



EPISCOPAL CHURCHPEOPLE for a FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA

339 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10012

Phone: (212) 477-0066

#78

31 August 1988

A PAUSE IN THE STRUGGLE

The South African Defence Force declared yesterday that it had completed its withdrawal from Angola. Truckloads of troops, armoured cars and artillery - including the US-designed G5 cannon capable of hurling shells over 25 miles - crossed the Okavango river into occupied Namibia, witnessed and pictured by newsmen flown up to the border for the occasion. The SADF proclaimed a victory. The truth is apartheid's war machine has suffered a defeat at the hands of the Angolan-Cuban-SWAPO allied army. As a matter of fact those returning victors had been trapped by Cubans near the now famous siege site at Cuito Cuanavale. Pretoria eagerly accepted a ceasefire to rescue its troops - and G5s. But have all the South Africans indeed departed Angola?

Defeated, not destroyed. Pretoria has built up its forces in Namibia at a frantic rate and these together with the defeated army now constitute a formidable assembly still threatening to Angola. The current US-sponsored negotiations are hung up on what really concerns Washington and Pretoria - those Cubans. They want them out of Angola before the long-awaited United Nations independence-for-Namibia process begins. All the while the current US government reinforces the UNITA group in Angola and draws its field of activity toward the northeast of Angola where it can be readily supplied from Zaire. The US chairman of the talks has ruled out any consideration of UNITA. When UNITA increases its ongoing war on the Luanda government the joint Angolan-Cuban force can be diverted from the south where the SADF lies in wait for the right moment to attack.

There is an air of renewed hope that a free Namibia can be achieved under the terms of United Nations Security Council resolution 435 - held in suspense for 10 years because of Pretoria's recalcitrance buttressed by its veto-bearing friends in the Security Council, the United States and the United Kingdom. Now that its army has been saved from Angola, the apartheid regime resorts to its customary stalling on a settlement for Namibia. It wrangles over the UN's impartiality and demands to know who will pay for almost \$2 billion it claims to have poured into the occupied Territory and the \$300 million in bank debts it has guaranteed. Not a red cent is owed Pretoria for its illegal occupation: Pretoria owes reparations to the Namibian people for its decades of murder, repression and plunder.

If UNTAG, designated by the United Nations to be its presence, is allowed into Namibia, it must be borne in mind that the South African administrator-general continues to run the occupied Territory. UNTAG is to supervise fair and impartial elections. There are many unsettled matters regarding this entire period and what comes after a constituent assembly threshes out a constitution for the new state. It is inconceivable that Pretoria, fearful of losing control over Namibia, used to having its own way, commanding the ground will not employ every device and every ruthless act to retain its grip.

This morning's bombing in Johannesburg of the offices of the stalwartly anti-apartheid South African Council of Churches underscores - once more - Pretoria's treatment of any standing in its way.

Extremists whip up fear of black rule in Windhoek

IN AN unprecedented attempt to exploit Afrikaner concern about the future of Namibia, South Africa's extreme right-wing opposition parties have begun to establish themselves in Windhoek. They want to spearhead white resistance to the distant but recently well-advertised prospect of black majority rule in the long-disputed territory.

Windhoek supporters of Andries Treurnicht's Pretoria-based Conservative Party unveiled plans this week to set up the CP's first branch in Namibia. The party is joining forces with local members of the crypto-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (known by its Afrikaans initials AWB), which only formally established itself in Namibia last November. Both Dr Treurnicht and the AWB leader, Eugene Terreblanche, visited Windhoek this month.

In a territory where just over a million people divide their loyalties between almost 50 political parties, the addition of two more on the extreme right is unlikely to make a decisive impact. But by entering the notoriously unrewarding Namibian arena, the right-wingers envisage substantial electoral benefits at home.

The renaissance spectre of black majority rule in Namibia has been seized on by Dr Treurnicht and his colleagues as the direst portent for Afrikaners back home. Though few Namibians believe the peace negotiations between South Africa, Cuba and Angola will, after years of barren dreams and broken promises, lead to independence, Dr Treurnicht has concluded the flag of black revolutionary Marxism is about to be run up the Windhoek flagpole.

His intentions are clear: if enough white South African voters can be persuaded Pretoria is about to hand Namibia to the left-wing "terrorists" of the South West Africa People's Organisation, that will help the CP to victory over President P. W. Botha's Nationalist candidates in October's municipal elections.

