

The Dalhousie International

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Armed Struggle in Western Sahara

by Jim Robson

While world attention is focused on the wars of national liberation in Southern Africa, another struggle for independence is taking place in the deserts of formerly Spanish-controlled Sahara.

The Sahraovin people are currently fighting off an annexation attempt by Morocco and Mauritania which began a year ago. This national war of liberation is being led by the Peoples Front For The Liberation of Sagniet el Hamra and Rio de Ono (Polisario) which was formed May 1973.

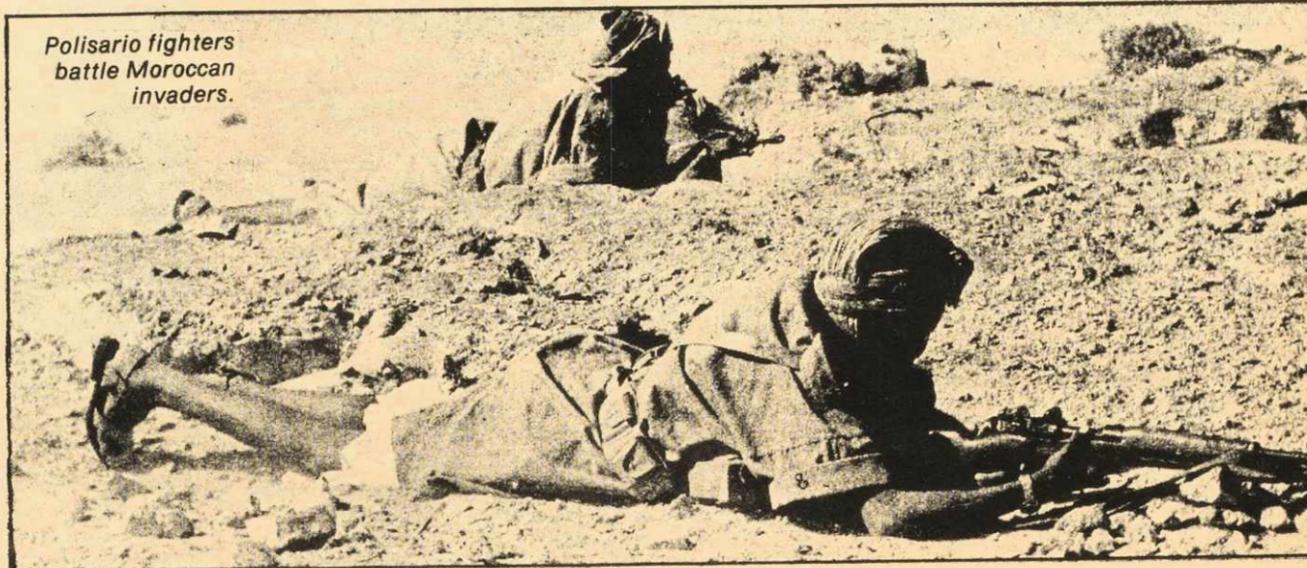
The Sahraovin people have always maintained a fierce sense of independence. In the colonial period, the French were unable to control them until 1936. Rebellion against the Spanish occurred as late as 1958. As one recent observer commented; "This fierce independence is based on their familiarity with the desert and their comparative freedom of movement within it, ignoring national boundaries which in the depths of Sahara are almost theoretical."

The origins of annexation of the former Spanish colony can be found in the expansionist policies of Morocco under the **feudal Dictatorship** of King Hassan II. Control of Sahara is just the first step in a move to annex

last six months they have knocked out the Mauritanian railroad which transports iron ore to Nouadilon. They have also blown up (in several places) the sixty mile long conveyer, in Western

crop destruction, and the killing of animals. Morocco, backed by U.S. military, hardware, first invaded Western Sahara under the guise of the Green March in October, 1975. King Hassan

poly control over this strategic resource for decades. Profits from stockpiled phosphate ore left by the Spanish has been conservatively estimated at \$5 million for the year 1975.



Polisario fighters battle Moroccan invaders.

Sygm

Sahara, that transports phosphate ore from BonCraa the capital, el Aioun. In May, they infiltrated el Aioun and successfully attacked the airport, destroying six helicopters.

The Attacks

In June, Polisario attacked the capital of Mauritania, Nouakchatt, damaging several western embassies as well as the Presidential Palace. To date, Polisario has been able to move and attack at will in both Western Sahara and Mauritania, warning tourists and businessmen that the whole area, including Southern Morocco, is now a war zone.

Polisario is supported by the vast majority of the population of Western Sahara including the traditionally-minded Jemma, a tribal assembly previously set up by the Spanish. Both Libya and Algeria have given their support to the movement, and the Organization for African Unity (OAU) recently rejected the tripartite agreement in favour of self-determination for Saharouins. Previous to this, the International Court of Justice had adopted a similar ruling.

