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Running Narrative and Trip Summary/A Visit to Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe

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Introduction

On June 6th, the trip's first day, I met a friend in London, Polly Gaster. I first met Polly in London in 1968 when she and Basil Davidson led the Committee for Freedom in Angola, Mozambique and Guiné (CFMAG). I normally see Polly in Maputo, Mozambique where she has recently been named the National Information Director. For years Polly has been a source of clarity, strength and inspiration. Shortly after being appointed to this distinguished position, however, she was brutally attacked and stabbed repeatedly outside her apartment in Maputo. It was the second time in six months that she had been attacked. Her case worsened dramatically when she developed malaria from the blood transfusions she was given. It was great to visit Polly and see that she's beginning what will be a slow recovery. A quiet fund has been set up to be in solidarity with Polly during her convalescence. This initiation, while sad, served as a prologue to some of the grim but persevering aspects of the drama being played out in Southern Africa these days.

Arrived in Johannesburg on June 7th and visited with Hugh Lewin from the South African Institute for the Advancement of Journalism and author of Bandiet and Feona Lloyd, one of the producers of the Southern African Women Artists Diary Notebook.

Mozambique

June 8th - Flew into Maputo. On the plane were Merle Bowen and her husband Minoca Pinto. Merle is one of the recipients of MacArthur support at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana for her work on rural production in Mozambique. Flying with us was Mozambique's former Minister of Justice Antonio Daquito. On Friday, June 9th, we were briefed by Colonel Paul King, a New Zealander, head of the UNDP/DHA Accelerated Demining Program in Mozambique. (I would learn later that I would miss by one day a conference on landmines in Mozambique jointly organized by the Eduardo Mondlane University Center for African Studies and Human Rights Watch.) Also visited with the heads of pedagogy and resources at the Instituto das Ciencias da Saude–Mozambique's Nurses Training School. Visited the Institute for Interracial Relations (ISRI) now becoming also an Institute for training in public administration. Failed to meet the new director, Cristofa Jamo. Later the same day had a 1-1/2 hour meeting with President Chissano and his aids Carlos dos Santos.
and Antonio Matonce. **Saturday, June 10** - taken by former Mozambican Ambassador Valeriano Ferrão to visit several of the chicken raising complex of the General Union of Cooperatives. Also saw the Primeiro do Maio cooperative which include a ceramics operation. We were taken to listen to jazz trumpet player, Lemon Pinto, at one of Maputo's new night spots, "Txova." **Sunday, June 11** - Breakfast meeting with Jorge Rebelo, long discussion with him about corruption, organized crime and drugs in Mozambique. Meeting with **Dr. Julie Wells**, Australian and a long-term professor at Mozambique's medical school. Went to Morracuene. First time I have traveled by road more than five kilometers outside Maputo because of all these years of war. Met there with **Ian Christie**, Reuters correspondent and Radio Mozambique. Long discussion with **Graca Machel**, former First Lady, first Minister of Education, MacArthur grantee and now Chairperson of the UN General Assembly's "Study of the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children." **Monday, June 12** - Breakfast with **Rob Davies**, now an ANC member of Parliament, previously the head of the University of the Western Cape's Southern African Studies Center (a MacArthur grantee) discussed with him South Africa's serious migration problem. Visit to the University Eduardo Mondlane briefed by **Isabella Cassimir**, acting director of the Center for African Studies. Meeting with **Lena Olsson**, head of ARO, the Africa groups of Sweden. Meeting with **Dr. Pascoal Mocumbi**, Mozambique's new Prime Minister. Discussion with **Janet Mondlane**, former head of Mozambique's Red Cross and widow of Eduardo Mondlane. Later dinner with **Antonio Matonce**, newly appointed press secretary for President Chissano, lengthy discussion about situation of journalists in Southern Africa. **Tuesday, June 13** - saw **John Stewart** of the American Friends Service Committee at the airport. We agreed to meet in Johannesburg so as to discuss regional work by the churches on peace and security issues.

