

NEWS UPDATE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SASC

SUPPORT COMMITTEE

SWAPO WINS

WINTER/SPRING
1990 No. 6

PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA



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THE FREEDOM CHARTER

We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know:

that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people;

that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;

that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;

that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;

And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together — equals, countrymen and brothers — adopt this Freedom Charter. And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and to stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws;

All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country;

The rights of the people shall be the same, regardless of race, colour or sex;

All bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government.

ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!

There shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and races;

All people shall have equal right to use their own languages, and to develop their own folk culture and customs;

All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride;

The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime;

All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.

THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people;

The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the Banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;

All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist the well-being of the people;

All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!

Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it to banish famine and land hunger;

The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers;

Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land;

All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose, People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished.

ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW!

No one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial;

No one shall be condemned by the order of any Government official;

The courts shall be representative of all the people. Imprisonment shall be only for serious crimes against the people, and shall aim at re-education, not vengeance.

The police force and army shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the helpers and protectors of the people.

All laws which discriminate on grounds of race, colour or belief shall be repealed.

ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS!

The law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children.

The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law.

All shall be free to travel without restriction from countryside to town, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad. Pass Laws, permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY!

All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their of ficers and to make wage agreements with their employers;

The state shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits;

Men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work. There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers;

Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work;

Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND OF CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED!

The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life.

All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands;

The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace.

Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children;

Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit.

Adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass state education plan;

Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens;

The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished.

THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT!

All people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;

Unused housing space to be made available to the people. Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no-one shall go hungry;

A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state; Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children.

Slums shall be demolished, and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, crèches and social centres;

The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;

Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all.

Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished, and laws which break up families shall be repealed.

THERE SHALL BE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP!

South Africa shall be a fully independent state, which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations;

South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiations, not war.

Peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all.

The people of the protectorates — Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland — shall be free to decide for themselves their own future.

The right of all the peoples of Africa to independence and self government shall be recognised, and shall be the basis of close co-operation.

**Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here:
'THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE,
THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY.'**

Adopted at the Congress of the People, Kliptown, South Africa, on 26th June, 1955.

THE L.A. TONAMIBIA
435 OBSERVER COMMITTEE

Early in the spring of 1989, SASC, along with the rest of the International anti-apartheid movement heard of the horrific events of the April 1 weekend. SWAPO combatants who came from the bush to be demobilized and return to their homes were lured into ambush by the South African Defense force, disarmed and assassinated. "South Africa Now" reported, with footage of the bodies lined up -- the pictures evidence that the young men had not died in combat. The Southern Africa Support Committee had had a history of supporting SWAPO as part of the liberation process in Southern Africa. Immediately following the massacre, we were contacted by SWAPO, who, along with the United Nations, put out a call for international observers.

SASC responded by interviewing and contacting Sandra Tjitendero and Alun Roberts who helped us with Namibian contacts and logistical support. The next months we contacted hundreds of people, spoke at events and via the media, and did many mailings to elected officials and grassroots folks. It was a peoples effort, all from grassroots interest and support. We raised the funds to facilitate sending observers, including men, women, Blacks, whites and one senior citizen. As a result, we went into debt. It is our hope that in a small way our work added to the mighty struggle of the Namibian people. SASC is committed to continue monitoring and even, if possible, sending observers up to the proposed independence celebrations in April, 1990.

The following report is a personal account of one of the 435 Committee observers. Your help is still urgently needed in order to ensure our continued participation in this critical time. DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO LA to NAMIBIA 435 COMMITTEE. Contact us by mail or call 733-2107 or 684-1892.

TRIP TO NAMIBIA

By Mabie Settledge

The SouthWest African Peoples Organization, after more than 20 years of both political and armed struggle from the bush, won the first free election ever in Namibian history. Election results are recorded elsewhere in this publication. I was privileged, along with others to be in Namibia for three weeks in October and I felt both the excitement and apprehension of the people in witnessing the fragile process of UN resolution 435.