Polisario receives extensive logistical support from Algeria and humanitarian and medical aid from Sweden. The major objectives of the Front include the following:

- 1) to protect refugees from continuous bombing and harassment from Morocco;
- 2) to eliminate disparities between the richer and poorer parts of the country;
- 3) to nationalize the wealth of the country
- 4) to guarantee social services, education, health care, and the right to employment
- 5) to follow a policy of non-alignment

Despite widespread international opposition to its stand, Morocco has persisted in occupying Western Sahara. Polisario successes have continually frustrated the Moroccan military. As a result, they have introduced many of the hideous instruments of counterinsurgency reminiscent of Vietnam, that is: **napalm bombing**, water hole poisoning,

mobilized over 100,000 Moroccans to march into the territory, promising liberation from Spanish colonists. However, 18,000 Moroccan invaders intermingled with the peace marchers. The real objective was to procure the large phosphate deposits located at BonCraa.

Phosphate production began in 1973 through a combination of investments made by the U.S. Export Bank, the First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee, and the infamous German company, Krupp. Through a deal made with Spain, profits will be shared with the Moroccan State agency, Office Cherifien des Phosphates. Reserves have been estimated at 10,000 million tons, the largest in the world. Morocco is already the world's largest producer of phosphate ore. These reserves **ensure mono-**

Morocco has also had difficulty with her own army in Western Sahara, with casualties running as high as 150 men per month. A recent article in the Paris paper **Le Monde** reported discontent within the army late last summer. Special Moroccan units were sent to the Sahara to put down troops who were mutinizing and refusing to fight. Despite the fact that Morocco is using mercenaries from France, Spain, and South Korea, the Polisario Front has the support of the population, who have inherited the specialized skills of desert warfare from their fathers and grandfathers.

They are a force to be reckoned with, an enemy that will not readily be subdued by those whose aim is to appropriate the resources of their country.



Algerian Press

Woman supporter of Polisario movement in Western Sahara

Mauritania. Ironically, Mauritania, a former supporter of Polisario, chose to participate in a tripartite agreement (November 1975) with Morocco and Spain to partition the Spanish Colony.

Mauritania has paid dearly for its **treachery**. Besides losing the lion's share of phosphates to the Moroccans, they have lost some crucial iron deposits which the Moroccans calimed after a common boundary was already established.

The Economy

In attempts to control the actions of Polisario, Mauritania's economy has been taxed heavily. The military budget has increased 25 percent for this year and now accounts for 30 percent of the country's entire budget. In addition, all Mauritanian citizens have been paying between 1 and 3 days of salary a month to a national defense fund. As a result, military dependency on Morocco has increased dramatically. Dakha, an important port within Mauritanian-occupied Western Sahara is totally controlled by Moroccan troops.

Polisario has been successful at using northern Mauritania as a base of operations against the Moroccan controlled towns in Western Sahara. In the

International students

The International Students Association is being reformed at Dalhousie.

The **International** talked to Dorrik Stow, present chairperson about the purpose and aims of the organization. Stow says, "Once again we are planning to re-vitalize the International students' association. There are a number of things that we want to do or examine during the year and for which we would ask your advice, assistance and support.

"You may come across our 'Socials' programme and wonder why we consider this important. These events provide an opportunity for foreign students of all nationalities to meet and make friends. Most foreign students find Canadian culture quite different from their own, and experience some kind of cultural shock in trying to adjust. Often, instead of mixing, they will try to survive in a very small group of their own nationality. Not having a place to go at week-ends or during holidays, these are the times that they feel most homesick or uneasy.

They hope that their social programme will promote greater interaction between the small 'cultural islands' than exists at present, and also be of benefit to North American students.

A second function of the ISA will be to generate interest in and increase awareness of international affairs. To this end they will continue to support the "**Dalhousie International**" they will also organize educational events (films, speakers, discussions, etc).

In summary, our plans include:

- 1) 'Socials', short sight-seeing tours of Nova Scotia, an 'International Night' in January.
- 2) Working groups to study problems of immigration, housing and foreign student reception.
- 3) An active interest in international affairs. Meetings are held over lunch every Thursday at 12 noon in Room 218 of the Dal Sub. Why not drop in one day?

For information please contact: Mahmood Alam at 422-5336; Dorrik Stow at 424-3655.

Zambia

An inspiring visit

by Eric Wood

Mwapoleni mukwai. Mutushani? In difye bwino. Bushe aba kashana bali kwi. What am I trying to say to you? What can this mean?

I have just returned from Zambia, Central Africa, where I spent June, July and August on a cross-cultural learning experience with Canadian Crossroads International. The purpose of this article is to give an account of my experiences at work and play in Zambia and perhaps just pass on some of the issues I have been reflecting upon, since my return to Canada.

Crossroads sent about 50 selected young volunteers to developing countries in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia to work on development projects at the community level and learn the life of their hosts. These projects should be regarded as a tool with which the volunteers can gain a better understanding of the situation by working with the local people and not to be regarded as a form of foreign aid as such.

