



macsa

news

MADISON AREA COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
731 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703

NUMBER 41
August, 1974

MACSA CALENDAR

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| Monday, Sept. 2 | MACSA newsletter assembly work session
7:30 p.m., Pres House basement, 731 State Street |
| Sunday, Sept. 8 | MACSA General Meeting
2:00 p.m., Pres House basement |
| Tuesday, Sept. 24 | First anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic
of Guinea-Bissau |

THIS ISSUE OF MACSA NEWS brings you a commentary on the women's role in the African Liberation struggle, further news of the coup in Portugal and its effect on the course of the liberation movements, and news briefs.

STATEMENT OF EDITORIAL POLICY AND INTENT

The Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa has been undergoing a period of reevaluation and reorganisation. The organization's principal goals are seen to be: fund-raising for benefit of the Southern African liberation forces; dissemination of information to the community concerning the progress of the liberation struggles and their connection with events in the United States and elsewhere; and political education as to the nature of the struggle against imperialist oppression and the effort to build a new socialist society. The principles embodied in the Membership Criteria of the Madison Sustaining Fund and adopted by MACSA and printed in the last issue of the MACSA News outlines these goals in a general way.

The MACSA News is envisaged to be one way in which these goals may be furthered and made relevant to the community. In light of this, the MACSA News will attempt to fulfill a broader and more explicit purpose than it has in the past. Tentatively there will be four main sections to the News:

1) News Briefs: As before, news briefs and summaries culled from the Press will continue to be offered. This is considered to be particularly important in order that readers may be kept informed of the situation on the liberation front. Efforts will be made to include news concerning not only Southern Africa, but also related events elsewhere in the world, particularly in the United States.

2) Forum for analysis: It is believed that analysis, not just reporting, is important for those concerned with social change. It is anticipated that each issue will lead off with at least one article of an analytical nature. The purpose of this will be to place the African struggles in the broader perspective of the struggle of Third World, and all oppressed peoples to overcome the exploitative constraints on them and to restructure their society. It is hoped that these articles can serve as a foundation for a forum through which MACSA News readers can sharpen their understanding of these issues.

3) Campus News and Fundraising Activities: As before, part of the function of the MACSA News will be to continue to report on campus functions relating to Africa and the liberation movements. We shall also keep readers informed of the various fund-raising projects underway.

4) Education: Many members of MACSA and readers of the MACSA News are involved in other activities and organisations concerned with social change. A fourth section will attempt to make readers aware of the educational materials which are available as aids for bringing the issues of liberation and social transformation to these organisations. It is hoped that MACSA News readers will make maximum use of this material.

Readers should bear in mind the fact that the colonial and racist regimes in Africa are part of a world-wide system of imperialism and that the effort of Third World peoples to build new societies under socialist principles is inextricably tied up with the struggle for new societies elsewhere in the Third World and in the capitalist societies of the West. Their struggle aids ours, just as ours aids theirs.

Comments, letters, and articles are welcome from all readers. They should be addressed to: The Editor, MACSA News, Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa, 731 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

WOMEN, AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA by Patty Cone

"When we girls started to work there was strong opposition against our participation. Because that was against our tradition. We then started a big campaign explaining why we also had to fight, that the Frelimo war is a people's war in which the whole people must participate, that we women were even more oppressed than men and that we therefore had

the right as well as the will and the strength to fight. We insisted on our having military training and being given weapons."

--by a woman in the Woman's Detachment of Frelimo

Women's interests, needs, and goals have changed considerably in the last ten years in Mozambique and Angola. It is difficult to determine what major impetus caused the change but it is safe to say that the liberation movement, as well as the universal trend for women to recognize themselves as human beings rather than simply mothers and slaves had a good deal to do with it. This article wishes to look at the development of the woman's role in Frelimo and MPLA, and as well, present the effects women are having on these organizations.

Frequently, the literature on women in Southern Africa will describe a young girl's life prior to entering Frelimo. The young girl experiences two forces of oppression. The first is the training the young girl receives from a very early age on to be a subservient, passive worker. One girl describes how her childhood came to end very quickly when at the age of 12 or 13, her father handed her a hoe which she would use to tend the crops in the fields as her mother had done. For the young girls, life would then be tending the field, and later serving her husband, as she had learned to do so well as a child. She would learn to accept the fact that women have no social role other than being mothers to their husband's children, caretakers, and housekeepers. The other force of oppression is really not comparable to the first. It is the threat of colonialists coming into the village at any time. Women would be abused, frequently in front of their husbands who could not do anything, people would be murdered for one thing or another, and food would be taken. These experiences drove quite a few people, men, women, and children, away from the villages and into the movements.

