

# OXFAM —

## Canada and southern Africa

### Southern Africa Program Development Officers on campus Thursday

James Crowell, Chairman of Edmonton Local Committee of OXFAM Canada outlines the organization's involvement in southern Africa. On Thursday the agency's southern Africa project development officers will be in Edmonton, speaking on campus. Crowell offers some background information to the visit.

Liberation. It's a word with powerful appeal. And for the people of southern Africa, it has a specific, significant meaning.

For the citizens of Mozambique, Angola, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde liberation is something they have just won.

For the people of Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), Namibia (former-South-West Africa) and South Africa, liberation is still a dream, as yet unattained.

Since 1971, OXFAM Canada has supported projects which work towards the liberation of the people of southern Africa, and the weapons OXFAM has been sending are of the strongest mettle: shovels, books, and syringes. They are the weapons in a war against disease, poverty and illiteracy.

As part of OXFAM's commitment to let Canadians know what is really happening in the countries of southern Africa, the agency's two southern Africa project development officers — Susan Hurlich and Paul Puritt — will be visiting Edmonton this week.

Thursday, April 5, they will hold a forum (sponsored by the students' union) in room 56, in the basement of Henry Marshall Tory Building. They will present slides of a recent four-month tour of Zambia, Angola, and Mozambique. Both Hurlich and Puritt have first-hand experience of the bombing of refugee camps that the Rhodesian military is now undertaking almost weekly.

They can also talk about the day-

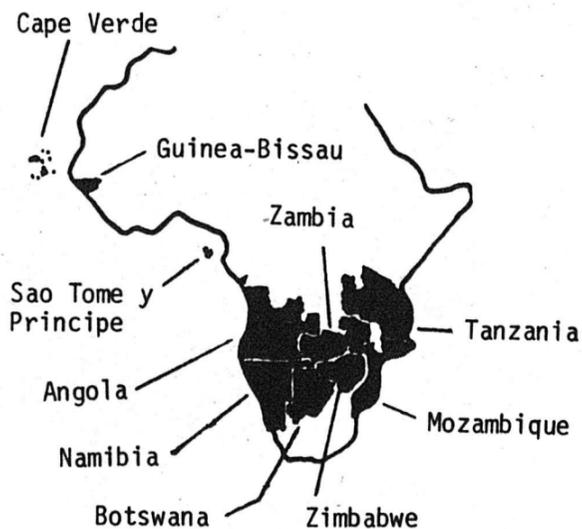
to-day struggles of the people in southern Africa to build a new society out of the ashes of colonialism and racism.

Thursday evening, at 8 p.m., in the O'Leary Centre of St. Joseph's Cathedral, 113th Street and Jasper Avenue, Hurlich and Puritt will present the film *Six Days of Soweto* — on the uprising that took place in 1976 in the townships of South Africa.

Refreshments will be served and donations will be requested, with the proceeds from the evening to go towards OXFAM's southern Africa projects. It is through these projects that OXFAM demonstrates the support of ordinary Canadians for the struggle of the southern African people.

Whether the project is seeds and agricultural implements for a Zimbabwean refugee camp that was attacked by Rhodesian bombers, or textbooks and teaching supplies to help develop an exciting new literacy program for Guinea Bissau, OXFAM Canada's support has been greeted as a vital demonstration of international solidarity by people engaged in a struggle that must sometimes seem overwhelming.

Further information about southern Africa and OXFAM can be obtained by contacting the committee, c/o Jim Crowell #15-10015-111 Street, Edmonton, or by writing to OXFAM-Canada, Box 12,000 Calgary.



Southern Africa in transition: countries where OXFAM-Canada currently is supporting development projects in health, education, and agriculture are shaded.

