

copy sent to law

Namibia Newsletter



Fall, 1988

Volume 11, No. 3

SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TARGETS CHURCHES

The headline of a recent bulletin from the Episcopal Churchpeople for a Free Southern Africa (ECSA) reads: "The Churches in South Africa, Namibia: Targets for Extinction." Editor Bill Johnston writes: "Pretoria is taking deadly aim at the member churches of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) and their leaders. The (August 31st) bombing of Khotso House, the central Johannesburg headquarters of SACC and other groups resisting the apartheid regime, was but one assault from their vast armory of repression."

Some of these "assaults" are detailed in articles elsewhere in this newsletter, but a summary of new items during the last weeks indicate the seriousness of South Africa's attack on the churches:

- In Namibia, a pro-South African government newspaper, the **Allgemeine Zeitung**, has attacked the Lutheran Church position on the school boycott, accusing the church of being a "front organization for communism."
- In South Africa, a live hand grenade was placed in the mail box of the mother-in-law of Rev. Frank Chikane, head of the SACC.
- The South African minister for "Law and Order" publicly condemned pastors as "wolves in sheep's clothing."
- A tape recording of the sermon preached by Bishop Tutu on September 4th, was seized as government officials threaten that the church "should not consider itself immune."
- A "death squad" of Koevoet thugs is reported to be ready to eliminate Namibian church leaders. Responding to that threat, Bishop Kleopas Dumeni said, "It is not unexpected. Why should we leaders be exempt from the suffering of our people? When we say that we are one, it is not just words."

All signs point to a period of increased suffering for the church in Namibia and South Africa. Since the press has been silenced and most resistance groups have been banned, the voices of church leaders are nearly the last to be heard speaking against the evils of apartheid.



"This is not defiance, this is obedience. But it is obedience to our God, not to the government of South Africa." *Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

Dr. Chikane has said, "We have no doubt that the darkest forces of evil are arranging themselves against the church in South Africa, but we intend to continue telling the truth."

And Rev. Alan Boesak makes the point that it is not the individual church leaders that the South African government is threatening, "They are actually taking on God himself. The government of South Africa has signed its own death warrant; no government can challenge the living God and survive."

It is more important now than ever before that we stand with the churches in the face of these attacks. What can we do? See the ACTION ALERT section for suggestions.

This Issue:

- U.N. Commissioner to Attend November Conferences
- Smear Campaign
- Namibia Diary
- Action Alert

EDITORIAL

"No Easy Walk to Freedom"

"What is happening in Namibia?" "What should we tell people?" "Is Namibia going to be free?"

Nearly every day our office gets a call with these questions. It is difficult to know exactly what is happening, much less, what will happen. Certainly the next months will be of interest to future historians as they trace the path to Namibian independence.

Before trying to answer these questions, let me quote our good friend, Selma Shejavali: "Tell the people not to relax. As always, when there are negotiations 'outside,' things are worse 'inside.'"

And indeed, the troop buildup is greater than it has ever been. Long convoys have been seen heading north. The troops that were withdrawn from Angola did not leave the region; instead, new bases are being built along the Angolan border. Atrocities, attacks on civilians are on the increase. It certainly doesn't feel like peace is coming to Namibia.

As we wait to see what will happen, I might mention two possible scenarios:

(a) For months there have been persistent reports that a significant number of white, South African troops had been trapped in Angola, encircled by Angolan, Cuban and SWAPO soldiers. Politically, President Botha cannot afford more "white" deaths; there is increasing anger in South Africa about the deaths of "our boys on the border." (For South Africa, of course, the deaths of black soldiers are unimportant, and are not even reported.)

Since South Africa has suffered militarily during the past year, it was in their self-interest to negotiate a withdrawal from Angola, especially if the trapped soldiers would be given "safe passage" out of their captivity.

This has now happened. Some analysts believe that the "progress" in the negotiations will stop, since South Africa will not feel it is in its interests to relinquish Namibia. They see the building of the bases along the border as an indication that South Africa will continue its military occupation of Namibia, and be ready, at any time, to invade Angola again.

(b) Scenario #2 is that South Africa will indeed begin its withdrawal from Namibia on November 1, and will indeed allow elections to be held. Namibia will become an independent nation.



But people who hold this view warn that it is only a change in tactics, not a change of heart.

Both militarily and economically, continued occupation of Namibia is costing South Africa more than it can afford. President Botha is being pressured both from the extreme right and by the "moderates." Perhaps his advisors feel that it would be preferable to control Namibia economically (through control of its railroads and its only seaport), and then "destabilize" it by terrorism, as they have done so effectively in Mozambique.

With either scenario, whatever the variations, it is clear that our work is not done. We must renew our commitment to walk with the Namibian people on their long journey toward true independence.