Women became very active around October, 1966, at the Frelimo Central Committee Meeting. Here it was decided that "Mozambican women should participate at all levels in the movement." Following this meeting, in 1967, the first women's group trained in Cabo Delgado and Niassa. What occurred was not only a recognition of women's abilities in combat but also how important they were as political educators.

Presently, women in Frelimo were involved in combat; some are defending the liberated areas, while others are fighting next to men in advance zones and in ambushes. There are also many women working in the Department of Security, while others are active in political education. Josina Michel, who died three years ago while fighting for Frelimo made this statement about education: "In this work we explain to the people the need to fight, what kind of struggle we are waging, with whom we fight and against whom, what are the reasons for the struggle and what are our aims; why we chose an armed struggle as the only means to independence, the need for foreign aid and who supports us in giving aid." Finally, self reliance, Josina Michel explained, is of primary importance.

OMA (Organizacao do Mulher de Angola) came into existence some years after women were already involved in MPLA. This organization developed to "mobilize all the abilities of women for the revolution in order that they may bring a higher consciousness to their work for the rights and interests of women and children and create favorable conditions for the total emancipation of the women of Angola."

As with the women in Frelimo, OMA has been active in all aspects of the movement. Women are found in combat, are being trained as radio operators, doctors, hygiene workers, truck drivers, combat supply carriers, and teachers of agriculture. As in the woman's detachment in Frelimo, they are also involved heavily in political education. Part of this education involves giving out information about the emancipation of women. They want people to recognize that "there must be a complete liberation of all people or everyone will remain enslaved."

Women have not only been trained to be teachers, but have also become part of village politics. In each village men and women elect representatives for the Village Action Committee which heads all political and economic matters. Every committee has one woman elected from OMA.

Both Lifemo (the group that became part of the woman's detachment in Frelimo) and OMA are wáry concerned about children in the liberated areas. Orphanages have sprung up where children have been left alone either because parents were killed by the Portuguese, died from other causes, or are away fighting in other areas of the country.

Education has been a particular concern of the women. Before the liberation struggle commenced in Mozambique, schoold were rarely found in the countryside. At the present time some 20,000 Mozambican children are being taught through Frelimo in schools which can serve the interests of the new society. The greatest concern in this educational endeavor is that everyone become literate. Children, women, and men are taught to read, write, and calculate. Anyone who can do this becomes a techer. Each school is also a food producer. Young children are taught soil cultivation, and are also the directors of food production and storage in the "Machamba", and enclosure for potatoes, vegetables, and fruits. School is also a defense center in case of attack. "Self Defense is the third general duty of the school."

The work of the school is an intrinsic part of the struggle for liberation. Teaching for this reason is a very valuable resource. There are four classes one needs to complete to be a 4-class teacher. This system does not waste time demanding that students only be students. If you are a student working in class 3, you are capable of teaching 1 and 2. Presently 1500 boys and girls are being trained in Tanzania for work as 4-class teachers in the liberated areas. Some children are attending schools in Bagamoyo (Tanzania) and still others are beginning to graduate from universities.

Another aspect of Frelimo's education project is called "Educating Mothers of Mozambique." In the past year and a half, consulting centers have been set up for pregnant wómen. Child care courses are now being offered for mothers. These programs are trying to get both men and women to be involved in the education of children. Women involved in these programs look at husbands and fathers as allied in the struggle for freedom.

One point that might be brought out here is that women in these movements have been concerned about the division of roles among the sexes in the movement. Although women have proven themselves in combat, and in other areas traditionally designated as "men's work," it seems that a great number of women are involved in child care, education, and in disseminating political information. This is a period in which men must try to change their attitudes concerning division of roles. Women in the movement continue to emphasize that the jobs of child care worker, health consultant, and techer are jobs that must be shared by everyone if this is to be a true revolution.

THE PORTUGUESE COUP AND THE AFRICAN WARS: PART II by John Hunter

The idealogical posture of the ruling junta in Portugal was largely concealed by the general euphoria exhibited by the Portuguese people following the April 25th coup. As was reported in the last issue of the MACSA News, however, the ultimate direction which the coup would take was seen to have important consequences for the progress of the liberation movements in the Portuguese colonies. As a result of recent power manœuvres in Portugal, this posture is becoming more evident. The

junta appears to be moving leftward.

Following a week of tense governmental activity over economic plans, Prime Minister Palma Carlos and four other centrist ministers in the provisional cabinet resigned their posts in early July. This was accompanied by a rebuff to provisional President Antonio de Spínola. Vetoes by the Armed Forces Movement, the group of younger officers which led the coup and which has been the power behind the government since, were decisive in both instances. The ministers had tried to clamp down on trade union activity and to impose stricter government controls on the economy. Spínola, in an attempt to head off the increasing political clout of the Left, particularly the Communist Party, had hoped to move the Presidential election up six months, to October.

