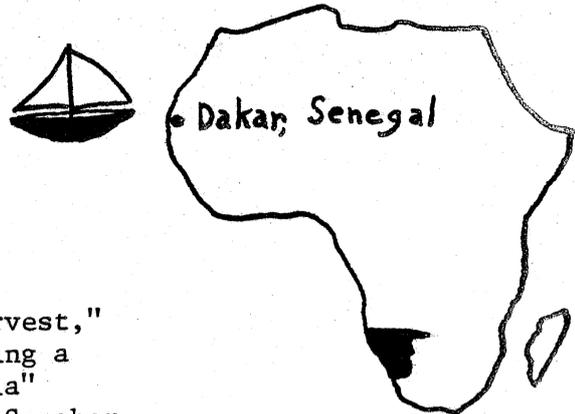


OPERATION NAMIBIA, 4811 Springfield Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa. 19143 (215) 724-1858

BULLETIN #8, February 1977



ON JANUARY 17TH

...our 69-foot sailing vessel, the "Golden Harvest," docked at Dakar, Senegal in West Africa, bearing a letter supporting the "Books for a Free Namibia" project from Senegal's poet-President Léopold Senghor. The crew has received a friendly government reception, has been assisted by the local office of SWAPO (South West African People's Organisation), and has appeared on national television there.

*****THE VOYAGE FROM ENGLAND:** On October 27th, 1976, the boat and its cargo of over 4,000 books (banned by the South African government, but requested by Namibians) left Portsmouth, England. Aboard were a crew consisting of six men from Australia, Britain, Germany, Ireland and New Zealand; an American woman from Minneapolis, Minnesota; another woman of Chinese and British origin; and an English cat named BOSS (after the Bureau of Secret Services, South Africa's CIA).

After a brief entanglement in bureaucratic red tape at Plymouth, England, the boat completed the first two legs of its journey. It first stopped in Oporto, Portugal, picked up a donated ham radio and welcomed a ninth crew member, Gyotetsu Morishita, who had flown in from Japan to join the voyage. From there it sailed to Tenerife in the Canary Islands where the crew held a rally for O.N. and took on more books.

*****ON TO NAMIBIA:** Before sailing to Ghana, in March, the boat will be re-rigged in Dakar in preparation for the off-shore winds along the African coast. The boat will continue to stop in African ports along the way to raise support for the project, and take on more books.

When the Golden Harvest reaches Namibia in May, South Africa may have established an interim government in an attempt to blunt mounting criticism abroad to its illegal occupation and to create the semblance of Black self-government, while isolating SWAPO and the political forces seeking true independence. Such a "government" is intended to perpetuate South African control rather than to relinquish it. In that event, the crew will still attempt to deliver the books to SWAPO and the NNC. Delivery of the books without compromise with an interim government will demonstrate our awareness that the conditions of true independence have not been met and will attest to our continuing support for the struggle for justice and independence in Namibia.

*****THE PHILADELPHIA NAMIBIA ACTION GROUP** has grown in size and culture. We are now 10 persons from Japan, Sweden, Britain, Tanzania and the U.S. With our increased size and depth of experience, we have been able to give even better support to the Books Project and have begun to develop a new action project based in the U.S.

In the past months, we have raised several thousand dollars for the Books Project, sponsored two public events which included films, a slide show, African poets and SWAPO's representative to the U.N., Theo Ben Gurirab. Also, we have been interviewed by several newspapers and radio stations. Our Tanzanian collective member, Linda Nunes, appeared on a television panel discussion.

We are now, via ham radio, in direct contact with the crew, which makes communication much easier and less expensive.

Presently, we are developing a series of actions in Philadelphia focusing on U.S. corporate involvement in the exploitation of Namibia. It is, we feel, important to expose the links between U.S. corporate profits and the oppression of the Namibian people, and we'd like to see more people in the U.S. directly involved in supporting Namibian independence. We will keep you posted as this new campaign progresses.

*****HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

- Have your group sponsor a speaker. Members of PNAG are now available to show slides and films and to speak on: the struggle for justice in Namibia; the voyage of the Golden Harvest; and waging peace/the alternatives to waging war.
- Help publicize the Books Project in your home town.
- Send money to support the "Golden Harvest" and the Books Project.
- Send a letter of support or a gift to the crew (We will forward it).
- Join with us in creating other actions throughout the U.S. and the world. (Ask us for ideas; get the AFSC Action Guide on Southern Africa, \$1 from AFSC, 1501 Cherry, Phila., Pa. 19102.)

*****UPDATE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA:** During early February Andrew Young, newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., visited Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya and Nigeria. Another imminent visitor to Africa is the President of the U.S.S.R., Nikolai Podgorny who is expected to visit Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique in March.

On January 14th, Ian Smith called the Geneva talks on Rhodesia "a dead duck," adding that Kissinger had assured him last fall that Carter would back Kissinger's proposals for a settlement. Smith argued that, although the proposals had been rejected by black leaders at Geneva because of the two-year transition to black rule and the organization of an interim government which would have left whites in control of both the government and the military, the U.S. should back his plan to put them into effect in a separate agreement with black groups inside Rhodesia. Conveniently, two black members of his cabinet had resigned on December 29th to form the Zimbabwe United Peoples Organisation. In the meantime, the five frontline leaders had recognized the Patriotic Front Alliance in an effort to forestall the kind of fragmentation of the armed struggle which had led to civil war and outside interference in Angola.

Inside Zimbabwe the guerrilla war continued with evidence of sizeable participation by white mercenaries in the government forces, including at least 400 Americans. South Africa is still troubled by unrest in places like Soweto; many students have fled to Botswana and are seeking to continue their education outside of South Africa. The government now seems set on a collision course with the Catholic Church which has now opened its schools to all children irrespective of color, in defiance of South Africa's apartheid laws, and is planning to integrate its hospitals and other institutions. In Namibia, SWAPO resigned from the Namibia National Convention in December, leaving SWANU, the Damara Tribal Executive and some NAPDO members still a part of it. The Rehobother Volkspartei, other NAPDO members and several Nama groups had all joined SWAPO during 1976.

Recently SWAPO has come into possession of a document which indicates that South Africa plans to set up within a few weeks an "interim government" in Namibia based on the Turnhalle talks from which all Namibian political parties were excluded. This "government" would have the semblance of independence from South Africa, but would incorporate the worst features of apartheid and of the Kissinger proposals for Rhodesia. A three-tiered structure would leave the white minority in control at the top and semi-autonomous fragmented tribal homelands at the bottom. The white minority "homelands" would encompass the best agricultural land, the major port, and the sites of mineral deposits, while the black homelands would remain the semi-desert areas to which blacks have been forcibly removed during the years of South African occupation.

Sean MacBride finished his period of office as U.N. Commissioner for Namibia during January, and retired to concentrate on disarmament. He was succeeded by Martti Ahtisaari, formerly Finnish Ambassador to Tanzania, despite attempts by critics of Sean MacBride to abolish the position.



The crew of OPERATION NAMIBIA's sailing vessel, the Golden Harvest, and two London OPERATION NAMIBIA organizers with some of the books that will be challenging apartheid in Namibia. The boat is now in Dakar, SENEGAL, on its way to Namibia.

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