My trip began in Khomosal, the Colored township outside Windhoek, the capital. My facilitator and eventual comrade was an intense and uncompromisingly honest minister of the Congregational Church, a member in the Council of Churches of Namibia; Peter Lamoela. He "assigned" me to a family, the Fullanies, in the Black township nearby called Katatura. Joey and Breakfast Fullanie are SWAPO members, and they provided me with access to the grassroots support for the liberation movement. I met formally and informally with many residents. Thomas Geortz, a weathered veteran of the movement, took me on a tour of a new public housing project called Haka-hana -- or "just made." It was awful. the homes are tiny boxes, 12' x 12' built for families, some up to 17-20 people. In some a toilet was provided inside, but without privacy, and no door to separate it within the small cinderblock structure. They are like prison cells, an example of the institutionalized dehumanization of the apartheid colonial regime.

Reports of intimidation by the DTA (Democratic Turnhalle Alliance) the major South African-backed party) were constant. I attended a section meeting in Katatura of SWAPO block leaders where there was a discussion of the intimidation. SWAPO, a principled party committed to nation-building, was vulnerable to attack by unprincipled elements whose only objective was to

disrupt. The members were instructed not to retaliate, but to be an example of reconciliation. The following week I attended a block meeting where the people were actually instructed in how to mark the ballot – a task many Namibians never thought they would have. The meeting was very poignant as folks expressed fear of making mistakes: what if their pen ran out of ink? what if they made one straight leg of the "X", got nervous and squiggled the other leg? All questions were handled with patience and care by a SWAPO field worker. My respect for the act of voting and the anxious determination of the Namibian people increased immensely.

The South African government put millions of Rand into discrediting SWAPO and dis-

rupting the registration and campaign process. The effects became more obvious as time passed. I spent 9 days in Ovamboland, the huge northern portion of the country. In Ovamboland I had 2 guides, a builder and a Baptist. Both held their politics inside so I was able to get into almost every quarter of the political spectrum. Laban (Baptist) lived in a shanty in the midst of ex-Koevoet members, so we saw their attitude and hostility toward the people. Everyone in Ovambo-

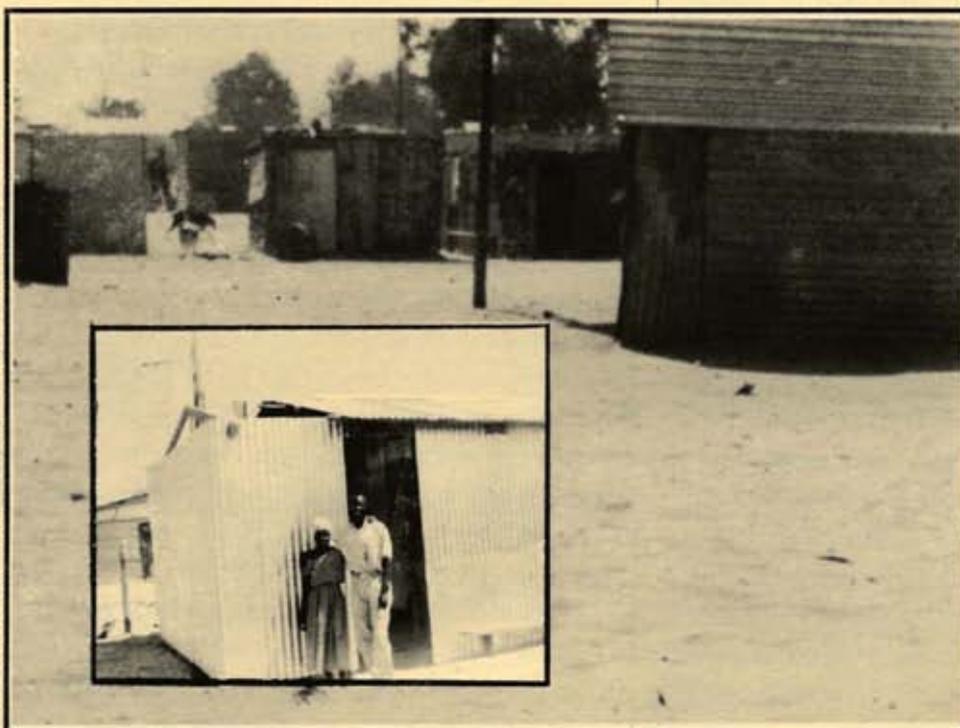
land I spoke to expressed a tremendous tension that something catastrophic would happen during the elections. Rumors were spread that whites and coloreds would be targeted, and white and colored women and children were being sent South. (The day before I was to fly home, it was announced that neither white nor colored women would even be allowed to travel from the South into Ovamboland.) The DTA had attacked a high school in Mweshpindika with hand grenades and injured 6 students. One night while I was in Ondangwa, Koevet/DTA rampaged through a shanty town invading homes, indiscriminately beating people in their beds.