With the centrists gone from the government and Spínola seriously weakened, the AFM moved to give the provisional government a greater Leftist stance by installing two of their own leftist sympathisers in top positions. Col. Vasco dos Santos Concalves was chosen to be the new Premier and Maj. Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho was named to head the security apparatus.

In Africa, although the ceasefire has held in Guinea-Bissau (accompanied by reported widespread fraternisation between guerilla fighters and Portuguese troops), Frelimo, in Mozambique, has used the respite provided by the coup to step up the liberation struggle. In mid-July, Frelimo guerillas launched their biggest battle of the war and succeeded in capturing the northern town of Morrumbala. Frelimo is now generally recognised as the political force in the country.

Yielding to the combined pressures from within the government and army and from the colonies, Spínola announced on July 27th that Portugal was committed to the principle of colonial independence. In a televised broadcast he declared: "We are ready from this moment to initiate the transfer of power to the people of the overseas territories considered suitable for this development, namely Guinea, Angola, and Mozambique." The proposed status of the Cape Verde Islands was not spelled out but it is believed that they are not included in the settlement.

According to Geoffrey Godsell of The Christian Science Monitor, "President Spínola's announcement is an admission of how the momentum has gathered in black Africa for independence from Portugal since the coup of last April bringing in the new revolutionary government in Lisbon."

Independence under PAIGC is expected imminently in Guinea. The scheduled transfer of power in Mozambique and Angola is not so certain although most observers believe that Portugal must recognise the virtual hegemony in politics of Frelimo. In Angola, Lisbon has tightened military rule, partly it is thought, to forestall any attempts by the white minority to circumvent majority rule by declaring a Rhodesian-type UDI. The lack of clearly dominant liberation movement makes the power transfer cloudy.

Although the Portuguese announcement is perhaps the most welcome news from this area in some time, many pitfalls could still be in the way. One of these depends upon whether the whites in Mozambique and Angola will be willing to accept majority rule or whether they will attempt to scuttle the independence arrangements. Another possible danger could be intervention by South Africa. One thing is certain, however, and that is that the liberation movements are gaining momentum. Although complacency by supporters of liberation is at this time unwarranted, the prospects for peace are better than they have ever been.

FRELIMO PROMISES HELP

Marcelino Dos Santos, speaking for Frelimo in London, said that a Frelimo-dominated Mozambique would adhere to United Nations sanctions on Rhodesia and to policies of the Organization of African Unity in an effort to aid in the continuing struggle for freedom in Southern Africa. It was noted that 60 percent of Rhodesia's goods travel on railways in Mozambique; that hydro-electric power will soon be available for sale from the Cabora Bassa scheme; that over 100,000 Mozambicans now work in the mines in South Africa; and that Zimbabwean freedom fighters will want and need camps in Mozambique to finish their struggle to free Zimbabwe. All of these international concerns will be handled in accordance with the OAU and UN policies. He summed up by saying, "We will always support all those in Africa and elsewhere who are fighting for freedom and independence. (Star, Johannesburg, June 15, 1974)

GUERRILLA STRUGGLE CONTINUES HEAVY

While the hot war continues to be waged in the northeast of Zimbabwe, Uganda's President Idi Amin, at the OAU meeting in Mogadishu, called on committed countries to attack Rhodesia. General Amin said, "We want to teach the White Rhodesian minority regime the lesson that I have taught the British in Uganda." (Guardian, London, June 29, 1974)

In Zambia, the UNIP branch in Chingola on the Copperbelt has told all Rhodesians that they are to collect \$15,000 to aid in the freedom struggle. Those who do not give may lose their permits and licenses to practice their trades and businesses in Zambia. (Sunday Time of Zambia, Lusaka, June 9, 1974)

The ruling Rhodesian Front's Lardner Burke expressed the seriousness of the need to supply security forces with material and that it is even more difficult with the increased left-wing activity in Britain demanding tightening of sanctions. (Star, Johannesburg, June 22, 1974)

Landmines laid by guerillas have killed a Roads Department engineer, and another vehicle hit a landmine north of Mt. Darwin where a number of people were injured. Bus drivers are no longer willing to drive into the northeast for fear of landmines. The manager of Maziveyi Bus Service, Mr. Motsi, has suspended service in the area. (Star, Johannesburg, June 22, 29, 1974)

Anti-Apartheid News interviewed two recent visitors to the northeast area who report that the guerillas have the full support of the people in the area and that the security forces are given no help in their search for freedom fighters. Guerillas are fed, hidden and protected by the people. They, in turn, warn the local people of landmines and other dangerous situations. (Anti-Apartheid News, June, 1974).