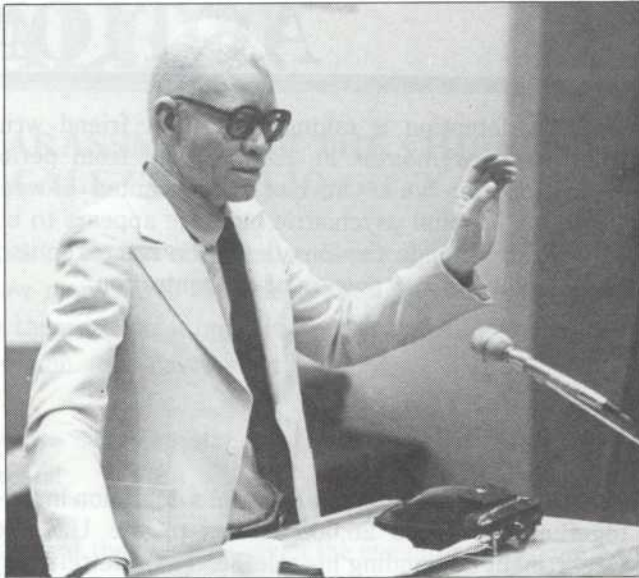
Handwritten signature of Solveig Kjeseth

NAMIBIA NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by National Namibia Concerns (NNC),
915 East 9th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80218
(303) 830-2774

with funding from the United Nations Council for Namibia.

National Namibia Concerns is an education/advocacy network working with the Namibian churches for a just independence for the people of Namibia.

Executive Director: Solveig Kjeseth
Program Director: Susan Burchfield
Midwest Coordinator: Ilah Weiblen
NNC Board President: Barbara Fullerton



Despite governmental attack and threats on his life, Dr. Zephania Kameeta, Deputy Bishop of the ELC, continues his courageous leadership.

**Windhoek: September 6, 1988
NAMIBIAN LUTHERANS CALL SPECIAL
MEETING TO DENY GOVERNMENT SMEAR
OF CHURCH LEADER**

A South African smear campaign against the deputy bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church reached such a level during August that the church called a special meeting September 1-2 to refute the charges.

Officials of Pretoria's appointed government in Windhoek have been travelling throughout the country, blaming the continuation of the six-month-long school crisis on Dr. Zephania Kameeta, deputy bishop of Namibia's second largest church. Dr. Kameeta is also the elected chairman of the National People's Assembly, a non-government gathering representing students, parents and teachers born out of the breakdown in education.

The meeting, called by Bishop Hendrik Frederik for all pastors, evangelists, church board members and church school officials, issued a statement Sunday, September 4. The church refuted government allegations and strongly backed continued "positive defiance" on the part of Christians against the "disorderly government which controls, penetrates, poisons and disrupts Namibian society so that the people suffer and die."

Two Ministry of Education officials were singled out by the emergency meeting for reproach. The meeting heard reports that they had been criss-crossing Namibia, blaming Dr. Kameeta for the "burning of schools, and the continued disruptive school strike in the country."

The church statement, read to all ELC congregations on Sunday, September 4, says that the "current school crisis is a result of the continuing illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa, more particularly as a result of South Africa's refusal to remove the military bases from the vicinity of schools, despite the demands of students, parents and workers."

The church "unanimously" resolved to support the resolutions of the National People's Assembly, and demanded an "end to the massive propaganda aimed at the ELC in particular. . . we alert Namibians to the dangerous indoctrination which takes place on FM radio and television." (All broadcasting stations are under government control in Namibia.)

Starting this week, ELC church bells will be rung each day throughout the country at 11 AM and 4 PM, at which time Bishop Frederik has asked all Christians to pray: "God Bless Namibia. Give us freedom-now. Cast out oppression and establish justice. Let Your reign come. Amen."

**Windhoek: September 15, 1988
SOUTH AFRICAN SMEAR CAMPAIGN
CONTINUES AGAINST
NAMIBIAN LUTHERANS**

Leaflets purportedly written by Lutheran church leaders, calling on Namibian children to end their school strike, were distributed today in six population centres.

One leaflet erroneously identifies Bishop Kleopas Dumeni of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia as author, while the other is on stationery of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in SWA. Both Bishop Dumeni and Bishop Hendrik Frederik deny having written the documents.

Written in English and Oshivambo and titled, "Message to the Children of Namibia," the false documents portray church leaders as having rejected the urging of "our leader" SWAPO President Sam Nujoma for a continuation of the school strike.

South Africa's propaganda machine has continually presented the church leaders as "willing tools" of the liberation movement, and today's forgery presents both that picture and the twist that, this time, SWAPO is in the wrong.

In official statements the churches have supported the demands of the students, calling for the removal of SADF bases and soldiers from school compounds.

