 684 1892**

Remember, because of the many restrictions and obstacles, we must act early. Our brothers and sisters in Namibia are at risk and our support can influence a peaceful transition to an independent Namibia.

**Aluta Continua**

**Southern Africa Support Committee**

**NAMIBIA WILL BE FREE!**

If you can not attend, your financial support would be most welcome. Please send money to the L.A. to Namibia Committee at 2824 S. Western Ave., L.A., CA 90018.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Enos Nkala, among others. President Mugabe said, "When revolutionaries go wrong, they too must be punished". The scandal, dubbed "Willowgate", centered on the acquisition of luxury cars from the Willowvale motor industries. As of April 25th, it was reported that the merger of ZANU-PF and ZAPU was nearing completion.

#### BOTSWANA

Air Botswana and Namib Air are introducing twice weekly flights between the respective capitals of Gaborone and Windhoek, so South African airlines are not necessary to travel to Namibia.

#### MOZAMBIQUE

Days after an announcement by South African-backed bandits, the MNR, that they would observe a one-month ceasefire, the bandits attacked a commercial center of Marracuena, 30 kilometers north of Maputo...The town of Buabo, held for two years by the MNR, is back in the hands of the Mozambican government and sugar cane fields are being replanted...Trade increased through Mozambique Beira corridor by 13%, including 28% of Zimbabwe transit cargo.

### Sources

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Facts and Reports**

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**The Guardian**

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**Focus**

**Christian Science Monitor**

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Address Correction Requested



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