NEW RAIL LINK

In quick response to the Portuguese coup and the assumed hostility of a Black government in Mozambique, Smith of Rhodesia, is building a direct rail link to the sea through South Africa. The present links are through Beira or through hundreds of miles inside Botswana to Capetown. (Zambia Daily Mail, Lusaka, June 10, 1974)

SANCTIONS NEWS

Jordan has denied a charge that it is prepared to sell to Rhodesia 31 Hawker Hunter jet fighters from the Royal Jordanian Air Force. Rhodesian officials also denied the deal. The Rhodesian air force planes are 12-20 years old and parts supplies have been difficult to maintain. (Star, Johannesburg, July 3, 1974)

Japan has been severely condemned for sanctions breaking at the recent OAU meeting in Mogadishu. The African press has picked up the news and anti-Japanese sentiment is spreading over Black Africa just as South Africa has drastically extended her trade relations with Japan. (Star, Johannesburg, June 29, 1974)

A group of experts from the nine Common Market Countries is preparing a study on methods of tightening sanctions. Member nations will be asked to enforce the measures, not the European Economic Community itself. (Star, Johannesburg, June 29, 1974)

Air Rhodesia's New York office is reported closed following a U. S. Treasury order issued last month under sanctions regulations which prohibits Renton Cowley, the manager, from getting any more funds. Cowley had used the office for commercial use and had engaged in other sanction-breaking activities. (Star, Johannesburg, June 22, 1974) (Editor's note: Readers interested in exploring this in more detail are referred to the article by Bruce Oudes, "The Friendly Skies of Air Rhodesia," Ramparts, August, 1974).

PORTUGUESE ATROCITIES

A United Nations fact-finding commission set up last fall to look into reports of atrocities in Mozambique has criticized the new Lisbon government for noncooperation. The team spent three weeks in Europe and two weeks in Tanzania to hear witnesses and concluded that "many hundreds" of unarmed villagers in Mozambique were massacred by Portuguese troops over the past few years. Commission chairman Shailendra Kumar Upadhyay of Nepal sharply criticized the government of Portuguese President Antonio de Spínola for refusing to let the team to visit Mozambique or to interview military officials. (From: The Guardian, New York, July 10, 1974)

SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PREPARING

The apartheid regime of South Africa is stepping up military preparations both on its northern border and in the interior, according to recent Western news agency dispatches. The regime is replacing its border police units in the northeast with regular army troops, the South African Defense Ministry said last week. The move may be related to the current rebellion among African mine workers in the area and may also be the first step toward an invasion of southern Mozambique, long expected by many observers. At the same time, counterinsurgency training courses of the South African police, begun in 1967, are being stepped up. Because of a manpower shortage, the regime also plans to train black South African (Azanians) in the use of firearms for the first time in its history. (From: The Guardian, New York, July 10, 1974)

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE INVITED TO UNITED STATES

A team of 30 members of the South African Police is scheduled to visit the United States in late August. The SAP's have been invited to take part in a Police Olympics in San Francisco from August 28-30. The invitations were issued by Mayor Joseph L. Alioto.

It is a cause of grave concern for Americans that the SAP should be welcomed to this country. The SAP is a national police force run by the central government in Pretoria. The SAP's enforce South Africa's web of racist laws, constantly arresting Africans for not having on their persons correctly annotated reference books (a device by which the 4 million whites control the 16 million blacks) and for other infractions, resulting in over 1,000 Africans a day being processed through Bantu Commissioners courts, where they are rarely defended and where they are sentenced to fines or jail or hired out as laborers to white farmers. It was the South African Police who perpetrated the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960 when with-

out warning they shot dead 69 African men, women and children and wounded 180 others. The security branch of the South African Police is one of the most sophisticated secret police forces in the world, widely known for espionage, midnight raids, limitless detentions, unrestrained interrogations and torture.

The presence of the South African Police in the United States is odious and lends an aura of legitimacy to the regime's racist policies. Call, wire, or write:

Mayor Joseph L. Alioto
City Hall
San Francisco, California 94102
PHONE: (415) 558-3456

and demand that the SAP's be disinvited.

MADISON SUSTAINING FUND MEETING: JULY 21, 1974
by Wandile Kuse

At the Madison Sustaining Fund meeting held on July 21 (MSF meetings are held in the St. Francis House Recreation Room every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. MACSA members should share the responsibility of attending these meetings), the membership criteria were considered. MACSA published these in the last issue of the newsletter. The MACSA representative reported that the issues raised by the criteria had been discussed at length at MACSA meetings. We had progressed beyond the point when we thought that capitalism had to be taken as a given. MACSA members feel a vocation to subvert capitalism whenever and wherever possible; e.g. the support of African Liberation Movements and political education of the American public whenever and wherever opportunities can be exploited for this purpose.

Members of the MSF indicated an interest in MACSA's work and would like to see a presentation of the film strip and cassette commentary of "Partners in Apartheid". This program will form part of the agenda for MSF's next meeting on August 4th.

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