**Zimbabwe**

**Tuesday, June 13** - met with and hosted by **Dr. Rene Loewenson**, Coordinator of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity Health, Safety and Environment Programme. Long discussion with her and her colleagues about the civil terrain and the tensions in Zimbabwe. Met also with **Irene Staunton**, director of Baobab Books. **Wednesday, June 14** - Put Eugenia and Betsy on local bus to Mutare where **James Pfeiffer** and **Rachel Chapman** of Seattle's Mozambique Health Committee would take them to visit health facilities in Manica and Chimoio provinces in rural Mozambique. Visited with MacArthur grantees **Phyllis Johnson** and **David Martin** at their center, The Southern African Research and Documentation Center (SARDC). Briefly, went by the Women in Law and Development Conference. Met with **Kathy Bond Stewart** and her colleagues who constitute the African Community Publishing and Development Network (ACPD). Met with **Ken Wilson**, who besides being the Ford Foundation Program officer for Angola and Mozambique, is also well known commentator on and analyst of Southern Africa. We discussed at length both Southern Africa/U.S. -Africa issues and philanthropy in Southern Africa. Discussed with **Shirley de Wolf**, Christian Care in Mutare, Zimbabwe her work liaising between U.N. agencies in Geneva and
local Zimbabwean NGO's. **Thursday, June 15** - breakfast with Fernando Goncalves, a Mozambican journalist living between Harare and Maputo and working for Ibo Mandaza's Southern African Political Economy Series (SAPES) Trust. Shared MacArthur Peace Program Research and Writing (R &W) brochures with him. Long discussion about Savimbi and Angola. Visited with Peter da Costa, regional director for Inter Press Service, at his operation. Was briefed by Dr. Göran Hedebro, regional representative for the Swedish Government's Research Cooperation Office (SAREC), about the peace, security and conflict-related institution which they fund in Southern Africa. The SAREC operation is being withdrawn back to Sweden (part of the general cutback on engagement with Africa by the Scandinavian countries?). Lunch with Joan Brickhill, former BBC radio correspondent in Zimbabwe now the radio correspondent for the South African Broadcasting Company (SABC). Distributed R & W brochures. Discussed also her husband Jeremy's film on his conflict resolution teams of Zimbabwean ex-soldiers and their work in Somalia. Met at length with Cheryl Danley, an African American friend of many years. Talked about her doctoral work in Southern African agricultural economics at Michigan State and her experiences teaching at the University of Zimbabwe. She was surprised to learn about the Peace Program's R & W competition. Went by SAPES and there met both Dr. Gerald Home and Horace Campbell. The former, head of black studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz and author of several books on anti-communism in U.S. foreign policy is in zimbabwe doing research on American mercenaries. Horace Campbell, resident Director of the Syracuse University Southern African Program and a professor of political science at the Maxwell School, is a visiting resident scholar at SAPES for this year. We discussed his upcoming conference on the Angola crisis and his work at SAPES. The day was finished with a discussion at SARDC with Phyllis Johnson about their recent directory on scholarship and organizing related to environment concerns in Southern Africa. I suggested that she correspond with Dan Martin of Environment at MacArthur as much of their work is dealing with biodiversity issues throughout the region.

**Namibia**

**Friday, June 16** - Late evening meeting with Peter Katjavivi, vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia (UNAM) at Jan Smuts Airport (Johannesburg). We discussed at length the crisis the university had experienced, his role in it and the new situation. **Saturday, June 16** - Morning meeting with Professor Keto Mshigeni. Professor Mshigeni, a Tanzanian, has a doctorate in marine biology, has received the Boutros Boutros Gali award for his scientific work in higher education (amongst numerous other citations), is part of the Third World Academy of Sciences and is an associate of Tom Odhiambo. He as done much work on seaweed cultivation in Tanzania, studies on water hyacinths and is currently researching a way "to harvest the fog" created by the Benguela current. He is also involved in the Presidents' Initiative on Science, called the AFRANO FORUM initiated by President Chissano of Mozambique. Given his interests I referred him to both Dan Martin at MacArthur
and MacArthur Senior Vice President Victor Rabinowitch. I also shared with him R & W brochures.

Later I met with Dr. Mshigeni again; this time he was joined by his colleague, Lazrus Hangula, head of the Social Science Division (SSO) of the Multi-Disciplinary Research Center (MRC) of the UNAM. We held a general discussion about the problems they were encountering building a multi-disciplined research facility in Southern Africa and about certain initiatives at holding "reconstruction and democracy" regional workshops focused on the situation in Angola, Mozambique and Tanzania.

Saturday, June 17 - I attended a social event with Finance Minister Helmut Nangula and Minister of Mines and Energy, Endimba Toivo ya Toivo. We discussed at great length (with some depth) the situation in Namibia. Shared with them R & W brochures. Sunday, June 18 - had lunch with Professor Gretchen Bauer, University of Delaware and her Namibian friend, Nepeti Nicanor, editor of New Namibia Books. I also met Pandu Hailonga, a cousin, who staffs the Augsburg College Center for Global Education in Winhoek. We discussed at length the growing corruption problem and Gretchen's new study of Nambia and the consolidation of democracy. Dinner was at Steve Lawry's house. Steve is the Ford Foundation's Program Officer for Namibia. He offered some insightful reflections about Ford's funding in Namibia. Ironically, late that night an old friend Andreas Guibab, an old friend and permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, himself the subject of intense inquiry and controversy, stopped by to greet me. I "R & Wed" him as well. Monday, June 19 - Squeezed in an 8:00 breakfast with Vicky Erenstein ya Toivo and another visit to UNAM just before driving the 45 kilometers to the airport for the 11:00 flight to Johannesburg. Vicky, originally an attorney in New York City, now a Namibian, works in the Attorney General's office. She briefed me on the extensive preparatory work of various Namibian Women's groups for the Beijing Conference. She mentioned that out of this work has come an initiative by a number of women in the region and elsewhere on the continent to organize an African Women's Peace Network.