The leaflets were dropped from a private airplane over Katutura, the black township outside of Windhoek, and scattered from cars in five other towns in the country.

Namibia Communications Centre

ALERT

HARASSMENT OF THE CHURCH: A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY

Attacks on the churches in South Africa and Namibia grow more harsh each day. They are being persecuted for their steadfast opposition to apartheid and illegal occupation. (See cover story for details.)

We are called to stand with them in the face of these threats!

Pray that they may be given the strength and courage to continue to resist.

SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO:

Bishop Hendrik Frederik
Bishop Zephania Kameeta
Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 5069
Windhoek 9000
Namibia / Southwest Africa

Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak
P.O. Box 316
Kasselsvlei 7533
Belleville, Cape Town
South Africa

Bishop Kleopas Dumeni
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Oniipa, P.B. 2018
Ondangwa 9000
Namibia / Southwest Africa

Dr. Abisai Shejavali
Council of Churches in Namibia
P.O. Box 41
Windhoek 9000
Namibia / Southwest Africa

Rev. Dr. Frank Chikane
S A C C
P.O. Box 4921
Johannesburg 2000
South Africa

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
P.O. Box 1932
Cape Town 8000
South Africa

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN 1988

There is a significant contrast between the two major parties when it comes to their "platform statements" on Southern Africa. There are, from our point of view, even more important differences in the personal statements of the two candidates. Please examine these carefully and consider the implications for the lives of our friends in Namibia.

Republican Platform

Republicans deplore the apartheid system of South Africa and consider it morally repugnant. . . .
Republicans call for an effective and coordinated policy that will promote equal rights and a peaceful transition to a truly representative constitutional form of government for all South Africans and the citizens of all nations throughout Africa.

We believe that peace in southern Africa can best be achieved by the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Angola . . . America's strong support for Angolan freedom-fighters has helped make this progress possible. We also oppose the maintenance of communist forces and influence in Mozambique.

George Bush

Opposes comprehensive sanctions against the government of South Africa and favors the continued use of diplomacy and negotiations for constructive change.

Supports aiding UNITA rebels in Angola and encouraging the government of Mozambique to seek a diplomatic rather than a military solution to its situation.

Democratic Platform

We believe that the time has come to end. . . the failed policy of constructive engagement, to declare South Africa a terrorist state, to import comprehensive sanctions upon its economy, to lead the international community in participation in these actions, and to determine a date certain by which United States corporations leave South Africa.

We believe that to achieve regional security in Southern Africa, we must . . . end our counterproductive policy in Angola and must offer support and further assistance to Mozambique and other frontline states.

Michael Dukakis

Supports comprehensive sanctions against South Africa and a multilateral agreement with allies for a more comprehensive trade embargo.

Opposes aiding UNITA rebels in Angola and RENAMO in Mozambique.

Supports aiding the frontline States and assisting these countries in achieving greater economic independence from South Africa through the efforts of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference.

Five Days In June: A Namibia Diary

by Solveig Kjeseth

The ride from the airport was deceptively peaceful. Soft classical music in a luxury bus, gliding along a smooth highway. The sun had gone down; the sky rosy along the horizon gave a purple-blue color to distant hills. Here and there were lights of a farmhouse, and occasionally the glow of a fire, around which I knew would be gathered workers and their families, keeping warm in the cold winter evening.

The beauty of the bus ride was offset by the news I had received in the Johannesburg airport. In a chance meeting with a Namibian church leader, I had been told that the situation was very tense. The school boycott had precipitated confrontations with the occupying forces.

Several boarding schools in the north of Namibia (including Oshigambo Lutheran High School) are immediately adjacent to army bases. Occasionally students are injured in attacks by SWAPO on these bases, but even more often the students are threatened, harassed, even raped by soldiers. After two girls were killed at Ponthofi School in March, the government was asked to move the bases. It refused. Students then went out on strike, vowing not to return to school until the bases had been moved. One by one, other schools in the country have joined in the boycott in an unprecedented show of solidarity. As my friend said, "The children have united the country in a way that we have not. Parents throughout Namibia are saying, 'We must stand behind our kids.'" This unity is a great threat to the government.

And now the labor unions had called for a two-day work stoppage to support the students' demands that the bases be moved. People feared a major confrontation on Monday, June 19th.

In addition to the boycott situation, my friend told me that the Council of Churches (CCN) had just received word that a special team of Koevoet ("crowbar," a particularly brutal section of the army that specializes in terrorist attacks on civilians) planned to eliminate church and union leaders. The names mentioned were Lutheran Bishops Dumeni and Kameeta, Dr. Shejvali of CCN, and Anton Lubowski and Ben Ulenga of the labor unions. . . .