"We're pushing concern over Namibia to the forefront of white debate in South Africa," said Hendrik van As, a Windhoek businessman who leads the AWB in Namibia and is helping launch the CP branch. "The National Party faces disaster at the polls. What is happening in Namibia will bring down the Botha regime."

For Mr van As an alliance with

From Tony Allen-Mills
in Windhoek

South Africa's right is the best hope of foiling any regional peace plan that might lead to the one man-one vote elections envisaged by United Nations Security Council Resolution 435. With strong support among the northern Ovambo people — more than half the population — Swapo is favourite to win such an election. "The Conservative Party would never agree to 435," he said. "If they become the next government in South Africa, we're safe."

For the other parties supported by Namibian whites — including President Botha's locally dominant National Party — the arrival of the extreme right is, electorally at least, largely academic. No elections affecting the interim multi-party government are likely until the current round of peace negotiations is concluded. If they succeed and Resolution 435 is implemented, white votes of any hue will count for little; if talks collapse, 435 will again be shelved and the Conservatives will have few perils left to exploit. But there were fears in Windhoek this week that introducing an aggressively racist element at a time of delicate political balance could inflame white prejudice and heighten the threat of violence. Renewed speculation about Resolution 435 is already pushing white community leaders to extravagant warnings of a bloodbath.

Jannie de Wet, head of the local authority that administers white affairs, said whites would "put up a fight" if they thought a Swapo takeover was imminent. "They'll fight for their right to stay and own land in this country. They will fight politically, and if it comes to the push, they will take up weapons," he said.

Mr de As said the AWB felt violence would only become applicable "if it was forced on us. We do not take pleasure in war but if we have no choice, we will say 'Lord, your will be done'."

Andreas Shipanga, a black minister in the Namibian government, said the "lunatics" of the extreme right "should not be underestimated". He was worried about "some sections" of the army and police who might sympathise with the AWB and supply it with weapons. "There is a potential for danger," he said.

Independence spectre haunts SA occupiers

Namibia

Victoria Brittain

NAMIBIA is in a state of unprecedented ferment with an upsurge in fighting, of strikes, of meetings between white politicians and the exiled Swapo leadership, and flights out of the country by both blacks and whites, as the possibility of independence from South Africa appears to be closer than at any time in the last eight years.

"Three or four years of simmering discontent against the South African military presence and the atrocities against civilians have simply boiled over," said Ben Ulenga, General Secretary of the Namibian Mineworkers' Union, in a recent interview in London.

The unions, and newly created committees of parents, have mushroomed to become the focus of open opposition to South African rule.

Among the newly emerging leaders are a number of former Swapo combatants who have served gaoi terms on Robben Island off South Africa's Cape coast. Ulenga, aged 36, is one of them and typical of the generation which joined Swapo in 1974 when, on the eve of Angolan independence from Portugal, thousands of young Namibians streamed north over the border just as they are doing today, wanting to fight with Swapo.

After military training Ulenga became a guerrilla in the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (Plan) and was wounded while on a reconnaissance and mobilisation mission in the farmlands of northern Namibia. He was captured by the SADF with a broken thigh and shrapnel in the head. "I was tortured with electric shocks and beatings, and although I was captured in military uniform I was tried as a criminal in a civilian court," he says. Ulenga was sentenced to 15 years in jail and served nine on Robben Island before being released early in 1985.

His release, like that in 1983 of the Swapo General Secretary Andimba Toivo ya Toivo after 16 years on Robben Island, along with about 50 other Swapo members, was part of the last US-brokered attempt towards a settlement of the Namibian problem. "They must have thought it would give some credibility to the internal

government, one of their ministers came and talked to us in gaoi to say that politics within the law would be allowed. We never said a word, just listened to him."

The impact on Namibia's internal political scene of the group from Robben Island seems however to have been the reverse of that intended by the South African Government. None of them joined the internal parties. Most went into the trade unions.

Ulenga says that a path-breaking court case in 1986 overturned the previous ruling that as "a military organisation" Swapo could not hold meetings. "This opened up the political space enormously," he said.

Last month's successful two-day industrial strike backing the four-month school strike was the culmination of two years of hard organising. It was launched in support of a four-month-old strike by pupils against the siting of military bases close to schools in the northern war zone.

In another unprecedented development, 24 Namibian whites, many of them West German or South African passport holders, met Swapo leaders in Stockholm for three days of talks, also in June.

