

An Apartheid's Second Front

By NATALIE FOLSTER

The children of Mozambique are pawns in the bloody struggle to preserve apartheid in South Africa.

Elizabeth Sequeira, *Director of External Relations in the Ministry of Education of Mozambique* visited UNB recently on a cross Canada speaking tour. She told her audience that Mozambique is in chaos and that more than 500,000 children have been displaced, orphaned, wounded or killed by the civil war that rages in her country.

Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world. It is facing a famine caused in large part by a continuous campaign of destabilization carried out by the South African backed Mozambique National Resistance forces in opposition to the Marxist-oriented Mozambiquian Government. The rebel forces are able to survive and avoid detection in the vast, empty tracts of land of Mozambique. According to Ms Sequeira, MNR guerrillas attack rural villages at random, burning schools and hospitals, and stealing food and medicines. Agriculture, healthcare, and the economy have been

catastrophically disrupted. Villagers abandon their homes and crops to escape from the violence.

Under these circumstances, improvement of the economic and social well-being of the country is impossible. As a teacher, Ms Sequeira experienced directly the effect of the war on the educational system. Education is considered to be a vital component of national development. In 1983, there were 5886 primary schools in Mozambique. By 1988 2655 of these had either been burned, closed or under regular attack by the MNR.

Ms Sequeira says of the children "If they are tired, hungry, having psychological problems, traumatized by the war, they will not learn." If they do not learn, they cannot improve the situation in their country.

Ms Sequeira says "The development of independence and economically strong states in southern Africa is not in the interests of the Republic of South Africa." Mozambique and the other "front-line states" which border South Africa are seen by Pretoria as a buffer between apartheid and the free world. As long as they are mired in civil strife and remain

economically dependent on South Africa, the racist regime is safe from the potential force of their combined strength. Ms Sequeira says "The South Africans don't want to conquer Mozambique. They could have done it in a few days. What they want is just to keep the disruption going."

In light of this, Ms Sequeira believes that the only solution to Mozambique's troubles is the end of apartheid. Peace is needed for reconstruction and development.

Asked how Canada could help Mozambique, Ms Sequeira said that it was vital to impose sanctions against South Africa.

"Cutting diplomatic ties is a good political move, but it is not as effective as cutting economic links. That is what is keeping apartheid alive."

In addition, she said that all the front-line states need financial help to rebuild the infrastructure of their countries. Canada could also help with defense against South Africa. Ms Sequeira says she realizes



Canadian sensitivity to giving military aid, but says that Ottawa could help in other aspects of defence, like improving the communications system in Mozambique.

LUBICON HISTORY

By RANDY GOODLEAF

As a Mohawk Indian from the Kahnawake Indian reserve in Quebec, I ask myself "What do I think about the Lubicon Cree situation?" I think of a group of people who have been promised a place to call home almost fifty years ago. I also think of a group of people who are fed up with both the Federal and Provincial bureaucracies. The Lubicons have lived a third world existence since they came in from the wilderness

and into "Civilization".

The Lubicons were an unknown tribe of Cree Indians up until 1930 due to their nomadic existence in northern Alberta. When the province of Alberta negotiated their peace treaties with the natives of northern Alberta, the Lubicons were not around to negotiate a reserve territory.

Around 1940, the Lubicons chose an area of approximately 64 sq kilometers as their reserve, and approached the department of Indian Affairs and National Resources (as the Department of Indian Affairs was then called) to have it recognized as such. Promises were made by both the Federal and Provincial Governments, but the papers were never formalized. The federal position at that time was that they would grant reserve status if the province of Alberta agreed on the size of the reserve. At that time, Alberta had realized that significant gas, oil and mineral resources existed in the Lubicons traditional area, and were somewhat reluctant to part with their land.

Nearly fifty years later, it is the Federal Government that is holding up a resolution. They are maintaining that there are only 235 official Lubicons, and not 457 as both the Lubicons and the Alberta

Government had agreed upon. Their official total is based on their estimate of the Lubicons who actually occupied the traditional homelands in northern Alberta in 1899. How did the Feds arrive at this figure if the Lubicons were not known until 1930. Once again, the Federal Government thinks it knows more about native people than the natives themselves. This official total is important because it determines the amount of land that the Department of Indian Affairs can designate as reserve land. This total official Indian figure is then multiplied by a figure of one fifth of an acre to give the allowable reserve area.

The present Alberta/Lubicon agreement would provide for an area in northern Alberta of 246 sq Kilometers, with the Lubicons having below the surface rights on 205 sq Kilometers.

This was the area that the Lubicons wanted in the first place.

It is amazing that it has taken 50 years, an Olympic Boycott, a road block, and several trips to the United Nations to get this far. It gives you an idea of how serious the Federal and Provincial Governments take both the Lubicons and Native people in general.

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