When our bus arrived in downtown Windhoek, we learned that Gwen Lister, the courageous editor of **The Namibian** newspaper had been detained that afternoon—detained under AG9, which meant that she would have no access to family or lawyers, and the police would not have to file charges.

So the peaceful atmosphere that we had experienced on our arrival was, indeed, a sham.

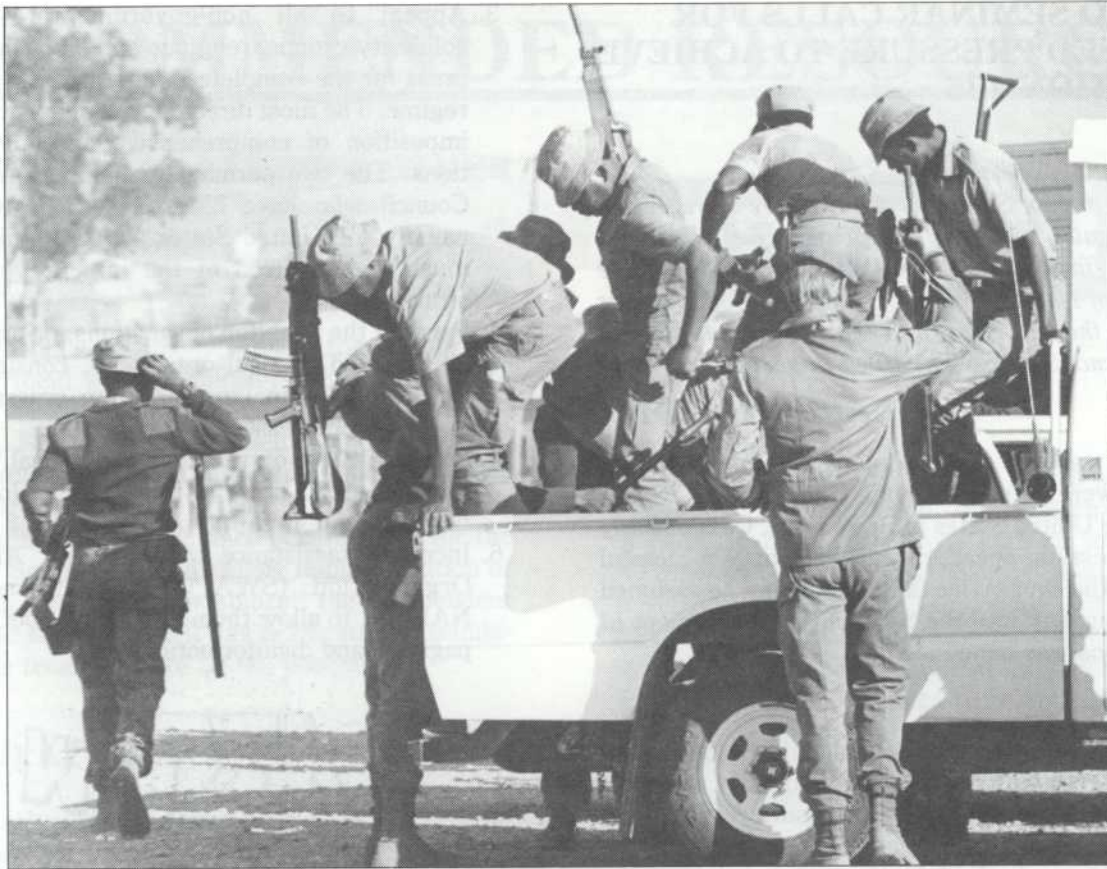
June 18

Saturday in Katatura, the black township outside of Windhoek: a beehive of activity. Children everywhere, dogs exploring garbage piles, men getting haircuts, women and men washing clothes, people repairing old cars, teenagers talking, radios blaring, choirs practicing in every church.



Government soldiers were angered by the presence of a photographer as they waited for "action" during the two-day strike.

Photo by Liebenberg



"As we came into Katatura on Sunday afternoon, we saw the soldiers beginning to arrive. Officers in white vans, soldiers by the truckful. . . ."
Photo by Liebenberg

At the Community Center, near the union offices, I noticed a group of men gathered under the tree—one of the very few trees in Katatura!

There, as everywhere on that Saturday, the question was, "What will the government do?"

June 19

On Sunday morning it seemed that everyone in Katatura was in church. And, at each church the message was passed: Don't attend any meetings tomorrow, don't gather in groups, don't be on the streets, stay inside your houses. We want to avoid bloodshed. Church doors would be left open on Monday and Tuesday, in case anyone needed refuge.

As we came into Katatura on Sunday afternoon, we saw the soldiers beginning to arrive. Officers in white vans, soldiers by the truckful. They began to move through the streets of Katatura, walking in groups of 15 to 20 men, led by two or three white officers. It seemed they were becoming familiar with the terrain. Children ran in fright as they approached.