The Stockholm meeting, hosted and funded by the Swedish Government, was not the first this year between the exiled Swapo leadership and members of Namibia's 70,000 whites. But for many of the 24 at the meeting it was a dramatic encounter. "It blew my mind," said one, previously a supporter of the South African-backed Transitional

Military Council. The first day's agenda stuck on the all-important question of land ownership, with a debate which lasted until midnight. Swapo's Information Secretary Hidipo Hamutenya explained: "We told them, look at the Portuguese who left Angola and are now begging to come back. We have a huge country, a small population, there is enough for all of us. Without you the economic infrastructure will collapse and we'll all be the losers — you for ever, us temporarily."

He said Swapo proposed land reform on the basis of nationalising the land of absentee South African and West German farmers first.

After Stockholm the whites requested a follow-up meeting

to be held in the Frontline States and promised that large numbers of their peers would come. "The old attitude that the South African military can be left to ensure their future is gone," Hamutenya said.

Similarly Ben Ulenga cited the numbers of young whites who are increasingly seen at Swapo rallies in Windhoek. "They identify themselves as Namibians — not foreigners in our country," he said.

The new flight since last month of black youth out of Namibia has marked another turning point in the political options, according to Ulenga. "These kids have been daily exposed to death and maiming, including direct firing on schools. There is no way they are likely to go back into those schools without the South African bases being removed."

This political pressure on some of the northern bases coincides an eight-month-old military campaign by Swapo which has destroyed or damaged at least six bases in mortar and rocket attacks, according to Swapo military sources.

Last month a major attack on Onavivi base, west of the garrison town of Oshakati, set it ablaze and killed at least 19 South African soldiers, according to Commander Mushafa Ndilula, a member of Swapo's Military Council.

Commander Ndilula confirmed the complete pull-out of SADF forces from the Calueque dam inside Angola, and the subsequent destruction of the airstrip at the nearby tactical base of Ruacana. He said there was also a pattern of SADF pull-backs from other bases inside Namibia.

For example, some white families, as well as some equipment, had left Oshakati, he said, and Mirage 3s, F-15s, radar systems and ammunition dumps had been moved from Ondangwa base south to Grootfontein.

Most Namibian leaders both inside and outside the country remain extremely sceptical that South Africa is poised to grant them independence by the target date of the end of September.

But with the momentum of peace talks clearly gathering force since the last quadripartite meeting in New York there is a cautious optimism that the military offensive against South Africa has produced a changed situation which is unlikely to be reversed.

Security Council Resolution 435

Security Council resolution 435, para. 1, "approves" -- in effect incorporates by reference-- the "Proposal for a settlement of the Namibian situation" submitted to the UN Security Council by the "Contact Group" (US, UK, France, West Germany, and Canada) on 10 April 1978 (UN doc. S/12636).* (References are to S/12636 except as otherwise indicated.)

Basic premises of resolution 435

Resolution 435 is designed to provide a way to achieve independence for Namibia that will be acceptable to the people of Namibia and therefore to the international community. "[T]he key entity with an appropriate United Nations role..." (I, 2.)

The purpose of the election is to "elect representatives to a Namibian Constituent Assembly which will draw up and adopt the constitution for an independent and sovereign Namibia." (I, 3.)

United Nations Special Representative

A United Nations Special Representative (SR) shall be appointed by the UN Secretary-General (S-G) and report back to the S-G. (I, 2; II, 5.)

The primary function of the SR shall be to assure a free and fair election. (I, 2.)

He shall work with the South African representative, the Administrator-General (A-G), to "ensure the orderly transition to independence." (I, 4.)

As a precondition to (i) the conduct of the electoral process, (ii) the election itself, and (iii) the certification of the election results, the SR shall, at each stage, before any measures affecting the political process are taken at any level of administration, "satisfy himself" as to the "fairness and appropriateness" of such measures. (II, 5.)

The SR is empowered to make proposals as to "any aspect of the political process." (II, 5.)

The SR shall prevent "the possibility of intimidation or interference with the electoral process from whatever quarter." (II, 10.)

* As supplemented by the Report of the Secretary-General (S/12627, 29 Aug. 1978) on implementation of the Contact Group Proposal; and an Explanatory Statement by the Secretary-General (S/12689, 28 Sept. 1978).

UNTAG

The SR shall be assisted by a United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), which shall have both a civilian and a military component. (I, 2; II, 5, 8 E.)

The civilian component shall consist of a civil police element, estimated at approximately 360 experienced police officers (S/12827, para. 30) and a non-police element, beginning at about 300 and increasing to 1,000 professional officers, with 200 support staff. (S/12827, paras. 31-32.)