I am now studying graphic design at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and while in Zambia, I was fortunate to be working at an art school. I was able to pass on much of the knowledge I had previously acquired in design and also added more towards my own schooling at the same time.

Near Kitwe, a large modern city in the heart of Zambia's Copperbelt Province, lies the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, which is a group of training centres well placed on 150 acres of

"All African people had one thing in common...a tremendous feeling for each other."

beautiful semi-rural forested land, nestled between coppermines and their respective townships. Mindolo is a long standing institution, funded by various churches and organizations throughout the world which provides specific professional and domestic training to people from all parts of Africa. Mindolo offered a Youth Leadership Program, Women's Training Program, School of Business Management, School of Library Science, Ministerial Training College and on the campus, there is also a separate sister organization called the African Literature Centre.

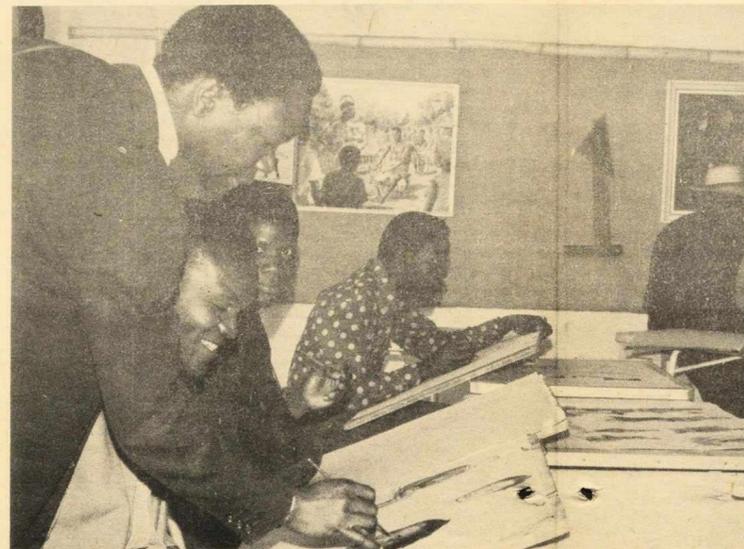
school and would later seek positions with some guidance from the ALC. We were hampered by the scarcity of supplies like brushes but we made do and often improvised. I was usually in class while others were teaching to help explain difficult concepts and give individual coaching. On my own, I held a cartooning class, which seemed to be quite popular, and worked with developing posters from ideas.

The life at Mindolo was very informal and family-like as all of the more than 100 students participated in social activities together, ate together and in general, mixed well. Throughout my stay I met many people from a wide range of African countries, and because the courses varied in length, there was a large turnover of students at the end of June. Each person would have his or her customs and language from home and I was always glad to learn of them. Things like food, musical instruments, handshakes, dress and greetings all different so much from one area of the continent to another.

All African people had one thing in common however: a tremendous feeling for each other and a real gift for making you feel so much at home. After two weeks, I felt so settled that newcomers thought I had been there a few months. It was so much easier to be accepted than I had expected while counting the days before I left from Canada.

The food in the modern dining hall seemed to lack a little (as most institution food does) but was, never-the-less, well balanced. You would always have the staple food, called nshima, made from maize, boiled cabbage or other greens, and stewed meat or fish. Therefore, visits to Zamby, the local hamburger joint, were always welcomed. About once a month we would hold an nsaka evening which would be best described as a banquet-like potluck supper with dancing and story telling afterwards. All of the staff and students would participate in the fun and eating, until late at night.

Socializing was not confined to Mindolo staff, however. From time to time I would accompany friends to some of the local country bars. I favored these places to the more sophisticated establishments downtown because the patrons really knew how to let loose and have a good



Mr. Emmanuel Nsama coaching Tommy Ray Mutundo in life drawing.

Photo / Wood

something new and different would inevitably happen to me. Partly because I was a stranger, and partly because I was almost always the only white present, I would meet most of the regulars and they would not hesitate to buy me a beer to start a conversation. If you want to learn the culture you have to see all sides, right?

The Copperbelt has a high expatriate population largely due to the mines. Most of the mine expatriates, especially the wives, seemed to spend most of their time complaining about the place. Perhaps they had good reason to complain. There were frequent shortages of basic commodities such as soap, butter, soap powder and cooking oil, and luxuries like chocolate and cheese where virtually non-existent. You have to provide your own entertainment unless you want to go to the stuffy theatre, with an all white stigma attached to it, or to the cinema. I had occasion to attend a dinner party at which most of the guests were mine employees and all were expats but it was so stuffy with everybody talking about their show horses and how hard it was to get good help. No wonder they did not like it; they were not prepared to adjust.