Large weapons were moved into place near the hospital and next to the police station at the entrance to Katatura. Clearly the army was ready and waiting for a confrontation.

I went to a Catholic church, to listen to a meeting of teachers. This was an important discussion because the teachers who work at the government schools are usually afraid to risk their security by expressing resistance. As one teacher said during the meeting, "They have bought our silence by placing roofs over our heads."

But this afternoon the mood was one of solidarity with the students and with the labor unions. One teacher said, "I did not come here today to decide whether or not to go to school tomorrow. The community has already decided that. I only want to know that the rest of you are with me."

Another told of a conversation with his son who had said that the young people will not wait patiently for change as the older people had done. "How," he asked, "will I face my child if we decide to be in school tomorrow?"

There was talk about the ineffectiveness of the teachers' association, about how the government has weakened them by dividing the teachers into ethnic groups, about how the teachers have been the last to become politicized.

For the first hour it seemed the feeling was unanimous. Then, as darkness fell, there came a voice of dissent: a member of the executive of the teachers' association who

TORONTO SEMINAR CALLS FOR INCREASED PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE RESOLUTION 435

(Meeting in Toronto, September 7-11th were more than a hundred delegates to the U.N. Council for Namibia's Seminar on efforts to implement the U.N. plan for the independence of Namibia. National Namibia Concerns was represented by the Rev. Edward C. May, Winifred May and the Rev. Clarence Solberg. They filed this report.)

This Seminar was held during some of the same days that negotiations were going on among Cuba, Angola, South Africa and the United States in Brazzaville, Congo. Early in the U.N. session, speakers warned that a successful conclusion to the Brazzaville talks should not be assumed and indeed, midway into the Seminar, postponement of the negotiations was announced.

David de Beer, representing the Holland Committee for Southern Africa, highlighted the Seminar early on with a keen analysis of the Angola/Namibia/South Africa situation and predicted either postponement or failure in the Congo talks. He made the following points:

1. The South Africa Government (SAG) has a record of delaying action.
2. SAG accomplished its objective of withdrawal from Angola in an "honorable fashion" before further damage would be inflicted on its military personnel and equipment.
3. South Africa military continues to be in Namibia, and in fact is increasing its strength there.
4. SAG has made demands on the Angolans which cannot be met if Angola is to have security. Thus the Angolans and Cubans can be blamed for any delay.
5. P.W. Botha has never been in favor of the implementation of UN Resolution 435 and has made statements to the South African parliament to that effect.

Negotiations are scheduled to be resumed later in September. Meanwhile, Seminar participants attempted to build strategies which would penalize South Africa in such a way that it would agree to a settlement. Some of these emerged in the final document; among them:

1. Reaffirmation of Security Council 435 (1978) as a universally accepted basis for a peaceful settlement of the Namibian question and support for all genuine initiatives leading to implementation.
2. Call for stronger economic pressure on South Africa, enhanced public awareness of the deteriorating situation in Namibia, and increased assistance to the Namibian people.

3. Appeal to all non-governmental organizations, solidarity groups, religious and labor organizations to press for the complete isolation of the South African regime. The most direct means of achieving this is the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions. The two permanent members of the Security Council who have blocked such legitimate action, namely the United States and the United Kingdom, must be convinced of the imperative need of this strategy.
4. Pending the adoption of sanctions, priority should also be attached to local ordinances, consumer boycotts, divestment campaigns and other grassroots measures of economic pressure.
5. Strengthening of relations with local, regional and national media so as to increase the flow of information on Namibia to the public.
6. Increased assistance to Southwest Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and its news agency, NAMPA, to allow them to counter South African propaganda and disinformation.

435 NOW

Oniipa: September 9, 1988 WIFE OF NAMIBIAN EVANGELIST ASSAULTED BY SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS

Mrs. Rauna Nafine, wife of Lutheran Evangelist Philipus Nafine, was assaulted by eight black soldiers of the South African Defense Force on September 6. The attack, which included an attempted rape, took place at the Nafine kraal at Oshinyadhila, near Ongwediva Lutheran parish, after her husband and children had left for school.

According to Mrs. Nafine, soldiers wearing green uniforms arrived at her home about 6:30 A.M. "They slapped me in the face, beat me with fists, kicking me in the ribs, both right and left with their boots, and one hit me hard with a riflebutt in the chest," she explained with tears running from her eyes.

The soldiers spoke in broken Oshiwambo, and demanded that she submit to them sexually, but she said "kill me rather than rape me."

"They said they are the people who hurt the civilians, but they can do anything they want to me, because I don't know them," said Mrs. Nafine. They asked for money, and Mrs. Nafine gave them 80 Rand (\$20 or \$35). Then they left.