The military component shall consist of 5,000 troops, about seven infantry battalions, plus 200 monitors and 2,300 support elements. Field command will be exercised by a Commander appointed by the SG with the consent of the Security Council; he will report to the SG through the SR. (S/12827, paras. 23, 26.)

The military component will be provided with weapons of a defensive character. It will use force only in self-defense, defined to include "resistance to attempts to prevent it from discharging its duties...." (S/12827, paras. 20, 25.)

The electoral process

All adult Namibians shall be eligible to vote, campaign, and stand for office. They shall have adequate time to organize and participate in the electoral process. (II, 6.)

"Full freedom of speech, assembly, movement and press shall be guaranteed." (II, 6.)

Ballots shall be secret. Special provisions shall be made for persons who cannot read or write. (II, 6.)

The following requirements must be fulfilled "to the satisfaction" of the SR in order to ensure "free and fair elections":

- repeal all discriminatory or restrictive laws that might "abridge or inhibit that objective" (II, 7 A)

- release, before the electoral process starts, all Namibian political prisoners and detainees held by South African authorities. Disputes as to who is covered will be decided by the "independent advice of a jurist of international standing" (II, 7 B)

- ensure that Namibians detained outside Namibia are permitted to return peacefully and safely (II, 7 C)

- ensure that Namibians remaining outside the Territory "are given a free and voluntary choice whether to return." (II, 7 D.)

Cease-fire

A comprehensive "cessation of hostile acts shall be observed by all parties...." To implement such cessation the following steps shall be carried out:

- restriction of South African and SWAPO armed forces to base (II, 8 A)
- a phased withdrawal from Namibia within 12 weeks of all but 1,500 South African troops; restriction of those 1,500 to Grootfontein or Oshivello base, or both, and their withdrawal after certification of the election (II, 8 B)
- "demobilization of the citizen forces, commandos, and ethnic forces and the dismantling of their command structures" (II, 8 C); placing of their arms, military equipment, and ammunition in drill halls under UN supervision and preventing them from drilling or constituting an organized force except under order of A-6 with concurrence of SR (Annex, p. 3 (4).)
- determination by A-6, with concurrence of SR, of circumstances in which military personnel performing civilian functions may continue those functions (Annex, p. 3 (4))
- provision for SWAPO personnel outside the Territory to return peacefully through designated entry points (II, 8 D)
- provision for a UN military section to make sure that all parties observe the agreement. (II, 8 E)

Police force

"Primary responsibility" for maintaining law and order in Namibia during the transition period shall rest with "existing" [i.e., South African/ South West African] police. Normally, the police will be limited to the carrying of small arms. (II, 9.)

The A-6 shall be responsible for the good conduct of the police "to the satisfaction" of the SR and shall take "the necessary action to ensure their suitability for continued employment...."(II, 9.)

The SR may make arrangements for UN personnel to accompany police on duty. (II, 9.)

Constituent Assembly

Immediately after certification of the election results the Constituent Assembly will meet to draw up and adopt a constitution for an independent Namibia. (II, 11.)

The constitution will determine the organization and powers of all levels of government. (II, 6.)

SCHOOLS: A 'BURNING' ISSUE

THE mysterious fires which have so far seen many schools gutted, with damage to school buildings running into thousands of rand, can no longer be explained in terms of radical students elements being out to commit deeds of such destruction, a view held by some of those in government.

The odds are that certain forces have climbed on the bandwagon of the schools countrywide boycott in order to further their own political ends.

It is time that the government stops hiding behind so-called radical student elements when things go wrong at schools and making them scapegoats of everything that occurs.

With some degree of certainty, it can be argued that it is misleading and erroneous to label pupils at primary schools such as Aurora in Okahandja, Opawa Primary School in Tsumeb as radical. Yet buildings at the two schools in question were burned down.

What do pupils at these schools know about politics and what motives would they have to burn down these buildings - people are asking.

Similarly it will be naive to suggest that the fire that struck Okakarara Secondary School deep in the heartland of so-called Hereroland was a result of radical student elements.

Radical students elements in official circles have always been associated with members of the Namibian National Students Organisation (Nanso).

Yet this organisation is not allowed to operate in any of the Herero Schools. A Nanso T-shirt at any school resorting under the Herero Authority, for instance, is taboo.

Most of the schools that have so far paid the price can hardly be categorised as 'radical' or havens of radical elements. This includes such schools as Dibasen in Okombane, Kolin in Arandis, Welwitchia in Khorixas, Petrus Ganeb in Usis etc.

