

Minister: Canada should give military aid Mozambique needs help

by Marc Epprecht

On March 9, Dalhousie quietly played host to a prominent Third World revolutionary, Graca Machel. A member of the founding Mozambique cabinet of independent Mozambique (Minister of Education), she is on a cross-country tour sponsored by World University Service of Canada to raise public awareness about the war in her country. The South African-backed 'destabilization' has cost Mozambique at least a half million deaths by violence or famine since 1980.

In addition to launching a day-long public symposium on "Development in a Conflict Zone," Comrade Machel gave an emotional keynote address in the evening to a spellbound audience of about 200.

While thanking the Canadian people for having initiated aid and contacts in her country, she did not hesitate to criticize our government's conservative record, particularly on South Africa.

"The war in my country will never end," Machel said in her dynamic, polished English, "nor can real development ever take place throughout the region until apartheid is ended and South Africa is liberated from white minority rule."

When questioned why it is that the West seems to be so reluctant

to take action against South Africa, she said she regretted to say it but that it was a question of racism on our part, at which she received sustained applause from the audience.

She told the audience that the survival of apartheid, with all the violence that it entails for the region and her country especially, is universally attributed to apathy in Western governments about the deaths and poverty of Black people.

Carleton Political Science professor Douglas Anglin, who is accompanying Comrade Machel, underlined this view with his discussion of the history and nature of Canada's aid to Mozambique: most of it still comes from non-government organizations like OXFAM. He noted that the Canadian government refuses to consider military assistance as a way to protect the development projects which are launched — despite the recommendations of its own development agency, CIDA, and Mozambique's requests.

Dr. Anglin did point out that Canadian trade with Mozambique is increasing but he urged that a critical eye be kept out for South African "sanctions-busting". For example, he said Canada apparently imported 4 million oranges from Mozambique last year although the country only produced 2.5 million. It is assumed that the discre-

pancy is made up of falsely documented South African goods.

In spite of the devastation in her country and the West's silent complicity, Comrade Machel was optimistic. She asserted that Mozambique is still managing to carry out development projects and grass-roots political organization and cited the dramatic rise in literacy as being among the revolution's greatest achievements so far.

The war situation has improved considerably in the last year, she said, in part due to increased international awareness and assistance to Mozambique.

Proposal would aid frosh

by Heather Hueston

Instead of cobbling together a course load from the confusing array offered in the Dalhousie calendar, next fall's frosh may be able to spend their first year following a pre-set timetable as part of a group of sixty students.

The groups, called "cohorts", are part of a proposed program modelled on the system in use in faculties such as nursing, engineering and pharmacy.

Impressed by the sense of identity shared by graduates of faculties with this system, Dean of Science Donald Betts decided to implement the idea for science students in order to ease their



transition from the order of high school to less structured university life.

Betts says the feeling that Dalhousie is large and unfriendly contributes to the almost 25 per cent dropout rate between first and second year.

"I wanted to do something to overcome that feeling," says Betts.

Although students can still register individually, Betts says being part of a cohort would help students explore the field of science they were interested in and expose them to courses they might not otherwise take. It would also allow the group's four

faculty instructors to coordinate their teaching more effectively, and would simplify the registration process for students.

Betts admits he's late in bringing this experiment forward, noting he has yet to discuss it with the registrar. "But theoretically, it's still possible (to implement in time) because the timetable for next year has not been struck," says Betts.

He says the Faculty of Science Council welcomed the idea at its meeting last Thursday. Now Betts would like student input.

Associate Registrar Marian McGillivray said she could not comment without seeing the proposal.

CKDU \$5,000 over goal

Ten days of radio hard sell left CKDU programmers hoarse, exhausted and \$5,000 over their 1989 funding drive goal of \$35,000.

CKDU staff and volunteers are "absolutely ecstatic" over the \$40,051 raised between March 10 and March 19, says the station's programming director Lex Gigeroff.

"It's a ringing endorsement of alternative radio," says Gigeroff, "the fact that the community supported us that much is a real spur to work harder and do a better job."

No access down home

OTTAWA (CUP) — The afternoon Louise Fitzpatrick walked into the Morgentaler Clinic in Montreal, she recognized seven of the women who were sitting in the waiting room.

They had all been on the same Air Atlantic flight Fitzpatrick boarded earlier that morning in St. John's. All eight Newfoundlanders were in Montreal for abortions at Dr. Henry Morgentaler's free-standing clinic.

Their condition was highlighted when Dr. Henry Morgentaler announced he would defy the Nova Scotia government's decision to outlaw free-standing abortion clinics by opening one in Halifax as early as June.

A clinic in Halifax would serve women from all the Atlantic provinces, not just Nova Scotia, Morgentaler said at a Toronto press conference March 20.

According to the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL), more than 500 Atlantic women travel annually to clinics in Quebec or Ontario and about 400 go to U.S. clinics.

The new Nova Scotia regulations, announced March 17 by Health and Fitness Minister David Nantes, would restrict abortions to one of the province's approved hospitals.

In Newfoundland, only one doctor at one hospital (St. John's General) performs abortions. No procedure is performed after the 12th week of pregnancy and there is a four- to five-week waiting list.

Khomeini a "reasonable man"

by Marc Epprecht

The controversy over British author Salman Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* arrived at Dalhousie last week with the publication of a provocative commentary in the *Dalhousie News*.

In the article, Colin Starnes of the Classics Department expresses dismay and disgust with "the West" for "our wish to punish the Ayatollah and teach him a lesson". Although admitting he has not read Rushdie's book, Starnes suggests the book is "actually destructive of Islam and the well-being of its millions", and the death sentence on Rushdie could therefore be considered an understandable act of self-defence.

In his article, Starnes calls for Rushdie to withdraw his book from publication and for the West in general "to recognize that harm has been done and to apologize for it — or else declare war."

Reaction to the article was

swift and strong. John Flint of the History Department, whose rebuttal will appear in the next issue of *Dalhousie News* on March 29, calls Starnes' article "outrageous".

"I find it astonishing that a university professor would see fit to rationalize a death sentence against an author," says Flint "and I'm sure his students will be interested in the practice of condemning a book without having read it first."

Flint says Starnes' article is "a concoction of illogicality and ignorance" which is historically ignorant to the point of paranoia. Flint says the piece wrongly portrayed the book in question, and wrongly and insultingly portrayed the reaction of both the West and the Islamic world.

Flint says Starnes' notion of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who called for Rushdie's death, as a reasonable man expressing leg-

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Development program going nowhere at Dal

by James Hamilton

A new international students' group, organized and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), is having a hard time getting started at Dalhousie due to poor organization and lack of student

interest.

Students For Development was conceived over the summer of 1988 during two national conferences and was finalized this year in Halifax. Participants came from across the country to start a

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