### Recent involvement

#### Mozambique: Child-care centres teach self-reliance

During the war with the Portuguese, many of the people of Mozambique were forced to flee their villages due to Portuguese bombing raids. Many parents were killed. Frelimo, the liberation movement, took on responsibility for the care of orphaned and displaced children, and established child-care centres, or "infantarios." "We will never use the word 'orphan' in Mozambique," said a Frelimo organizer during a visit by journalists to the liberated areas in

the early days of the struggle. "These children are yours and mine, they are the children of our heroes."

Today, the infantarios continue to shelter thousands of war orphans and children whose parents cannot care for them. In the infantario villages, self-reliance is the watch-word, as it is in all Mozambique. The infantarios are not only centres for the children to live and learn, but models for the nearby villages to learn new techniques.

OXFAM-Canada has committed \$50,000 to provide agricultural tools, seeds, fertilizers, and a maize-grinding mill for each of sixteen infantarios.

#### Guinea-Bissau: "Our final goal is the total eradication of illiteracy in the nation."

So stated the Minister of Education, Mario Cabral, as he announced the start of an exciting and innovative adult literacy program. Cabral was not daunted by the more than 90% illiteracy rate that was the legacy of Portuguese colonialism in this small West African country.

The pilot literary program is being set up with the help of Paulo Freire, one of the best known adult educators in the world. His book, *Pedagogy of the*

*Oppressed*, outlined the lessons learned in his years of experience in literacy teaching: that literacy can be a powerful tool in helping people take control of their own lives, and in taking an active part in their country's development. Freire, working with a team of adult educators and Guinean trainees, has designed a project to enable adults to read and write, while learning new agricultural methods and basic public health. Most important, the people who learn these new skills will then be able to teach them themselves.

The program is now being tested in three pilot areas, and if successful, will gradually be extended to the entire country. OXFAM is providing \$10,000 in support of the program.

#### Zimbabwean refugees are still fleeing their war-torn country

As the war in Zimbabwe heats up, the Rhodesian forces rely more and more upon raids on refugee camps across the Mozambique and Zambia borders. Hundreds of women and children have been killed.

But still the entire populations of villages and schools continue to flee into Mozambique from the forced round-ups of Rhodesian troops. New camps must be built to receive the ever-growing numbers, and the burned out schools, clinics, kitchens, and dormitories must be rebuilt. Fields have to be cleared and tilled so that refugees can be self-sufficient in food.

OXFAM-Canada has committed \$10,000 for tools, seeds, fertilizers, and shoes for the camps.

#### In Sao Tome y Principe, no news is bad news

In the tiny island country of Sao Tome y Principe, there is only one old broken down printing press. The press is completely overloaded, and unable to meet the need for learning materials, news, and communication in the newly independent country.

OXFAM-Canada is providing

\$25,000 to purchase and ship two stencil duplicators, two electronic stencil makers, and printing supplies. The equipment, simple and inexpensive, will reproduce drawings and photographs, as well as printed materials. The government is providing the site and maintenance and operating staff for the equipment. It will be open to use by unions, women's groups and other grassroots organizations in the islands.

#### Cape Verde: A new fishing co-op bring a better living

In the Cape Verde islands off the coast of West Africa, a fishing co-op is being established to help increase the catch. The co-op will also provide simple but effective storage and preservation for the catch, facilitate marketing and distribution, and supply credit to new co-ops.

Previously the fishermen worked individually, rowing their small boats in a heavy ocean swell, unable to get far enough out to reach the larger schools of fish. Bait was often not available, line was scarce. Marketing was haphazard, and often fish spoiled, resulting in lost

income. There was no credit available for new facilities or equipment. With help from the government, the fishermen grouped together to overcome these problems. Collectively they identified the need for a motor boat to pull their small boats out to sea, adequate supplies of nets, hooks, and lines, and a bait tank. They have experimented with salting and drying to reduce spoilage.

OXFAM-Canada is helping to purchase the equipment the fishermen have identified, with a contribution of \$10,000. The co-op will become a model for other groups of fishermen, and a source of credit for other co-ops to be solving their problems too.