So far schools which have been gutted by fires are Aurora Primary School, Opawa Primary School, Okakarara Secondary School, Petrus Ganeb, Dibasen, Welwitchia, Otyikoto, Kolin, Ongwediva Training College, Eengedjo, Mwaala, Ongha in the north.

Furthermore, the theory that burglars are at the core of the fires bur-

ning down buildings at the different schools without cases of theft is tantamount to suggesting war without casualties.

The police have so far reported arresting one suspect in connection with the fire at a school in Tsumeb.

The person is not a student but an adult and the police say they do not know as yet how connected he is to the incident nor would they give any overall estimates for damages.

But still rather incomprehensible is the fact that the culprits behind these fires have managed to avoid up to now the long arm of justice.

The police have reported netting only one suspect and in their words don't know how the suspect is connected to the fire.

This is despite the police past record of swiftness in tracking down similar cases and especially where this involves their political opponents. The police also has an advanced informer network at the different schools who would be able to identify radical suspects in their midst if the views of those in government are anything to go by, and if they are 'lying low' within the schools as the authorities suggests.

Does this suggest any sophistication on the part of this so-called radicals?

Perhaps it's time now that the government put on its search lights and probe the matter seriously rather than groping blindly for invisible so-called radicals and planting every act at their doors.

There are two forces at work in this country - the revolutionaries and the counter revolutionaries, so-called radicals and conservatives and ultra conservatives, all with different goals.

To blame every action, be it a bomb blast or an arson case as is now at schools on the so-called revolutionaries is to try and negate the existence of the counter revolutionaries and their cause, if it could be called that.

There exists in this country anti interim government forces outside the camp of the revolutionaries or so-called radicals who may equally employ force in order to press for their demands.

It is equally in the interest of such forces to destabilise this South African

appointed interim government in order to revert power back into the hands of the Administrator General or the South African government.

It is an open secret that some quarters would like the state of emergency as effected in South Africa or even emergency in another form to be applied here.

For obvious reasons, the so-called radicals would not push for such a goal as it would curtail their activities and paralyse their operations.

Someone must be out there to try and reap what he had not harvested, to exploit the situation and derail the boycott.

The current spate of fires and the schools boycott sweeping across the country would thus provide enough ammunition for those who want a state of emergency.

Thus the fires gutting schools now may have nothing to do with so-called radical students but some forces waiting in the dark to use the boycott for their own ends.

So-called radical student elements

would obviously like to exert control and give direction to the boycott and the only place where they would be in a position to manage things is at the schools for otherwise the leverage for their demands to have army and police bases removed from the proximity of schools falls away.

The burning of the schools might also be aimed at pinching the parents who might even be requested to contribute towards the repairs of the schools destroyed.

The student demand for army and police bases to be removed from nearby the schools is a legitimate one; students have died in the past either through crossfire or direct fire as a result of the bases being near schools, the thunder of heavy fire from such nearby bases can hardly be termed conducive for studies - there are numerous other reasons.

What the government should be doing is to treat this cause, rather than treating symptoms like hunting down the so-called radicals, for this is the only way out.

Literature and the community - Academy symposium

THE WRITERS Association of the Academy is to hold a symposium on literature and the community. The symposium will start on Saturday, August 6, at 09h00. The venue will be the Academy Auditorium, Room 207.

Various speakers will participate in the symposium on different topics, and they include Professor G H Weideman, Professor A Totemeyer, Mrs L Kazombau, Ms Gwen Lister, Mr Andre Strauss and Mr H Eichab.

Registration fees are R6 for adults and R4 for students.

Okalongo base bombarded

A SECURITY force base in northern Namibia was bombarded from Angolan soil early on Monday morning, the SWA Territory Force said in Windhoek yesterday.

The hour-long shelling of the base at Okalongo, about eight kilometres from the Angolan border, occurred at 1.30am and 122mm rockets as well as D30 cannons were used.

Between 70 and 90 bombs and rockets were fired at the base, and the bombardment stopped after the security forces had taken counter action.

The SWATF statement said minor damage was caused to equipment, but it made no mention of casualties.



THE ONGWEDIWA Training College - the target of arsonists last Thursday night. The college has now been closed and students are on boycott.

/AI//GAMS GROUP REJECT ARSON AT SCHOOLS

THE Action Committee of the /Ai//Gams Group on Thursday issued a strongly worded statement in which it rejected the continuing destruction and burning of schools by what it called "enemy agents".

The press statement was released following an emergency meeting on Wednesday night during which the Action Committee reviewed the deteriorating situation in the country's education system.