Willie (builder) took me to the Angolan border twice. In Oshikano, on the border, it was obvious that the Ovambo feel comfortable on both sides of the border; they cross and recross easily. UNITA is crossing too, in civilian clothes during the day and in FAPLA uniforms at night, stealing and killing people's cattle and terrorizing villages. We spoke to the head of the DTA in Oshakati, and he said the worst aspect of the situation was that UNTAG troops were taking the best tables in the restaurants and filling the hotels.

Throughout the countryside there were

SWAPO flags from the tops of trees, and on the houses. In Otivarongo I stayed with Sandra Tjitendero and her husband Mose, a member of the Central Committee of SWAPO. I met with many comrade returnees who had been studying in other countries, mostly the Eastern block. One young midwife student explained how she had left Namibia with a group of PLAN fighters when she was 9. She had been in Kassinga, Angola, three weeks before the 1978 South African attack. She

SHANTY TOWN IN OHDANGWA INSET: LABAN AND HIS WIFE



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FRIENDS OF THE ANC AND THE
FRONTLINE STATES:
PRINCIPLED SUPPORT WITH COMMIT-
MENT

Today, the anti-apartheid movement is faced by forces which have almost unlimited resources to pour into the maintenance of the fascist, racist regime, through either repressive or ideological means. The intensity and outcome of the ideological warfare, which usually manifests itself in massive western media propaganda reflecting positions of the South Africa regime, clearly represents both capital and human effort to influence international opinion. However, there are other means by which South Africa's propaganda machinery manifests itself worldwide. There are widespread journals, magazines, newspapers, and television

programs simply designed to mislead western public opinion. What is common among these

"voices of apartheid" is their persistent attack on either programs of the Mass Democratic Movement in South Africa or the African National Congress (such as the Sanctions Campaign, Defiance Campaign and others). Some of these voices (such as South Africa and CIA backed UNITA leader, Jonas Savimbi) sound radical enough to persuade the uninformed. In addition these tendencies have no program of action, other than to attack those fighting against apartheid.

In search for direction, the "Friends", which is a coalition of Los Angeles-based organizations formed to deal precisely with the phe-



nomenon described above, adopted the Freedom Charter (see inside front cover) as its basic principle guiding document. The coalition focuses on organizing from the grassroots level up, drawing parallels and connections between the struggle of the people of South Africa, Southern Africa, and other places where apartheid manifests itself in different forms. The Friends of the ANC and Frontline States, in consultation with the Los Angeles Chapter of the ANC and the South Africa International Student Congress, has been able to defend the advance of the struggle of the Southern African people in the face of massive propaganda by the South African regime aided by western media. In essence, the support given by the "Friends" is based on understanding of the principles of the democratic forces in South Africa, hence the coalition sees itself merely as supporters and respondents to the call by the majority, and not

a body determining policies and strategies of how South Africans should fight apartheid. This stance, therefore, symbolizes

"The Coalition Focuses on
Organizing From The Grass-
roots Level up."

solid, informed, committed, and principled support, based on action directed at dismantling apartheid by the progressive forces inside and outside the Southern Africa region. The strength of the coalition is based on accurate information about developments inside and outside South Africa. The South African International Student Congress plays one of the critical roles in updating the coalition on developments in South Africa.

This unbreakable alliance has observed the following about South Africa as we enter the 1990's:

***President de Klerk is an "able-minded intellectual" who, throughout his political career, has defended and espoused the racist policies of the National Party, both as a cabi-**

net minister (minister of education) and now as the state president attempting to recast an undefendable system of governance under the guise of "reforms".

