

To: Members, Board of Directors; Africa Panel,  
Southern Africa Committee, and other friends

Date: 16 August 1977

From: David Sogge *David Sogge*

Subject: Southern Africa Study Tour: Latest Dispatches

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Here are two cabled messages (slightly edited for clarity) from Paul Brink, Information Services staff member who is part of the 14-person AFSC study tour group:

From Lusaka, Zambia -- 8 August

At an evening gathering at Friends International Centre, Nairobi August 4th, the group met Kenya's Foreign Minister Munyoi Waiyaki and U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Wilbur LeMelle.

On August 5th Ken Best of the All-Africa Conference of Churches told the group that for many years the churches made feeble efforts to solve the problems of southern Africa, but the churches have been part of the problem there. (Ed. note: context unclear here.)

In Lusaka on August 6th the delegation presented sets of Scrabble (for English language practice) and books in a visit to the Namibia Institute, which is training future administrators for the Namibian nation.

Following a tour of the Lusaka City Council's community upgrading project, in which AFSC plays a key training role, the group met on August 7th with representatives of South African liberation movements. In several discussions they laid emphasis on two thrusts in the struggle: nonviolence (including political action, strikes and boycotts) and the use of arms. Many see no conflict in using both approaches.

On August 8th the group met with U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Steven Low.

From Maputo, Mozambique -- 16 August

President Kenneth Kaunda hosted the study tour group at the State House, Lusaka, on Sunday, August 14, following the group's 4-day stay in Botswana.

He said that the day the Western countries decide to stop their support of South Africa and Rhodesia, peace with justice will be possible in Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. But until that time the conflicts will continue. The Western countries carry a very heavy responsibility, he said. He called South Africa the citadel of southern African oppression.

Regarding Namibia, Kaunda said that if the five Western nations have no success in their negotiations with South Africa on the future of that territory, the struggle there will grow and intensify.

On Rhodesia, Kaunda told the group that only oil sanctions will quell the Rhodesian rebellion without violence, "But in fact British, U.S., and French oil interests continue to oil the Smith war machine." He predicted that the war in Rhodesia would end, and that Zimbabwe will be reborn within a year.

Kaunda said he hopes President Carter's human rights statements include southern Africa, adding that he trusts Carter's pronouncements but wonders if the U.S. establishment will allow Carter's policies to be effected.

He said that nonviolence is basic to his thinking and action. "We are pushing ourselves toward more nonviolence but we don't always succeed." Philadelphia staff member Peter 'Molotsi presented Kaunda with the book, The Power of the People: Active Nonviolence in the U.S., in a brief ceremony as a token of AFSC recognition of Kaunda's contribution to the struggle.

The group arrived O.K. in Maputo, Mozambique that night (Sunday, August 14).