The /Ai//Gams Committee said that they had reason to believe that the schools were not being destroyed by students as alleged by the "enemy media".

They said they found it particularly strange that so many schools had been burnt, without anyone being apprehended.

Another discrepancy they pointed out was the fact that in the north, schools had been burnt down during the night while the dusk to dawn curfew that applies in the region had been in force.

The Committee states that the answer is obvious to the question of who would be able to move around at night under the protection of the curfew regulations.

They pointed out that the Ongwediva school was destroyed at 03h00 in the morning, while the population was still under curfew in their homes.

Furthermore they said reports from Luderitz alleged that the school in the town was burnt while the gates were locked, and members of Koevoet were inside the school premises.

On the question of parents being made to pay for damages caused to schools, the Action Committee said that it rejected this move on the grounds that it was unfair for people to be asked to pay for damage that they did not cause.

The responsible party, namely the government should pay for its own rotten deeds. After all it is taxpayers' money.

The statement issued under the name of the Co-ordinator of the political grouping, Mr Hitevi Nui, charged that:

"Government agents are killing people and destroying their property throughout the country without paying compensation, or even showing remorse. The people refuse to be whitemailed in this regard."

The /Ai//Gams Action Committee called on the entire population to be vigilant and look out for these agent provocateurs.

The Committee also indicated that it was prepared to take action in order to protect the property being destroyed. Especially property that belonged to the people and had been created with their money.



Windhoek: August 24, 1988

ANGLICAN BISHOP IN NAMIBIA HIT BY SOUTH AFRICAN RUBBER BULLETS
FORTY STUDENTS ARRESTED BY SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE

Bishop James Kauluma, leader of the Anglican church in Namibia, was hit by rubber bullets today as South African Police arrested 40 students at the Shifidi High School in Katutura, the black township outside of Windhoek. The bishop, who recently returned from the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, England, was wearing a clerical collar and the purple shirt of his office. He was badly bruised after being hit in the leg and the back.

This is the latest incident since pupils in Katutura and elsewhere in Namibia resumed their boycott of classes in a show of solidarity with northern war zone schools threatened by nearby military bases. Bishop Kauluma had gone to the school after hearing reports that a contingent of police were taking action against striking pupils. When he arrived there he saw police informers pointing out students to the police. "I was outside the barbed wire fence and could not go inside," said the bishop. "Then I saw police grab a boy and then a girl and throw them violently into the van. A senior officer shouted to us to move away and we cooperated by crossing to the other side of the street. "

Soon afterwards the rubber bullets began flying "all over the show. I climbed through a hole in a fence but was then hit in the leg and the back. I didn't see who fired it, but the police were shooting indiscriminately." The badly-bruised bishop later received treatment from his doctor. He then consulted lawyers about the incident.

This is not the first time the bishop has been in the firing line of the South African military. Some years ago in Oshakati, he and the Lutheran Bishop of Ovamboland, Kleophas Dumeni, were praying with the widow of a priest who had just died. "I heard soldiers outside and one of them said, 'They are praying', and the next thing one of them fired a bullet. Fortunately, he missed. When the soldier, a black man, saw our clerical gear, he apologised. I shook his hand and said 'May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be upon you.' We live this sort of life, but we have the protection of God and will continue our work." /ends

Above may be used without fee; Please credit where possible
Namibia Communications Centre, news agency working with the
Christian churches in Namibia. Contact: Rev'd John Evenson,
London 833 2905

NAMIBIA: The Students' Boycott - A National Issue

On 17 March 1988, the 600 students at the Ponghafi secondary school in northern Namibia walked out to protest the proximity of South African military bases to their place of learning. The walkout movement spread rapidly throughout the country. Students expressed their opposition not only to military and police intimidation, harassment and even maiming and murder but to the reactionary racist educational system imposed upon them by Pretoria and its local agents. Parents, teachers, churchpeople, trade unionists rallied to the young activists. The Namibia National Students' Organisation - NANSO - sponsored a July conference and from this came a National School Crisis Committee - NSCC - solidifying the high motivation and political maturity of the people of an occupied country.

South African police and military assaults on the Namibian people are all too familiar and have gone on far too long. Elements bound to Pretoria have joined in the oppressive machinery. The propaganda sheet from the DTA group - below - illustrates:



PARENTS OF NAMIBIA

We as parents must decide whether our children must learn or be given to Swapo to do Swapo's dirty work because the leaders are afraid to do it themselves.