Most of Zambia is high plateau grassland dotted with big broadleaf trees and a few small hills. I was there during their winter season which meant cool nights (5°-10°C) and short days which warmed up around 11 a.m. to about 20°-25°C. May through October is the dry season and it never rained while I was there.

"Most of the expatriates...seemed to spend most of their time complaining about the place."

The copperbelt was where everything seemed to happen in Zambia with the exception of the capital city, Lusaka. It is a collection of modern towns and cities which all seemed spacious, beautiful and well planned. Everything was divided into sections; first class trading, second class trading, light and heavy industrial areas and council-provided housing in separate townships with small greenbelts and arterial roads in between. As in most places I visited in Central and East Africa, the Asians and Arabs were strong in the retail businesses. The government controls the big department stores (ZCBC, ZOK) and also some of the agricultural markets (ZAMBOARD).

A big problem in Zambia now is urban migration causing large squatter townships on the outskirts of the cities. Extensive campaigns are underway with agricultural relocation schemes in varying states of success to make rural life more attractive. In the schools all students study agriculture. The farmer's hoe along with the eagle are the national symbols of Zambia.

Everybody has the opportunity to go to primary school but not all can go to secondary school because the facilities are not available. Competition for secondary school is keen and many are left out to fend for themselves. Reforms of the educational systems are underway but I am not yet familiar with the briefs concerning this. Once I visited a Dutch volunteer who was a secondary school teacher at a boarding school for boys. The situation was not a pleasant one. Boys were sometimes 2 and 3 to a bed as the school was overcrowded. They had been eating nothing but beans and nshima three meals a day for several weeks. They had meat once a term. The dining hall reminded me of a Charles Dickens story and the boys had to eat standing up. They had a nice collection of projectors and audio visual teaching aids but no electricity. Every young person, at one time or another, has to take so many months of national service training with the military and many of my friends have told me "it is no holiday".

Local Church services were really of interest. The music of the choirs was quite rhythmic and often accompanied by drums and maracas-like instruments. Somehow (when in English) the message seemed so much more vital and close to home in the different setting. It was also nice to see the church in action with development schemes.

At present I am divided about if and how foreign aid should be executed. It's disheartening to see things like 10 diesel locomotives sitting idle because their manuals for maintenance and repair were written in German or new tractors rotting in the fields because no one can get spare parts. Remember Zambia's only trade link by land is the TANZAM railway northeast to the Indian Ocean through Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. (Zambia is a landlocked republic bordered by Zaire, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Rhodesia, Botswana, Namibia, and Angola!) Failures like these make me wish that there could be some successful information organized to co-ordinate all foreign aid to find out what form if any at all, is best for that particular developing country to make more decisions by competent persons at the receiving end.

In Tanzania I had friends at an agricultural research institute who were volunteers with CIDA and when I was there the project evaluators from CIDA came to the project not knowing what a combine was or anything else associated with farming. It is very disappointing to see good projects cancelled and poor ones continued because of poor communication.

Medical care largely controlled by Asian doctors, was free in Zambia. The hospitals were usually reasonably modern and well equipped but sometimes lacked technicians to operate the machines. Not unlike other African countries Zambia suffers a high infant mortality rate and tries hard to educate mothers to wean children

rather than subject them to the abrupt switch from breast feeding to nshima and vegetables.

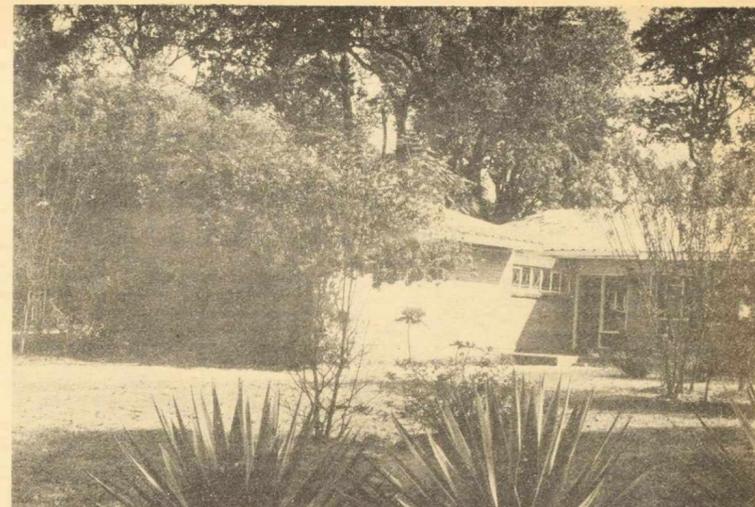
Because of transport problems in Zambia, mobile clinics and training centres are gaining in popularity. Mindolo operates a mobile women's training centre that spends time in smaller towns and villages where such training is unavailable. Nutrition centres are often found in the urban townships if they are not mobile ones. Mothers come to have their infants weighed and examined and to learn some hints on child care.

