

SWAAN Call



July/August/September 1987

Number 7

This is a special, **ACTION-ALERT** issue of SWAAN Call. There is legislation pending that requires action now. In this special edition, there is also a feature on the people of the Pacific's struggle for control of their land and for a Nuclear Free Pacific (see pages 3 & 4). There have also been serious developments in Congress concerning policy on southern Africa. Your attention and action are needed now. Please read on.

386 KILLED IN MOZAMBIQUE BY MNR

Anti-Government rebels massacred 386 people at a coastal town in Inhambane province, Mozambique, July 20, 1987. Reports from scene of the killings in Homoine, a fishing village 300 miles northeast of Maputo, Mozambique's capital, said townspeople had been forced to march along a road and were killed as they walked. Few other details were available. Officials in Maputo said the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), known as Renamo, was responsible for the massacre. Mozambique National Radio said the massacre began at 5:45 a.m., July 18. The nation's radio said many old people, women, children, and patients at Homoine's hospital were among those forced to take part in the death march.

A.I.M., the Mozambican national news service, asserted that the guerrillas had received guns, mortars, and ammunition in a May 8 parachute re-supply by the South African Air Force and that local peasants were forced to carry the weapons to the MNR's camp. "The South African Defense Force used five parachutes made in the United States of America to deliver war material for the bandits in the southern province of Inhambane," the agency said. A.I.M. staff members saw one of the parachutes at army headquarters in Maputo and it was inscribed "U.S. HUDCO-63." South Africa says it stopped helping the rebels in 1984 when the two countries signed a nonaggression pact, but Mozambique says South Africa continues the aid covertly. (Excerpt of NY Times Article, 7/21/87)

CONSERVATIVE CAMPAIGN TO FUND MNR

In a shift of policy, the Reagan Administration has held low-level official talks with a representative of anti-Government rebels in Mozambique and is considering expanding such contacts. The move comes as the Administration

is under considerable pressure from conservatives in Congress to change its policy of full support for the Marxist Government of Mozambique. The campaign to persuade the Administration to shift in favor of Renamo has been led by Senator Jesse Helms of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and supported by Bob Dole, the Senate minority leader. There is intense debate between the Senate and the State Dept. over U.S. policy in southern Africa and whether the Reagan Administration should support anti-Communist insurgencies there as it does in Central America. The Senate Republicans are forcing the issue by holding up the confirmation of Melissa Wells, the Administration's nominee for Ambassador to Mozambique. Senator Helms said he would lift his objections to Ms. Wells if the State Department would hold talks with Renamo.

Administration officials have said repeatedly that they will not recognize or negotiate with the rebel group, Renamo, because it has ties to South Africa and to do so would undercut relations with the Maputo Government. But the Administration is seeking ways to defuse the confrontation with Senate Republicans who have insisted on some sort of contact the Renamo rebels.

Renamo was established by white-ruled Rhodesia in 1976, the year after Mozambique gained its independence from Portugal to continue to destabilize the installed Government of the Mozambican people, FRELIMO, and create terror in the countryside. The State Dept. says that Renamo has little popular support and is being kept alive by South Africa and dismisses them as an instrument of the South African military intelligence's efforts to undermine Mozambique. Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, has described Renamo as "a tool of the South African military."

(continued on page two)

(Campaign to Fund MNR, continued from page 1)

CALL FOR ACTION

In June, Greg Fergin, State Department Desk Officer, held talks with Renamo's Washington representative over the issue of an American woman abducted by the rebels last May. The woman, Kindra Bryan, a 28-year-old nurse from Texas, was seized along with an Australian and five Zimbabweans, including a baby, from a farm in an area where the rebels are active. State Department officials acknowledged Mr. Fergin's meeting with the Renamo representative, Luis Serapiao. American officials described the meeting as merely an effort to obtain information about Ms. Bryan. But other officials said it was also an attempt to satisfy the demands in Congress that Renamo be accorded some measure of recognition. They said the Administration was also discussing other ways to accomplish this.

The State Department has adopted a strategy of improving ties to the Mozambican Government. Moreover, officials say Renamo is a movement with no popular support that has regularly committed atrocities against the civilian population. Senator Helms and his allies contend that Renamo is a genuine anti-Communist movement deserving American support while the Government of Joaquim Chissano does not. (NY Times & other sources)

ANALYSIS

An increasing effort by conservatives in the U.S. to support rebels in Mozambique and Angola has led to huge casualties in those two southern Africa countries. U.S. support has helped supply the armies of the MNR rebels in Mozambique and UNITA rebels in Angola, providing arms and other aid. Terming the rebels "freedom fighters," Senator Jesse Helms (R-N. Carolina) and Bob Dole (R-Kansas) are leading a campaign in Washington, D.C., to legitimize these groups through legislation that calls for funding the rebels. This campaign has helped to maintain war and the resulting civilian casualties.