Mrs. Nafine was treated at Onandjokwe Lutheran and her testimony has been taken by the Human Rights Centre at Ongwediva.

Namibia Communications Centre

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

VOICES FROM APARTHEID'S OTHER WAR: South Africa's Aggression Against Its Neighbors

by Carole Collins.

This 16-page booklet documents South Africa's efforts to maintain apartheid by destabilizing neighboring countries. In its campaign against these "majority-ruled" governments, S.A. undermines their economies, sponsors rebel groups (like UNITA and RENAMO), and mounts military attacks. This book is of particular interest to Namibia advocates, since one scenario for the future is that South Africa will allow implementation of Resolution 435, but will "destabilize" the independent Namibia in the same way as it has devastated Mozambique. Available from NNC for \$3.00, postpaid.

A WORLD APART

Look for this splendid film at a theater near you! It is the story of Ruth First, ardent anti-apartheid activist, told through the eyes of her adolescent daughter. Since the story begins with the child's father going into exile and shows the detention of the mother, one feels clearly the price paid by the whole family for the parents' commitment to justice in South Africa. (Ruth First was killed by a letter bomb while in exile in Mozambique in 1982.) A powerfully written, well-done film.



Peace Petitions

NEWS FOR ELCA PEACEMAKERS

PEACE PETITIONS

Published four times a year by the Commission for Church in Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, this publication offers "news for ELCA peacemakers," updates on East/West relations, Southern Africa, and Central America, and reviews of new resources. Send your name and address to: Peace Petitions, ELCA Distribution Service, 426 S. Fifth Street, Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209. Suggested \$5.00 donation.



THE NAMIBIAN

If you don't already have access to this newspaper, find someone to "go in with you" on a subscription! Published in Namibia by a courageous staff of journalists, **The Namibian** is the best source of information about what is actually happening in the country. In spite of bomb threats and bullet holes in the front door of their office, in spite of the detention in June of their editor, the staff of **The Namibian** continues to produce accurate news. Because one occasionally encounters difficulty in getting subscription money through to the newspaper, NNC will be glad to assist you. \$60 for six months, \$100 per year.

SOJOURNERS

The August/September, 1988 issue, "The Church Confronts Apartheid" is an excellent collection of interviews with three of South Africa's courageous church leaders: Allan Boesak, Frank Chikane, and Desmond Tutu. Three additional articles by Jim Wallis, Joyce Holliday, and Charles Villa-Vicencio provide substantiation for what has been described elsewhere in this newsletter as South Africa's attack on the churches. Order immediately as there are only a limited number of copies. Sojourners, Box 29272, Washington, D.C. 20017. (202) 636-3637. \$2.75

A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE IN NAMIBIA

by Peter Katjavivi.

This new book traces the resistance of the Namibian people to the occupation of their country, first by Germany, then by South Africa. From the Herero-Nama war against the Germans in 1904, through workers' strikes and community-based resistance to the formation of nationwide liberation organizations, Katjavivi places the Namibian struggle in the context of international realities, and demonstrates how the self-interest of South Africa and the United States have combined to delay independence.

Published in England. Available through NNC for \$10.00 postpaid.

ANNOUNCING NOVEMBER CONFERENCES ON NAMIBIA

Portland, Oregon and Dubuque, Iowa

During these slippery days of election rhetoric, South African desperation, Angola "Peace" talk deadlocks, and deepening war in the entire region of southern Africa, the need for continued education and advocacy for Namibia has never been greater. We all want to be hopeful that Namibia's independence is near, yet there remain so many roadblocks and so much work to be done.

National Namibia Concerns is pleased to announce we will sponsor two regional education/advocacy training events on Namibia to be held this fall with special funding from the United Nations Council for Namibia.

Independence for Namibia: A Torch In The Night

November 11-12 Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa

Namibia At The Crossroads: Freedom Or Betrayal?

November 18-19 Portland, Oregon

We are fortunate to have two very articulate Namibians as keynote speakers at both events: Dr. Peter Katjavivi and Joseph Diescho (photos this page). Other resource people will include Namibian college students, Shekutaamba Nambala, Ralston Deffenbaugh, Edward May, William Johnston, Solveig Kjeseth, Susan Burchfield, a representative of the U.N. Council for Namibia, and a SWAPO representative.

Dr. Peter Katjavivi has been active in SWAPO from its inception and has served as SWAPO Minister of Information. He received his doctorate from Oxford University, and is currently a visiting fellow at the Southern African Research Program of Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. Dr. Katjavivi has just published a new book entitled **A History of Resistance in Namibia**.