Of course the large urban migration and the subsequent problem with squatter townships is not evident to the tourist because often these rather unsightly communities are well away from major tourist routes. The people who live there that can afford municipal housing cannot get it because of the waiting lists. Sometimes 10,000 people can live in one of these mud brick, scrap metal, and stick townships of one room huts over an area of about 3 times the size of Dalhousie's campus. Others who earn less than \$50.00 a month as a houseboy, gardener or car washer in the streets are destined to remain there and their children will probably do the same.

"Our way of life seemed appalling when I got back..."

Do not let the term 'one room hut' put you off, because in Africa most of the living is done outside the home. About the only thing done inside is sleeping. Cooking, maize pounding, washing and relaxation all take place outdoors.

Mindolo seemed like an oasis in the midst of all this and I felt I was not getting the true picture of Zambia if I did not venture out to other parts of Zambia on weekends and holidays. This is encouraged both by Crossroads and my superiors in the African Literature Centre. In June I had the pleasure of accompanying 2 Dutch volunteers on a 5 day journey through part of Zaire into Zambia's Luapula province. The experiences encountered were as new and exciting as the roads were corrugated. One other time I met some Crossroaders by travelling south to Victoria Falls on the Rhodesian border. Words cannot describe the sensations. One Crossroader visiting another was a good time to share experiences and compare projects. I spent a weekend with my best friend's brother and his family, which proved to be very entertaining and educational. Everytime when returning to Mindolo after a



The Africa Literature Centre's Art Studio.

Photo / Wood

weekend out, I was made to feel so welcome that I felt I had been away for a month.

There have been strict security measures enforced now since the country was declared in a state of alert. The post office and high court in Lusaka were bombed while I was in Zambia and there was also a terrorist attack on a small border village (Namibia border). Public buildings, bridges and all communication centres were under heavily armed guard. A photographer can have quite a problem if he/she is not careful as to where he points his lens.

Despite the bad news, I really had a fantastic time. In your normal day to day activities you would not really feel the tension that newspapers love to blow up. When I came back to Canada the questions people asked me were surprising because they still had the image of Africa that I had before I left Canada. People really thought everybody was in turmoil and running around inciting riots. It sounds bigger over here than it really is. I was in a relatively safe country but it is one that plays a key role in trying to untangle affairs in Southern and Central Africa.

Another disturbing thing was what people here know and care about other parts of the world. We

seem to have closed ourselves in with no window on the world. My friends could ask me questions, meaning well, but by the tone of their questions I could see images of dancing natives trading ivory for beads and escorting you on exotic jungle safarries. It is really more different than most people seem to think. The modern cities with skyscrapers and six lane boulevards have just as much to offer and are just as exciting as our cities, if not more. People all wear jeans and shirts or dresses and those who went to school all speak English well. Our way of life really seemed appalling when I got back-Silent people on the streets and in buses and elevators, moral and sexual perversions, giving away millions of dollars or merchandise on the media to entertain people in their homes. Wow!

If any people reading this article feel they would be interested in participating in such experience, I urge them to get in contact with me immediately as Crossroads is going through the selection process this week. Also I would be more than glad to come and give a presentation to any group interested. I can be reached through the Dalhousie Gazette or at 423-6553.

Forum

Ian Smith-The strategies of a racist

by Jim Robson

A negotiated settlement for the independence of Zimbabwe seems unlikely, largely because of the intransigent position of Rhodesian leader, Ian Smith.

Smith has no intention of surrendering state power to the Zimbabweans represented at the conference in Geneva. His strategy involves a number of devious tactics. Firstly, his insistence on using the "Kissinger principles" (see *Dalhousie International* Oct. 1976) as a bargaining position instead of a basis for discussion, is an attempt to delay the Geneva talks and allow the Rhodesian state to regroup militarily. In fact the Rhodesian army had already begun its insidious attacks on Zimbabwean refugee villages inside Mozambique.

These vicious attacks have not been primarily against the guerrillas of the Zimbabwean Peoples Army (ZIPA) but against men, women, children living in these villages.

Last August, the Rhodesian army slaughtered 670 people, mostly women and children at the refugee camp at Nyazonia. An Oxfam and a United Nations report document the attempt to hide this bloodletting. "Survivors explained that the Rhodesian troops, after mowing down hundreds of men, women and children with gunfire, had ordered the survivors to put the bodies of the children into huts where the refugees lived. Then they set fire to the huts." (Oxfam Report)

Nov. 2, the Rhodesian army launched a full scale invasion of Mozambique border areas in a so-called "hot pursuit" action against ZIPA. This time the Rhodesian army distinguished themselves as Mozambique soldiers; killing women and children, destroying crops, and animals, and burning villages.

While the army attempts to smash resistance to the Rhodesian state, Smith continues to use his second tactic of stalling and delaying the proceedings at the Geneva conference in attempt

to accumulate more capital for the white ruling class through the export of coal, chromium, tobacco, and other foreign exchange earners.

