



OCTOBER 27th is

... the tenth anniversary of the day the United Nations revoked South Africa's mandate entitling it to govern Namibia.

... the date set for the launching of Operation Namibia's "BOOKS FOR A FREE NAMIBIA" project.

The "Golden Harvest"

... See OTHER SIDE for update of the situation in Namibia and South Africa

"GOLDEN HARVEST" AND EIGHT MEMBER INTERNATIONAL CREW
TO SET SAIL FROM PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND, OCTOBER 27th.

BANNED BOOKS CARGO TO ARRIVE IN NAMIBIA IN EARLY WINTER

*** THE BOAT: Operation Namibia finally has a boat capable of making the voyage to Namibia without difficulty. The 69 foot GOLDEN HARVEST, a motorized fishing vessel with sails, was purchased this month for £10,000. While this is more than we originally expected to spend, the quality and size of this boat are well worth the price...which is down from £18,000 because one of the previous owners forfeited his share of the sale to support the Books Project. The crew itself has raised £4,000 in personal loans, and money is still desperately needed, BUT THE BOAT WILL SAIL!!! Our first boat, the Namib, may bring as much as £7,500 back to the project when it is sold (we bought it this summer for £3,500), due to the excellent work the crew has put in to it during the past few months.

*** THE CREW is in great spirits. After working together on the Namib and experiencing nonviolent action training in August, the crew is a strong, close-working community of dedicated activists who are ready to face the high seas and challenge South African authority in Namibia. The crew, from seven nations, now includes Karen Elise Gaedart of the United States. Welcome aboard Elise!

*** THE BOOKS: The larger boat means that we can now deliver more books to Namibia. Books are being collected in England up until the last moment; if funds come in for the purchase of books after the boat has sailed, we hope that others can be purchased in Africa.

If you would like to send books directly to Namibia on your own, send them to the: NNC Library, P.O Box 5282
Windhoek, 9111 NAMIBIA

Books cannot, it turns, be insured as we suggested in our last bulletin: South Africa will not insure any mail sent to Namibia or South Africa. However, a supporter tells us that books can be sent "REGISTERED AIR MAIL" and you will be informed as to whether or not they are delivered. (This is expensive, so paperbacks and other light books are suggested.)

*** The PHILADELPHIA NAMIBIA ACTION GROUP is alerting the American and world presses to the launching of the boat, and plans to keep the media informed of the project's progress. We hope to continually raise the question of Namibian independence and to expose the sham which South Africa is calling an "agreement" for independence. (OTHER SIDE)

*** CELEBRATION/BENEFIT: PNAG is also, of course, busy trying to cover the costs of the boat, the crew, mailings, phone bills, and publicity. On Saturday evening, November 13th, we are sponsoring a celebration and benefit in Philadelphia--to commemorate ten years of Namibian struggle and world action, and to raise funds for the Books Project--which will include readings by African poets, films, dances, and musicians. Please come to join us if you are in the area!! (Call or write us for time and place.)

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER. Can you:

- Send us a contribution?
- Tell your friends, and send us their names for our mailing list?
- Send books directly to the NNC library?
- Become an Operation Namibia contact and help with publicity in your area?

UPDATE ON NAMIBIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Recently the American press has at least begun to speak of the question of Namibian independence, and even the U.S. Secretary of State has spoken the name of Namibia and announced that it shall be free. The apparently rapid changes in Rhodesia are presumed to be indicative of the changes to come in Namibia, and the recently ended Turnhalle Conference in Windhoek has been hailed as a preparation for self government.

Unfortunately, a close examination of the Turnhalle "agreements" casts doubt on all of the above.

First of all, the Conference never included SWAPO, the organization recognized by the U.N. and many foreign governments as the exclusive voice of the Namibian people. The Conference was limited by South Africa to ethnic groups rather than political parties, and so SWAPO was excluded while native Namibians were "represented" by tribal leaders designated by elections which the majority of the people had boycotted.

Second, the "agreement" on a two year time limit for the creation of an independent, unified Namibia was not that at all. The delegates merely expressed the "hope" that that could be accomplished, but designated no procedures for bringing it about. And their definition of "unified" seems to have been a loose confederation of "ethnic homelands" which would leave the whites in control of the rich mineral and commercial areas of the country.

Finally, despite this "hope," South Africa has continued to increase its military might in Namibia, still has soldiers operating across the Namibian border in Angola, and, in July, launched a military invasion across the Zambian border at Namibian refugee camps. True, South Africa seems willing and even anxious to end open control in Namibia, but it shows itself equally anxious to create in its place a secure puppet regime.

The rebellions and continuing racial unrest in South Africa among Black Africans and coloreds have proved embarrassing to South African claims of racial harmony through apartheid. Consequently, South Africa has increased its propaganda campaign to demonstrate its good will. It has become the ally of the U.S. in seeking change in Rhodesia and has sought to assure world opinion about the future of Namibia. At the same time, it is seeking to purchase more sophisticated and more modern weapons from France and Israel and has expanded and extended military service.

It is clear that South Africa will yield only to relentless agitation, within and without, for social justice. South Africa is dependent economically and politically on the Western nations for its existence. The only question is whether the agitation for change will come from the citizens of these nations, demanding an end to the support of the regime, or whether it will come only from within, from the black men and women of South Africa, who have no weapons except their bodies, their blood and their will to be free.

OPERATION NAMIBIA
4811 Springfield Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa. 19143