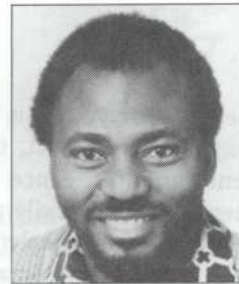
Joseph Diescho is a Fulbright scholar completing work for a doctoral degree in political science at Columbia University in New York City. He has been active in worker and student movements in Namibia and South Africa. Diescho has recently published a novel, **Born of the Sun**, about the early days of the Namibian freedom movement.

Format for the conferences will include keynotes, panel discussion, workshop sessions, worship, advocacy education and strategizing, networking, films and videos, resource tables, and informal conversation time.

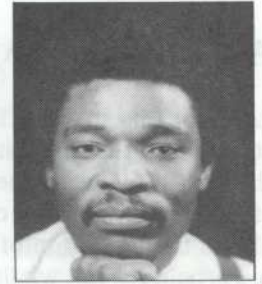
WHAT'S

N • E • W • S F • L • A • S • H

We have just received word that U.N. Commissioner for Namibia, the Honorable Bernt Carlsson will be a speaker at both November conferences. Further information will be available from the conference coordinators.



Peter Katjavivi



Joseph Diescho

Topics addressed by the conferences will include: the history of resistance in Namibia, the role of labor in the struggle, current Angola talks and the status of UNSCR 435, the church under siege—the church in the struggle, the role of women in the struggle, U.S. foreign policy in southern Africa, organizing for action, South Africa's war in the region of southern Africa, students and education, human rights, Biblical advocacy, doing theology under apartheid, media and advocacy resources.

If you live a distance away, consider pooling resources and sending a representative or two from your congregation, college, synod Church in Society Committee or women's, youth or community group. Sending two representatives could be an excellent way to get a Namibia Task Force started in your area.

Registration for each conference is \$15.00 or \$7.50 for students and seniors (not including lodging and meals). For more information and brochures (including details and arrangements for lodging) contact:

Michael and Christine Foss	Days 503/644-9148
	Evenings 503/297-3148
Namibia Concerns-Wartburg Seminary	319/589-0326
National Namibia Concerns	303/830-2774

HAPPENING

GWEN LISTER GIVEN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Gwen Lister received the 4th Annual International Journalism award for Excellence in Third World Journalism. Lister, the courageous editor of **The Namibian**, was presented with the award at a ceremony at the United Nations on September 13th.

ELCA CHURCH LEADERS DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY

Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is leading a delegation of ELCA officials on a visit to Namibian churches. Accompanied by Dr. Mark Thomsen and Rev. Jim Knutson of the Division of Global Mission, Ralston Deffenbaugh of the Lutheran Office on World Community, and Rev. Edgar Trexler, editor of **The Lutheran**, Bishop Chilstrom will demonstrate our solidarity with church leaders at a time when they are under particular attack. The group also has an appointment with the South African appointed Administrator General.

NAMIBIAN STUDENTS ARRIVE

Nearly fifty Namibian students are on Lutheran College campuses this fall under the ELCA program to provide opportunities for higher education for Namibians. Meeting for a week in August at Carthage College, the twenty new students were given tips on how to survive in U.S. schools ("Don't ever comment on a person's weight," "Be sure to pronounce the 'r' sound in words," "Don't get hooked on T.V.") by the "veterans" who came in 1986 and '87. Competition for these scholarships is keen, so these young people represent some of the best minds in the country. With courses of study ranging from political science to art to biology, these students will be expected to contribute greatly in an independent Namibia.

One never knows where South Africa's propaganda interests will surface. Mr. Stuart Spencer, now managing the vice-presidential campaign for Dan Quayle, was, at least in 1983, registered as an agent for South Africa, specifically charged with presenting South Africa's views on Namibia in exchange for \$150,000 per year. (Newsweek, March 28, 1983)