Lesotho

Tuesday, June 20 - Assisted by Betsy Fader (who was largely overwhelmed by the huge pollution problem in Maseru). I drove to Maseru from Johannesburg. Much better for getting an "on-the-ground" sense of situations. Wednesday, June 21 - Spent the morning at the Institute of Southern African Studies (ISAS) at the University of Lesotho in Maseru, its staff and new director, Dr. Mafa Sejanamane. ISAS received a MacArthur collaborative grant in 1992 for a regional study of the impact of environment on gender, households and production. It involves fifteen different research projects in nine countries. We discussed the collaborative at length continuing at supper (with six of the Institute's staff) that evening back in Maseru. We also discussed other projects, publications and regional initiatives which the Institute is undertaking. A particularly interesting initiative ISIS is engaged in is
CABECA (Capacity Building in Electronic Communication in Africa).

In the afternoon of the 20th, visited the Transformation Resource Center (TRC) headed by "Baba" Michael Jordaan. The TRC is one of Lesotho's first NGOs (today there are more than 50). Founded in 1980 by two Quakers, Jimmy and Ann Stewart, it has consistently worked with both South African refugees and the Lesotho citizenry on issues of democracy and human rights. Meeting with Baba Jordan and volunteer Scott Cooper of the Joint Ministries of the Disciples Church and United Church of Christ. We discussed the desperate financial situation which NGOs throughout the region are facing since the dramatic changes in South Africa. We also discussed the continuous crises, violence and tension which have dominated Lesotho for the last decade. Talked also with Don Atkins of the Christian Council of Lesotho. Discussed his two recent videos concerning Lesotho migrant labor to South Africa's gold mines. Called "The color of Gold" and "Gold Widows," they are finally being aired on South African television.

South Africa

South African continues to dominate the air routes so I transited Johannesburg four different times. I seized the opportunity and had discussions about South Africa and the region with various individuals (in addition to the two cited at the beginning at this brief narrative).

Friday, June 16 - Met with Toine Eggenshuizen, from Holland, Toine became active in the Dutch anti-apartheid movement about the same time I joined the U.S. one. I was saddened to learn from him of Thomas Nkobi's death. Since he was the ANC treasurer for years I had the pleasure of meeting with him many, many times. In the afternoon I met with John Gerhart, representative of the Ford Foundation for South Africa and Namibia. We discussed some of Ford's grantmaking in the region including some comments on how little peace and security-related funding they do. Also chatted briefly with Gail Gerhart. Gail's three new volumes documenting the persons and issues of the political history of South Africa will be published soon. On the way to the airport, I met Ann Hill. A South African, Ann has worked for years with grass roots and community-based organizations with a Paulo Freire-type approach. She has always linked in peace and security issues.

Monday, June 19 - Morning meeting with Reverend Wesley Mabuza, general secretary of the Institute for Contextual Theology (ICT). Discussed with him Beyers Naudé's new book and the work of both the ICT and Naudé/Kissner Ecumenical Advise Bureau. The same morning I had a good meeting with Shirley Mabusela, national director of the National Children's Rights Committee. Discussed her study which UNICEF published in 1993, "Children and Women in South Africa: A Situation Analysis," raising with her some of the regional perspective absent from her findings. She also agreed to brief my upcoming Chicago Community Trust youth and leadership delegation. Met briefly, as well, with Victoria Perschler, who works with UNICEF in Pretoria. The array of projects and groups which UNICEF supports in the region is impressive.

Thursday, June 22 - After leaving Maseru at 5:00 in the morning I reached Johannesburg by noon so as to have a lengthy discussion with Frank Chikane and
Molefe Tsele. Molefe is doing difficult and dangerous mobilizing in Natal. Frank shared the difficult challenge(s) which he and other leaders face about their individual choices and roles in this new situation which South Africa faces. I raised with both of them my concern that the region seems to matter less and less to many of South Africa's leadership.

Went by and talked briefly with Christa Kuljian, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation's South Africa program officer and her assistant Moira Mbelu. We had a good discussion about Mott's grantmaking objectives in South Africa. I am consistently impressed with Mott's work. I only wish it was more regional as well.

The return flight being several hours away yet, I met with Myesha Jenkins who works with the Sister City Project in South Africa. Like Christa and Moira, Myesha does excellent work in the region (she'd make a great alternative model for the Chicago State-Minnesota "pipeline" project).

On the way to the airport I stopped at Witwatersrand University Press in search of Shula Mark's new book on nurses in South Africa, Divided Sisterhood (unfortunately, I was not able to see Charles Van Onselen and his colleagues at Wits' Institute of African Studies just as I missed John Daniel and Boganjalo Goba at the University of Durban-Westville and João Hanwana at the Center for Conflict Resolution at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) - maybe the August trip.) At the press I met Claudia Braude, the Commissioning Editor for the Humanities. She shared with me that the press is now very interested in "accepting responsibility" and helping African books and publishing to grow and flourish throughout the region. She believed strongly that the key to regional peace and stability was an equalization of information and access to information throughout the region.