The parents must decide whether it is correct that Swapo agitators push our children in front so that they can be beaten by the police while they themselves hide somewhere else. Must we allow that only the children of Swapo leaders are studying at private schools and get normal education while Swapo are abusing our children to boycott schools.

Did the school of Abisai Shejavali's children also strike?

Did the school of Anton Lubowski's children also strike?

Parents, we must see to it that our children are allowed to learn and to qualify themselves for the future. Politics may never damage the future of our children.

Let the education of our children always come first, only the enemies of the people want our children to stay uneducated. Open your eyes so that you can see who is really causing the problems at our schools.

AAKULUNTU YA NAMIBIA !!!

Tse aakuluntu otu na oku tokola ngele uunona wetu u ilonge nongele ugandjwe ku Swapo opo u Kongele ongundu ndyoka ilonga yonyata oshoka aakomeho ya Swapo oya tila ya longwe ilonga mbyoka.

Aakuluntu na ya Tokole ngele osha uka omaminimini ga Swapo sho taga undulle komeho uunona opo u dhengwe kaapolosi omanga yo ya lolama.

Otuna oku etha opo uunona wo Swapo awike ulongwe poosikola dlo paumwene omanga Swapo ta pukitha no ku ambidhidha uunona opo u kale pondje noosikola?

Osikola mboka pena uunona wa Abisai Shejavali oya kankama? Osikola mboka pena uunona wa Anton Lubowski nayo oya kankama? Aakuluntu, otuna okumona opo uunona wetu u mone elongo opo u hume komeho melongo.

Opolotika inaayi tula uunona wetu moshiponga nande. Elongo iyuunona wetu nali kale oshigwanithwa shotango, aatondi

yoshigwana oyo ayeke yahala uunona wetu ukale ina wu mona elongo.

Pashukeni mu imonene neyene ngoka ta piyaganeke poosikola dhetu.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY

We, the representatives of parents/workers/students from various towns, villages, districts and regions in Namibia, having met at the invitation of the Namibia National Students' Organisation (NANSO), to discuss in depth the current national educational crisis in our country as the National Peoples' Assembly on the 9th July 1988 at Döbra High School in Windhoek, have come to the realisation that we have gained unity which we need to consolidate in order to advance from a position of strength.

We, therefore, resolve to take a tactical move that students should go back to schools to assess, reorganise and sustain the unity gained. We further resolved that within a period of four weeks from the opening of the schools, the following conditions be responded to:

- (a) that all detained students, parents and teachers be released;
- (b) that all expelled students be admitted to school unconditionally;
- (c) that all workers and teachers who have been dismissed be reinstated unconditionally;
- (d) that there is no expulsion and intimidation against student activists due to the recent crisis;
- (e) that the army bases be removed immediately from the schools in the north;
- (f) that all members of Koevoet and SADF be withdrawn from the schools, townships and villages; and
- (g) that all racist and reactionary teachers leave our schools immediately;

We further wish to make it known that appropriate national actions would be considered if these conditions are not met.

Noting that the crisis has a national character, hence the need for a national approach and strategy, the National Peoples' Assembly resolved to set up an ad hoc National School Crisis Committee (NSCC) which shall:

- (a) co-ordinate the work of all the various progressive school crisis (parents) committees as a national meeting level;
- (b) co-ordinate and disseminate information concerning the educational crisis throughout the country;
- (c) assist those students victimised by the system as a result of the crisis;
- (d) facilitate the formation of democratic parent/teachers/student associations (PTSA's) at all schools; and
- (e) facilitate the establishment of a progressive national teachers' organisation.

We further call upon the various school-crisis (parents) committees all over the country to assist parents and students when the school reopen to ensure that all students are admitted unconditionally at their respective schools.

Attended by parent/worker/student delegates from the following places in Namibia:

Gobabis
Grootfontein
Swakopmund
Khomasdal (Windhoek)
Katutura (Windhoek)
Tsumeb
Walvisbay
Omaruru

Ondangwa
Oshakati
Uis
Okahandja
Rundu
Arandis
Gibeon
Luderitz

CCN'S Döbra resolutions

A NUMBER of resolutions were adopted at the Council of Churches (CCN) Conference held at Döbra from July 4 to 8, 1988.