SENATE CONSIDERS SANCTIONS

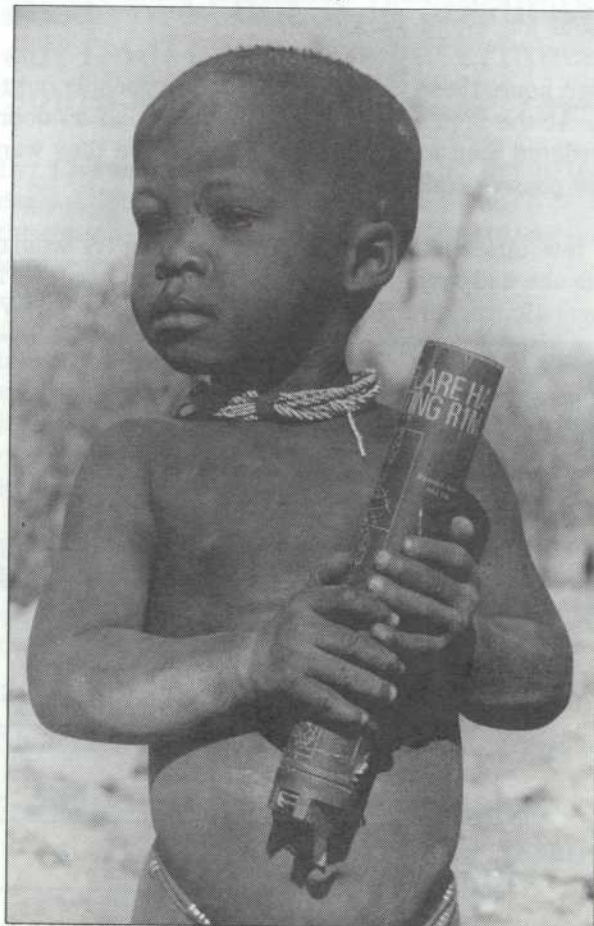
As we go to press, the Comprehensive Sanctions Bill has passed out of Committee and is about to be considered by the full U.S. Senate. Call Washington Office on Africa Hotline for updates: 202/546-0408.

PRINCIPAL OF PAULINUM SEMINARY VISITS U.S.

Pastor Z. Kapi Mujoro, currently principal of Paulinum Lutheran Seminary in Otjimbingwe, Namibia, visited several U.S. seminaries during a brief tour in September. Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Wartburg, Gettysburg, and Luther-Northwestern Seminaries all hosted Pastor Mujoro. In addition, he was able to be present at a synodical global mission event in Chicago, meet with Namibian students, and spend time with the Washington, D.C. Synod Task Force on Namibia.

THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ON ITS WAY TO NAMIBIA

More than a thousand books have been shipped to Paulinum Library, thanks to a donation from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. The books, representing all areas of theological study, had been a part of Wartburg's "House of Studies" program in Denver. A grant of \$1200 from Wartburg made possible the shipping of this collection which will nearly double the size of the library at Paulinum Lutheran Seminary.



Children in the war zone of northern Namibia find toys on the battlefield. This child was fortunate to have picked up a harmless flare. Countless others have been killed or lost their limbs by touching live ammunition left behind by the soldiers.

Photo by Liebenberg

Continued from page 7

urged restraint. And another member of that executive committee raised a procedural question: How could this group of 200 make a decision without polling all the teachers? "We must not be carried away by emotion," he said.

Immediately a teacher stood to respond. "The time for games is past. We must speak straight to each other. Koevoet is already in the streets of Katatura. The sounds you can hear are children screaming in fear. There is no more time for lies. The enemy is here among us. Whether we go to school tomorrow or not, no one of us is safe. Koevoet is here. People will be hurt. We can only stand together. I will not be in my classroom tomorrow."

And that was the concensus. The meeting adjourned with a feeling of unity and purpose, amid more talk of forming a union that would have real power.

June 20

At 4 a.m. government vans, followed by troops, began driving through the streets of Katatura. With loud speakers they awakened the people. "Get up. Get out of bed. Go to work. Don't be fooled by politicians. Don't risk your job. Go to work!"

For two hours these vans attempted to get people out to work. At the men's hostels, soldiers pounded on doors and ordered men to go to work. Everywhere they were met by passive resistance.

Very few buses left Katatura that morning. A woman told us she had seen only one bus, and "that was nearly all domestic workers. They are the most vulnerable. We

must find ways to give them some protection."

Church doors were standing wide open, but the expected confrontation did not happen. Koevoet, spoiling for a fight, was frustrated by the people's resolve to stay inside, not to respond to provocation. One story was that a soldier had thrown open a door in the hostel and demanded, "What is this?" "It's 'a luta continua'" said a sleepy voice from under the covers. ("The struggle continues.")

Tuesday passed in the same way. Again the day began with loud speakers at 4 a.m. People laughed, "Why don't they give up?"

June 22

The stay-away had been a success, not only in Windhoek but in several other locations. At Consolidated Diamond and the Rossing Mines the strike had been especially effective. In Okahandja, striking bakery workers had been beaten and thrown in jail. At Tsumeb, everyone had gone to work in the face of a threat that all would be fired. But these realities did not erase the fact that the first general "stay-away" called by Namibia's fledgling unions had been tremendously effective.

The question is, "What now?" Should the school boycott continue? Will labor call for further action? What is realistic to ask of workers who have no strike fund? Is it fair to expect students to jeopardize their future by staying out of school?

And always the question, "What will South Africa do next?"



National Namibia Concerns
915 East 9th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80218
(303) 830-2774

- Please include me on the mailing list for the "Namibia Newsletter."
- Please send an introductory packet on the situation in Namibia (including films and resources available).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(s) () _____

Denomination or Affiliation _____

Congregation _____