*The long-waged struggles of freedom-loving South Africans led by the vanguard movement of the liberation struggle, the African National Congress and all who work for peace and justice in the international community, are solely responsible for the recent unconditional release of the long imprisoned ANC leadership. The "Friends of the ANC and the Frontline States" join the masses of South Africa in their recent victory over the forces of repression, and salute the recent release of heroes of the South African struggle: Walter Sisulu, Wilton Mkwayi, Ahmed Kathrada, Elias Motsualedi, Andrew Mlangeni, and Raymond Mhlaba.

*The myth that F.W. de Klerk is an open-minded reformist and "good-willed" man remains a dream, as the fundamental structures of apartheid remain in place. The recent "opening up of beaches" and public transit to all races, as well as de Klerk's promises of further reforms, leaves much to be desired. The Defiance Campaign waged by the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) is living proof that the level of contentment with the apartheid regime remains minimal at best.

*The Friends of the ANC and the Frontline States, therefore calls upon all democratic minded, peace and justice-loving Americans to support the following demands:

- Continued pressure to be applied on the racist regime in the form of comprehensive economic sanctions, isolation of the South African state in all spheres of life and the denial of loan rescheduling of South Africa's foreign debt.

- Unbanning and de-restriction of all

political organizations and individuals.

- Terminate all political executions, political trials, and the unconditional release of all political prisoners.

- Removal of all troops and security forces from townships, schools, and universities.

- Lifting of the state of emergency.

- The removal of all segregationist and racist legislation

- Assurance of safe return of all exiles.

- Dissolution of parliament and all government structures that uphold apartheid.

The Friends of the ANC and the Frontline States welcomes anyone to join. Organizations and individuals interested can write or attend meetings on Thursdays at 7:30 P.M.- 9:00 P.M. at:

Friends of the ANC
and the Frontline States
2824 So. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
(213) 733-2107

or

South African Intl. Student Congress
308 Westwood Plaza
P.O.Box 197
Los Angeles, CA
90024-1647



VICTORIA E CERTA!

rhythms on a tape, we watched a white couple leaving the school office. A line up of young children were presented to them and they took many photos of the children marching and waving. Peter steamed, "It galls me. They are turning all our children into beggars. The lessons those small children learn from this is that Blacks must perform for whites to get money. They are learning to beg. I won't be a part of this. I don't respect the gift of money from rich countries. I heard a story: God wanted help for Southern Africa. So he went to the U.S. Christians and asked for help. And the U.S. Christians said 'Well, no, you see we have so many other things to do with our resources. So, he went to Cuba and asked the communists if they would help. And the communists answered God and went and gave their lives in Angola." Revolutionaries don't want charity, they want solidarity.

Based on my visit in Otjivarongo, Sandra's husband Mose (since elected to the Constituent Assembly) arranged a meeting for me with Comrade President Sam Nujoma. Peter and I both accepted the honor of a meeting in the President's home in Katatura. Sandra went with us and we spoke together for about an hour, although I have to admit Peter and I were a little speechless (a note-

worthy event in any case) in our awe of this great, yet humble, revolutionary. I gave him greetings from our movement in Los Angeles and told him how much support I had received from my fellow teachers at Carver and others who made my trip possible. We reminisced about his visit to Los Angeles earlier in 1989 and he said how welcome he felt with our people. We discussed the years of bitter history to be overcome in this day, the welcome of liberation, and hard work of reconstruction ahead.

Overall, I found Namibians to be a people of great hospitality and humor within the waning repressive situation. Namibians are aware the election is just the beginning, the real work lies ahead. The obstacles from the South African regime next door are dangerous, but no deterrent. The international community must stay awake and vigilant to insist this vulnerable but determined young nation be allowed to stand firm. Through our solidarity, and the vision and hard work of SWAPO, the racism and exploitation that has marked Namibia for over 100 years will give way to one Namibia, one nation.

On November 14th, at 4:00 in the morning, Peter called -- breathless -- shouting "We won, man, we won" and shouting over the celebration of his children in the background.