The removal of Henry Kissinger from the diplomatic front will make it difficult for Smith to preserve the two billion dollar development fund promised to Rhodesian settlers after a transfer to majority rule.

Smith's ruling clique is running out of time and



he knows it. His withdrawal from the conference is a deliberate attempt to regroup his forces. It is safe to assume that he will not reappear, or submit to any of the demands for independence until he has received assurances from the U.S. government (that is the Carter Administration) that the neo-colonial set up promised by Kissinger will be

Forum is an opinion column open to anyone who wishes to present any informed opinion on a topic related to the concerns of the International.

up held.

Smith's third tactic involves the use of the news media to bolster his so-called "legitimacy" as leader of the Rhodesian state. Unfortunately Smith has had some success in this area. The general public in Western Europe and North America is receiving an abnormal amount of exposure to Smith's racist ideas and his rationalizations for refusing to grant majority rule. T.V. and news coverage maximize exposure to Smith and minimize exposure to the Zimbabwean leaders.

A content analysis of an article in the *Halifax Mail-Star* on November 4, 1976 reveals this type of coverage. Emphasis is placed on particular word usage. Smith and Foreign Minister Pieter von der Byl are given formal titles as though they were the legitimate holders of state power. The positions of African nationalist Joshua Nkomo and Robert Magabe are not discussed. Verbs used to describe their position such as "contend" and "demand", create doubt and suspicion in the reader's mind. On the other hand, statements by der Byl and Smith are supported with simple, non-controversial verbs such as "said" and "telling". In terms of paragraph emphasis, information supporting the Smith regime is given five paragraphs while Zimbabweans only receive two paragraphs and which, in any case, were non-supportive.

Ian Smith's overall strategy of using combinations of delay and attack on the military, diplomatic and propaganda fronts will fail. The Zimbabwean people do not support his self-proclaimed right to rule their country. They are willing to negotiate a peaceful settlement provided they receive independence by Sept. 1977. This is not an unreasonable request. They are, however, willing to fight the Smith regime until it is forced to capitulate.

NEXT ISSUE-THE AFRICAN POSITON - UNITY FROM DISUNITY



The students and staff of the 76/77 Graphic Arts and Painting course.

Photo / Wood

The ALC was mainly composed of a school of journalism offering a six month Pan African Journalism course and an art studio offering a one year Graphic Arts and Painting course. Of course, this was where I was placed.

The Art Studio is headed by a Canadian woman Marjorie Murray and she is assisted by a Zambian artist, Emmanuel Nsama, a former student of Murray. Nsama, attended and completed studies at Sheridan College, here in Canada. The course only began a few weeks before my arrival so the classes concentrated largely on basic skills. Some of the students would return to their jobs with mission presses or with the government while others were just out of

time. The Zambian people really enjoy their beer and dancing to modern congolese music in the form of scratchy records or distorted blaring from a juke box. To my surprise Jim Reeves had captured the Zambian market on country and western music. It was almost religious! Frequently, in an adjoining room you could procure some chibuku. Relax, this is the name of the local porridge, like brew, made from maize and available in one half gallon pails for about 25 cents. It is usually the hard core drinkers who go for it or those who are short of money. They say its very nutritious but it sits heavy in your bloated tummy as it continues to ferment overnight. Everytime we went to these places

Law of the Sea

by Dorrik Stow

World attention has focused increasingly on the sea as the solution to the problem of steadily depleting land resources. The ocean is far more than a mere dumping ground for nuclear and other wastes which we are unable to, or refuse to control. Its treasures extend beyond a few sunken chests of gold coins and the odd Russian submarine discovered on the seabed.

Mineral resources

Extraction of the vast mineral wealth of the seas is still in its infancy. Oil and gas exploration has resulted in important finds, particularly on the continental margins and in 'inland' seas. Other minerals exist in deposits on and beneath the seabed, some in large quantities, but the technology required for their extraction has yet to be developed.

The potentially most significant of these are manganese nodules, as they contain many important metals. However at present they cannot be collected without the use of highly sophisticated and extremely expensive equipment, such as the variation on a vacuum cleaner devised for Howard Hughes. Gold, diamonds, sulphur, salt, phosphorites, coal, platinum and uranium are all lying in wait for the next rich adventurer who is not quite rich enough.

Seawater itself contains approximately fifty tons per cubic mile of zinc, iron and aluminium, and fifteen tons per cubic mile of uranium, tin and copper, in addition to many other minerals. The costs involved in collecting them from the water are currently prohibitive. Seawater can also be converted into fresh water for use in desert areas.

Living resources

The annual world fish catch is now in the region of seventy million metric tons. Of this total, a staggering ten million metric tons are lost each year through wastage (fish discarded by fleets which are concentrating on

catching one species). About 80 percent of the world catch is taken within fifty miles of shore.