The preamble to the resolutions said that: "Having recognised the significance of 1988 for Namibia and its people, it being the 10th Anniversary of the Cassinga Massacre, 10 years since the adoption of UNSC Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia; the Council of Churches in Namibia, also celebrating its 10th Anniversary, convened an International Conference at Döbra from July 4-8, 1988. The theme of the conference was "The Responsibility of the Church in Underdevelopment in the Namibian Context". Delegates from all regions of Namibia and member churches of the CCN, from South Africa, Norway, Denmark, West Germany and the UK attended the conference to critically analyse the situation in illegally occupied Namibia. The conference came to the following conclusions:

1. That the church as the community serving humanity and called to act, must move in its ministry towards the poor and the oppressed.
2. That the peoples' concept of God grows out of their experience and consequently there seem to be two gods in Southern Africa, the God of the poor and the false god of the oppressor.
3. That we become Christians by acting as Christians.
4. That the Church must not nourish the divisions in our society but rather it must equip itself with the tools to bring about a unified and liberated Namibia.
5. That God's plan for the future is a world without suffering and where the Church will be a community serving humanity, and therefore Apartheid, exploitation and oppression are moral sins against humanity.

The first resolution stated that: "Accepting that God is only God if He is a liberating God, that faith can only be faith if it is a liberating faith, that religion can only be a true religion if it is liberating and that the Church can only be the true Church if she is committed to a Yahveh God, the conference urges the CCN to run conscientising workshops throughout the congregations of Namibia aimed at increasing the awareness of the people of the liberating God of the poor as expressed in the Bible".

The second resolution said: "The conference further resolves that no meaningful development can occur before liberation unless it is aimed at the true development of Namibia's human resources. Such development must stimulate and expand the capacity of the people to properly use and develop the natural resources and structures of an independent Namibia.

The third resolution stated that the conference resolves that the projects sponsored and initiated by the multinational companies, which are illegally exploiting the natural wealth of Namibia and by payment of taxes contributing to the military occupation, are not real development but rather a public relations exercise. In the light of this, the conference calls on the international community to enforce in their laws the provisions of U.N.C.N. (United Nations Council for Namibia) Decree Number One.

The fourth resolution stated that the Church must stand with the poor and the oppressed and not just for them. That the Church will strive for a life of true solidarity and through day to day experience it will be stimulated to truly stand with the poor and oppressed.

The fifth states that the Church as an Assembly of the people must visibly show and give support to the student-worker alliance. To facilitate this process, the CCN is urged to call a conference of the clergy of the member Churches to discuss and clarify the present situation and the stand of the Churches. In resolution six the conference recognised the need for one united teachers' union in Namibia and called on the Church to support such an initiative in all the ways it can. The conference further urges the CCN and its member Churches to facilitate dialogue aiming at improving the relationship between students and teachers.

Resolution seven said that "having recognised that liberation cannot be true liberation without a total equality between men and women, the conference confirms its support for the endeavours already made by women, and calls on the Church Assembly to break down the barriers of sexism, discrimination and oppression wherever found within its structures and procedures, and urges the CCN to establish a Women's Unit to better implement and monitor this work on a broader and more effective basis".

Resolution eight acknowledged and supported those churches which have ordained women, and urged individual

Churches of the CCN to answer the needs of women who have voiced a calling to become ordained ministers serving the community.

The conference, in its ninth resolution, affirmed its support for the current students' uprising and supported the students' demand for the removal of the SA army and Koevoet bases from the vicinity of our schools.

Resolution 10 stated that that there should be a respect for the people's culture but a total rejection of ethnicity as a creation of the colonialist power. The conference supports the continuing promotion of English as the common medium of instruction and the teaching of other languages as subjects, and urged that the CCN researches other aspects of the peoples' cultures such as music, art and drama, with a view of establishing a Unit for the promotion of a national peoples' culture. Resolution 11 demanded the immediate and total withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia and the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435.

Resolution 12 affirmed its solidarity with the black community of Mariental and calls upon the Municipality of Mariental to recognise the Mariental Community Action Group and respond to their demands for the closure of the public beer hall which causes so much pain and disorder in the communities of Empelheim and Aimablaagte. The conference further urges all the Municipalities in Namibia which are operating public outlets for selling and distributing alcohol to stop this demonic practice.

In resolution 13 the conference, in recognising the importance of community based volunteer work in the building of structures and strategies for national liberation and national building, called upon the CCN and member Churches to facilitate and encourage such involvement.

The conference recognised the need, in Resolution 14, for the widest possible spread of information and understanding at the community level. It also recognises the importance of those who are educated to study, develop and apply liberating ideas and strategies. It therefore calls on the CCN and its member Churches to facilitate and organise conscientising groups in the local communities and to encourage the regular meeting of discussion and study groups.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH PEOPLE for a FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA
339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012-2725

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New York, N.Y.
Permit No. 8125