RALLY IN SUPPORT OF SWAPO AND COMRADE PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA

SOUTH AFRICA

The ANC and other anti-apartheid organizations have called on the international community not to allow a rescheduling of the regime's massive foreign debt. An ANC spokesperson has said that western bankers are committing... "an act of inhumanity [as a] means of helping perpetuate the evil system of apartheid." Unfortunately, the call fell on deaf capitalist ears. Pretoria's debt was rescheduled.

China – heretofore maintaining a hands off trade approach with South Africa – is buying coal from Pretoria. Ten shipments of steam coal were off-loaded in Guangdong, China in June of '89. It should be remembered that China, in the past, has supported the Angolan *contra* band UNITA with arms and training.

The ANC has issued statements making it clear that its goal is the transfer of power to the people. The organization is committed to achieving this through "four Pillars" of struggle: mass mobilization, the political underground, armed struggle and international isolation of the regime. The ANC has always been ready to negotiate to achieve this goal. But the ruling National Party has been consistently recalcitrant on ending minority rule.

The government must show its commitment to negotiations by:

- * Releasing political prisoners and detainees; halting political trials and executions.
- * Unbanning political organizations.
- * Lifting the State of Emergency.
- * Withdrawing the troops from the townships.

Cont'd on Page 8

Ex-security cop Buana Nofomela, on death row for an apparant apolitical murder, made an eleventh hour sworn confession. He said that for years he'd been an active member of a death squad operating under the command of senior (white) police officers. Their targets were members of the ANC. Nofomela stated that his commander in the field was Captain Dirk Coetzee. In an interview with a reporter for an Afrikaans language, anti-apartheid weekly, ex-captain Coetzee confirmed and expanded Nofomela's allegations. He then fled into exile. Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok made arrests of several former and present police officers. The ex-cops arrested are thought to be members of Aquila, the military wing of the neo-fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement. Vlok, and higher echelon police officials are portraying them as "rogues" and hope to stonewall further inquiries by the appointment of a state security officer and a police officer to head an internal probe. But human rights activists have documented 49 successful and 160 attempted assassinations of left-wing activists and 79 attacks on anti-apartheid organizations over the past 12 years. And President F.W. de Klerk has rejected demands that a judicial inquiry be set up to investigate the existence and scope of the death squads.

ANGOLA

A CIA plane en route from Zaire (the Congo) to Angola, carrying military and other equipment for U.S. and South Africa backed *contras*, crashed the week of November 30th. The crash killed at least five Americans and an undisclosed number of UNITA *contras*. Even though the Zairian dictator – the U.S. supported Mobuto Sese Seko – had ordered a halt to the flights last June, the Bush administration had persuaded him to resume the flights upon his visit to Washington in October. This so-called leader is supposed to be the peace mediator between the MPLA (the ruling party of Angola) and UNITA.

Cont'd on Page 8



SWAPO LEADER ANTON LUBOWSKI
MURDERED BY DEATH SQUAD

South Africa Cont'd from Page 7

* Repealing all laws that allow the government to ban, restrict, detain and imprisonment individuals and organizations and allow freedom of speech, association and the press.

The ANC also believes that only a body elected by all South Africans on the basis of one-person-one-vote can draw up a new constitution.

Angola Cont'd from Page 7

Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos and the Ethiopian Vice-President, Berhanu Bayih, have been in Havana, Cuba to pay tribute to the Cubans killed in Africa.

SOURCES:

Facts and Reports
Christian Science Monitor
West Africa
The Guardian

The L.A. to Namibia 435 Committee sent the following people to Namibia as Observers in addition to Mabie:

Nancy Buchanon
James Simmons
Delmer Berg

GLOSSARY

SWAPO

South West Africa Peoples Organization

Koevoet

Afrikaans for Crowbar. Former Namibian police force. Now a counterinsurgency tool for Pretoria

P.L.A.N.

Military wing of SWAPO

SADF

South African Defense Force

FNLA

Front National Liberation of Angola. A CIA sponsored anti-MPLA organization

UNTAG

United Nations Transitional Assistance Group

FAPLA

Angolan Army

SCENES FROM NAMIBIA



A YOUNG MAN WHO KOEVOET SOUGHT TO
INTIMIDATE



STUDENT INJURED BY HAND GRENADE IN MWESHIPANDEKA



THE PEOPLE REJOICE IN SWAPO VICTORY

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