Much hope has been placed in the farming/collection of plankton and krill for food. Positive use of such living resources depends on a clear understanding of the ecological balance of the oceans, an understanding we do not as yet possess.

Law of the Sea Conference

The question remains as to whether exploitation of these rich ocean resources. Will the rich and powerful nations grab what they can while they can, without regard to long-term human and ecological consequences? Will potentially renewable resources be turned into non-renewable ones through disregard for conservation issues? Are the same mistakes to be repeated, or can we learn from them in developing a comprehensive strategy for management of the oceans?

The international Law of the Sea conferences represent an attempt to meet the challenge implicit in these questions. The first such conference was held as early as 1958. During the summer of 1976, 150 nations entered the fifty session of the third conference. Discussions have centred around four main issues: the idea of a 200-mile exclusive economic zone for countries with coastlines; the importance of preservation of the marine environment; the necessity for developing scientific research for peaceful purposes and to the benefit of all; and the proposal to establish an international seabed authority to manage and oversee mineral extraction outside the coastal economic zones.

Present state of agreement

It is now almost certain that sole jurisdiction over all marine resources within 200 miles will be granted to coastal states. This plan ignores the needs of the thirty or so landlocked nations, most of which are less

developed. They have formed a united block in order to press their case for a fair share of the ocean's wealth, but as yet they have made little progress towards attaining their ends. A further twenty to thirty countries could be said to be geographically disadvantaged, by having either short coastlines or narrow shelves.

Other questions which are still to be resolved concern the size of the economic zone around small islands, the partition of enclosed seas, such as the Mediterranean, and the extent of control a neighbouring state will have over passage through the straits of the World.

It is proposed that pollution control within the 200-mile zone be the responsibility of the coastal state. Vague plans for "assistance" to developing countries have been formulated to enable them to carry out this duty. No practical scheme has been worked out for the transfer of technology in order that poorer nations can begin to explore and exploit their newly-acquired slice of sea.

Forcing the Issue

As debate has proceeded on these concerns, many countries have decided to act unilaterally in declaring a 200-mile limit. In this they have followed the example of Chile, Ecuador, and Peru, which claimed 200 miles as early as 1952. The United States had declared its right to mine its continental shelf seven years before, in 1945. Canada will assume control over a 200-mile economic zone as of 1 January, 1977.

These moves have positive implications, in that such limits will provide a defence for many coastal states against depletion of local resources by the rich and technologically developed. At the same time, they run counter to the concept of the sea as "the common heritage of mankind". Meanwhile, the major part of the ocean (the two-thirds outside the exclusive economic zones) is left free for all, with the odds heavily stacked against those who are not equipped to take advantage of this freedom.

International Control

In view of these developments, the

need for an international Ocean Authority, opinions differ widely, (along rich/poor lines) as to its nature and purpose. It is also important to note that the body which is envisaged would only have power over the extraction of seabed minerals and the potential resultant pollution. It would not control the activities of states within their 200-mile limit.

The majority of the developed nations favour the establishment of a relatively weak authority, whose power would be limited to the granting of extraction licences to applicants, whether they be governments or multinational companies.

The less developed countries, on the other hand, would like to see a much stronger body, with wide-ranging powers over the use of ocean resources:

- 1) It would be able to tax nations or companies on their profits for purposes of redistribution.
- 2) It would become directly involved itself in the collection of minerals from the ocean floor.
- 3) It would be committed to preserving the marine environment.
- 4) It would provide financial backing and expertise to poorer countries, to enable them to develop ways of using their resources.

Success of this second alternative depends ultimately on the support of the developed nations. For it is they who hold the key to effective financing of such an authority, effective policing by it, and effective exploitation of deep sea resources through the application of advanced technology. The strength of numbers would give the poorer countries at least a measure of political control over the work of the authority, and the rich nations are all too aware of this fact.

If such a body were to be formed in spite of these very real obstacles, it could work towards the achievement of two significant and related aims: lessening the wealth gap between developed and developing nations, and ensuring far-sighted ecological management of the oceans. It may be the case that the only alternative to the Law of the Sea is the Law of the Jungle.

Letters

Japan

To the Gazette:

Personally, I feel the article "Spiritualism in Japan" (Oct. 21, '76) conveys a distorted view about the traditional spirit of Japan. It simply reflects the old sinister days of Japan—"militarism".

What constitutes the suicidal intents of brave 'Kamikaze pilots' is due to their 'blind filial' to their authority. That's the tricks of the imperialists and the poor soldiers die for the sake of the selfishness and ambition of their dictator.

If this is what you want to tell, I do congratulate the young generation. They set themselves free and discard the dogmatic beliefs handed down from the past.

I know, traditionally, the Japanese are searching for the innermost beauty, self-denial, natural simplicity, harmony and perfection of mankind. These can be reflected in the daily acts like flower arrangement, landscape design and vernacular architecture.

