

South Africa fights for regional dominance

by Virginia Gillese

Famine in South Africa, and some of the surrounding countries, is a result of the war of the apartheid government of South Africa against the people, says Dan Omara, an associate professor from Maputo University in Mozambique.

Omara spoke at the U of A last Thursday in a forum sponsored by Citizens Against Racism and Apartheid (CARA).

African countries surrounding South Africa are dependent on, and economically intertwined with, South Africa for things such as imports, exports, and transports. These countries have posed a threat to South Africa because of their struggle for independence since 1961, said Omara. South Africa has been at war "to maintain dominance in the region."

Omara noted that since 1972 the old forms of political control in South Africa have been challenged by mass organizations, and he added that "apartheid saw changes were necessary."

Omara also pointed out that "Big

Business in South Africa has never called for the elimination of apartheid, only the modification of it."

In 1978, with the election of P.W. Botha as the new prime minister of South Africa, "the total strategy" was adopted as a policy, Omara observed.

This policy was an attempt to have South Africa accepted as "the legitimate sphere of influence" within a constellation of states, and for it to be "the regional power of Africa," said Omara.

He added that this strategy was left "in tatters when Zimbabwe came to independence under a radical government opposed to South Africa."

Omara went on to outline some of the varying approaches employed by South Africa, in regard to the surrounding countries, including bribes and threats.

It waged war especially against two of the more particularly worrisome countries, Angola and Mozambique.

Major targets were, said Omara, "any produce or distribution of



Graphic: CUP Graphics Exchange

food, anything to do with socialism, and anything to do with the ruling party" of that country.

The result has been disastrous not only for the countries under attack, but for South Africa as well.

Omara stated "100,000 people starved to death" in South Africa in 1983.

Omara said South Africa does want the Lusaka agreement it signed in February with Angola, and the non-aggression pact formed in March with Mozambique, to work. There have been recent threats toward Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, said Omara, indicating that if they don't "nor-

malize, their people will be the first to suffer."

Struggles against apartheid in South Africa, both "legal and illegal, armed and unarmed" persist, said Omara. "The war in South Africa continues, the crisis continues, the struggle in South Africa continues."

Student counselling caters to student needs

by Joan Schiebelbein

Student Counselling Services (SCS) helped almost 8,000 students last year, according to the acting director, Dr. A. Vanderwell.

SCS caters to a very wide variety of student needs, says Vanderwell.

Vanderwell says SCS provides help for students both on a group and an individual basis.

They organize and operate an orientation during Reading Week for new students and their parents. They also provide an orientation for mature students.

When there exists a high demand for a particular service, Vanderwell says, Student Counselling provides group seminars and lectures.

Many students attend seminars that deal with stress managements, weight control, text anxiety reduction, public speaking anxiety reduction, and study skills.

There are study skills workshops held each term to teach students how to organize their time more efficiently, plan a study schedule, take efficient lecture notes, and so on.

Vanderwell added that if a student does not want to attend one of these workshops, but would still

like information concerning study skills, he or she may pick up materials containing this information at the Student Counselling Services' office.

SCS sees the greatest number of students on an individual basis for personal problems, said Vanderwell.

They also help individual students who are seeking information concerning career decisions and vocational planning.

Presently, SCS is in the process of setting up a computer system which would contain information related to career planning and learning skills.

Vanderwell said this would enable students to go in and obtain the information they want on their own. So far they have the hardware, but they still need the software before this program can be implemented.

Student Counselling employs a staff of nineteen professionals. There are eight permanent staff members, but not all are full time.

There are people working for Student Counselling Services on internship and also graduate students in Counselling Psychology.

According to Vanderwell, their

relationship with the graduate students and graduate assistants is one of the healthiest parts of their operation because it is both beneficial to the service and to the students who are provided with the experience they need.

Vanderwell said SCS also has a working relationship with Student Help and Student Health.

All three of these services work in cooperation with one another to benefit the student.

Anyone wishing to take advan-

tage of the service can call 432-5205 and make an appointment or drop by 102 Athabasca Hall between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday. Student Counselling Services is also open Wednesday evenings.

Focusing on human rights

by Suzette C. Chan

With Human Rights Day next week, university staff, faculty and students and other concerned citizens are being asked to reflect on human rights legislation in Canada and other countries.

Kay Wilson of Amnesty International in Edmonton says the organization will show the movie "Missing" to stimulate discussion on international human rights problems.

The film stars Jack Lemmon as an American whose wife is lost during a South American coup.

The event will be held Dec. 10 at the Unitarian Church at 12530-110 ave. at 7:30 p.m. Coffee and tea will be served and a candlelight vigil for prisoners of conscience will follow.

Meanwhile, a member of the Alberta Human Rights and Liberties Association, a private organization, is asking for citizens' input into a book he is writing.

Chuck Bolton, an Edmonton writer, says he was impressed by a recent book on abuses within the Canadian penal system.

He says he will pay special attention to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the justice system and how to use government money more effectively.

"We need people from universities and such to make change come about," he says. "We have to put pressure on governments."

Bolton would like people with suggestions, opinions or informa-

tion on human rights legislation in Canada to write him at 10194-92 st., T4S 1S9.

He says he will especially welcome input from professors and international students.

Donations sought

by Neal Watson

Concerned students and faculty members of the U of A are attempting to make a difference in the relief effort for drought-stricken countries in Africa.

Geography grad student Karen Hurley is organizing an effort to raise money for OXFAM to send to Ethiopia, Chad and other African countries.

There will be a table in HUB this Friday accepting donations. There

will also be literature available on the work OXFAM is doing in Africa. Receipts are available for cash donations.

Students can donate money to Ethiopia or to the General African Drought Area fund if they wish their contribution to go to another country, said Hurley.

Hurley said the proceeds will be added to the \$500 already contributed by the Eugene Brody Board to OXFAM.

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Gateway report card

Gateway staff members are invited to evaluate themselves and the paper Friday, Dec. 7 at noon. A report card will be compiled and presented at the CUP National conference at Christmas.

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by Hans Beckers