Neither the MNR or UNITA has put forth a plan to govern their respective countries. Rather, they act as saboteurs, terrorists, and destabilizers of existing government programs. The prolonged war has cost these countries \$10 billion in damage and thousands of lives.

The Call to Conscience Action Network on Southern Africa has activated the Network in response to the massacre in Mozambique. The murder of these 386 people by the South Africa-backed Renamo must not go unchallenged. The Network is requesting that people telephone, telegram, or write to their Congressperson, condemning the massacre. Copies of all letters and telegrams should be sent to the U.S. State Department, c/o George Schultz, State Department, Washington, D.C. 20520. Immediate response is important! Please act today.

Also let your congressperson know that you want the U.S. to support the popularly-elected, constitutional governments in Angola and Mozambique. Urge them to withdraw support for UNITA rebels in Angola and reject proposals to aid the MNR bandits (Renamo) in Mozambique.

EFFORTS ARE NEEDED NOW:

--Start campaigns in your communities to support the people of Angola and Mozambique in southern Africa. Organize: a) Material aid; b) Legislative support and foreign aid; c) Direct financial aid.

--Defeat the Swindle-Burton Amendments to the Senate State Dept. Appropriations Bill S-1934. This amendment, which passed in the House, restricts the free movement of ANC and SWAPO representatives in the U.S. and restricts aid to the region for projects that "may support the ANC."

Support efforts to keep the plight of southern African children before the American public.

FREEDOM KEYS: We are starting a key campaign. Send us your old, useless keys -- we will send them to the South Africa Ambassador as a symbol to unlock apartheid's prisons and let the children free. Please contact us by Sept. 20, 1987, with your "FREEDOM KEYS."

Support product boycotts. Boycott Shell, Coke, and all South African originated products.

CRISIS IN PALAU

BACKGROUND: Since 1947 the Republic of Palau (Belau) has been under the control of the United States as a part of the U.N. Strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. According to the provisions of the Trusteeship agreements, the U.S. was/is responsible for assisting the islanders to become politically and economically self-sufficient, with the goal of self-government or independence. Instead, American interests and policies regarding the small nation located in the Western Pacific has created a nation almost totally dependent upon U.S. dollars.

In 1979 the United States asked the Belauan people to write a constitution as part of the preparation to end the Trusteeship. A new type of agreement was being developed to create a new relationship between the Belauans and the United States. They did write a constitution, and in 1979 voted on and approved the world's first nuclear free constitution.

This proved unacceptable to the United States military planners and other political leaders who have plans for a number of military installations on Belau. So the people were forced to vote twice more on their own constitution. Both times the anti-nuclear free provisions were supported. Not to be denied, the American government trotted out the "Compact of Free Association," the new document intended to replace the Trusteeship agreement. The Compact was signed by the U.S. and Palauan governments in August of 1982, and required the suspension of the the nuclear free provisions. However, to revoke those provisions the Compact would need to receive 75% or more approval of the Palauan voters. Forced to vote on five (5) separate occasions, they have approved the Compact but would not agree to get rid of the nuclear free parts of their constitution. Essentially, the American government has forced the people in Belau to vote eight (8) separate times on their governing document.

CURRENT CRISIS: The latest reports from Belau are very disturbing. President Sali, a strong supporter of the Compact and the U.S., started laying off of government workers, cutting back on water and electrical services claiming that it was necessary because the country had not fully approved the Compact. Demonstrations have taken place and opposition leaders have had their lives threatened and one leader had his house fire bombed. The situation has gotten so tense that the traditional leader of Belau, High Chief Yutaka

Gibbons, has urgently requested a peace-keeping mission from the United Nations.

President Sali is in a great deal of trouble himself. Eight separate lawsuits have been filed against him. There is speculation that the current unrest may be a ploy by the government so that a state of emergency can be declared and that Sali will claim emergency powers and suspend the constitution.

There are a number of questions which must be answered. Under the Trusteeship, Belau is actually receiving more U.S. money in 1987 than it did in 1986. Given this fact, how can Sali blame the fiscal problems on the failure of the Compact? Also since there is more aid from the U.S. this year, why does he claim a shortfall of \$1.6 million this year? And finally, where is the American accounting of its aid money ?