Maybe I have misinterpreted your article. Please do excuse me.

N.L. Miu

The Attack

To the Gazette:

Though I know that I am taking a grave risk in writing this letter to the *Dal Gazette* since it will be expressing views which are not acceptable to the status quo who regard themselves as the collective voice of the Dal student, I believe that as a Dal student I cannot flinch from what I view as the plain truth. I also hope that the *Dal Gazette* is willing to let contrary opinions be heard since I too must pay fees which keep the *Dal Gazette* in print and I am a Dal student entitled to my fair share of printed

democracy.

In all the media the public is continually being bombarded that the situation in South Africa and Rhodesia can be easily reduced to oppressors and oppressed. Both countries are judged by European and North American standards of liberalism without taking into consideration the particular circumstances of either country. The fears of the white minorities are more than justified concerning a black take-over. Most black African nations are out and out dictatorships where the legal status of a white man is that of an animal: he cannot own property; he cannot be a citizen; he cannot vote; etc. One African state has a "medal of the mosquito" as its greatest honour since that insect kept whites out of the country. In Angola the Portuguese whites had to leave en masse as it was perfectly clear what would happen to those whites who stayed on.

In both Rhodesia and South Africa the whites literally turned jungle and wilderness into nations. One should try to think what either country would be like today if no white man had ever gone to Africa. Another consideration is whether or not the black population is educated enough to take over completely. Perhaps the majority of blacks, being uneducated, would fall easily under the sway of more Idi Amins. Unlike Rhodesia, most of the four million whites in South Africa have been there for hundreds of years and can hardly be regarded as foreigners in an alien land. The irresponsible Western press has often condemned white rule in South Africa and Rhodesia without giving the benefits of white rule a fair acknowledgement. If black majority rule does come the only way the new black nations will be able to function competently is if enough whites stay on to instruct in the ways of handling a complex technological modern nation. If, however, the whites are forced to look for

a new home we in Canada could not possibly allow in enough of these hard-working, diligent people.

It is very easy for irresponsible liberals in Canada to insist that white South Africa and white Rhodesia place all they have accomplished as well as their homes, their families, and their very lives at the mercy of a black majority which has not hesitated in the past to take 'vengeance' on their former white masters. Such Canadian liberals are safe at home surrounded by more white faces than black but I bet they would sweat if the situation was reversed. On the practical side, the West needs South Africa as a trading partner far far more than South Africa needs the West. Those who foolishly demand embargos are recklessly threatening Canadian jobs rather than South Africa.

Whites have worked hard in Southern Africa and Rhodesia and their lives are on the line when one argues over black majority rule and not just printed words as in the case of liberal Canadian journalists who are so adept at playing holier than thou in the safety of predominately white Canada. Indeed, unless the immigration department comes to its senses we Canadians will be looking at white Africa a lot more sympathetically in the very near future.

Yours truly,
Bob Alexander

A Reply to Bob Alexander

Mr. Alexander's views on Southern Africa are insulting, naive, and bigoted.

In South Africa (Azania) and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) there are the **oppressors** and the **oppressed**; there are those who hold power (a white minority) and there are those who are prevented from holding it (a black majority). Mr. Alexander neglects to inform us of "the particular circumstances" surrounding the formation of these "outposts of western civilization". White minorities will be defeated largely because they refused to share

power, refused to give up privilege, and refused to end their exploitation of black labour.

The "legal status" of any person travelling or living in Africa is preserved by international law. Admittedly, there are countries that are ruthlessly oppressive such as Amin's Uganda or Bokassa Central African Republic but these are a minority.

In the case of Angola, Mr. Alexander is unsure of his ground. Many Portuguese whites left the country because of the civil war, not because they were forced to leave by the People's Government of Angola. Many white Angolans have stayed on and are currently helping to build a new independent state. The current leadership of the governing party, MPLA is multi-racial. Even during the armed struggle 1961-1976 a number of whites (Portuguese Angolans) fought with the guerrilla movement to end Portuguese Colonialism.

Mr. Alexander's criticism of Canadian liberalism and the news media deliberately obscures the issues at stake—Independence and majority rule. The African people of Azania, Namibia and Zimbabwe have the right to determine their own future, to secure their own historical development. They have tried negotiations before but have been answered with beatings, trickery, and bullets.

The current negotiations concerning the independence of "Rhodesia" are a hollow sham. While Ian Smith pretends to follow the so-called "Kissinger principles", Rhodesian troops have attacked refugee camps in Mozambique, killing defenseless women and children.

Communication of the struggle in Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Azania is a task that revolutionary leaders of the ANC, SWAPO and ZANU have personally requested of those who support their just struggle for independence. In the case of Azania, the South African police state has committed atrocities against Blacks, Asians and Coloreds. They have used Black labour to enrich themselves and have created a reign of terror against the Azanian people. We must support the international struggle against the South African police state through every means available to us.

Jim Robson