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The United States Congress and the Department of State has refused to renegotiate the Compact. That is the reason that the Belauan have had to vote so many times. We urge you to contact your representatives in Washington and ask them to investigate the situation in Palau, especially in regards to President Sali's actions, and to have an audit done on our aid money. We are also asking you to let your Congressional representatives know that you support the Paluan's right to maintain their constitution. Finally, write or phone the U.N. Security Council with requests that a peace-keeping mission be sent to the Republic of Palau. U.N. Security Council, United Nations Building, New York, NY 10017

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Craig T. Shimabukuro -- (206) 632-0500

AMERICAN LAKE, Nuclear Peril in the Pacific, an excellent new book on the Pacific is available in the AFSC office for \$6.95. We also have a number of new slide shows and video tapes on the Pacific, Korea, the Philippines, and Belau. There are also two different Pacific "tee-shirts" for sale. Call the above number or write to Craig at AFSC, 814 N.E. 40th, Seattle, WA 98105.

NUCLEAR THREAT: AN INDIGENOUS VIEW

Hone Harawire spoke about the Pacific view of the nuclear threat at a Physicians for Social Responsibility International Conference. The following is an excerpt from his speech printed in the Pacific News Bulletin.

A lot of my people have become cynical lately, and when I think of the massive demonstrations against nuclear weapons and nuclear war, I start to wonder. I wonder why no one seems to care about my cousins in Tahiti -- suffering from nuclear testing. I wonder where the support is for my cousins in Belau who are being forced to accept military bases they do not want. I wonder why tens of thousands aren't marching in Europe and America to keep my aboriginal cousins from being pushed off their land because its rich in uranium. Only now -- only now that you are affected do you sit up and take notice. And I wonder -- if the great nuclear threat disappeared -- would you still turn out in such numbers for my cousins in the Pacific?

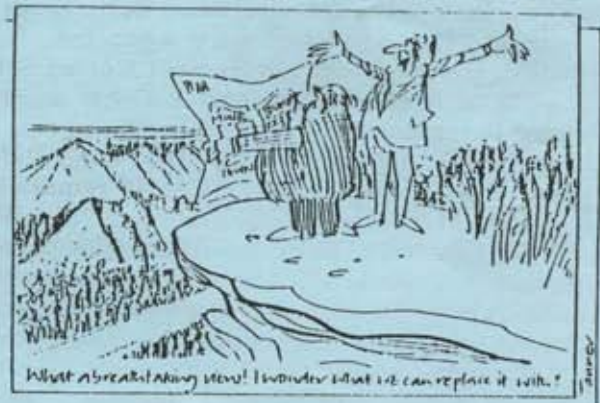
In the Pacific we are taught to respect the environment, for by so doing the people are guaranteed life in return. But Europeans have treated the environment as just a resource, and now that they have almost destroyed it, they set up Commissions to protect it. The Pacific way is to educate people in a holistic manner. But Europeans have dehumanized education, and now they wonder why there is so much stress, crime, and confusion.

Pacific people treat generations past, present, and future as though they were with us, to give us a better perspective of just who we really are -- caretakers of the past and guardians of the future. But Europeans have made individualism paramount and greed as its fuel -- and now Europeans have group therapy to try to get back in touch with themselves and one another. In the Pacific, we view death as a ritualistic and vital part of life itself. But Europeans have reduced

death to a statistic, a factor in resource control, and now you worry because your control methods have gotten out of hand. And now the bombs. Your nuclear bombs.

The problem with European solutions is that they are only reactions to problems which should never have arisen in the first place. They aim to stop what is happening rather than prevent the problem. But stopping this nuclear madness isn't just about reducing SS20s or limiting MX missiles, or scientific analysis. I ask you to ponder these questions. Is what you have created with your scientific discoveries truly a better world? Are material possessions and awesome power the true marks of civilization? I think not. In terms of resource monopoly, economic slavery and potential for death, European civilization is more barbaric, savage, and destructive than any other.

I say all this without malice, but I must speak honestly. I am proud to be here, and I express my gratitude for having been able to attend. All we of the Pacific ask is that you put aside your analyses and your tests for a while, and give a thought to our thoughts, to a more relaxed and longer-lasting future than just one without nuclear weapons. Our fight for a better world will only be won when the story I began with come to its proper conclusion -- when the white man comes home.



American Friends Service Committee
814 N.E. Fortieth Street
Seattle WA 98105

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Seattle, Wash.
Permit No. 3438