

21 OCTOBER 1989

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

-CALL FOR LIBRARIANS' PARTICIPATION TO
AID VICTIMS OF THE APARTHEID SYSTEM OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO), located in Mazimbu, Tanzania, is an extensive education facility run by the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. The school has over 1,000 students, all of whom are exiles from South Africa. SOMAFCO's chief mission is to provide a diverse, high-quality education to the victims of the apartheid system. The range of study covers nursery school through secondary school, and also includes an adult education program. Among the facilities at SOMAFCO are dormitories, a hospital, library, garment factory, carpentry workshop, small industries center, and agricultural facilities that provide grain, produce, dairy, and meat products sufficient enough for the entire community.

The library at SOMAFCO is considered crucial because most students there have never had access to any serious collection of information. The collection currently stands at approximately 10,000 volumes, all of which have been donated by the international community. However, there are few resources that allow serious research in vital areas such as medicine and health care, agricultural science and the vast array of technical sciences that are central to the school's mission.

The ANC have recently accepted a proposal for the installation of a CDROM workstation at the SOMAFCO library, to help facilitate the school's research needs. The most appropriate CDROM databases for the SOMAFCO community are those in the hard sciences, such as MEDLINE, AGRICOLA and SCI.

We are seeking solicitations and donations of any size to aid in the acquisition of:

- 1) An IBM-clone personal computer with a minimum of a 286 chip, 1 MB of RAM and a sizeable hard drive (20MB or more).
- 2) A dot matrix printer that can handle a heavy print load.
- 3) Standard CDROM disk drive.
- 4) Subscriptions or donations of MEDLINE, AGRICOLA, and SCI CDROM databases.
- 5) Roundtrip transportation costs from New York-Dar Es Salam.

The project will involve installation, class-by-class demonstrations and training for library personnel. Heavy usage is expected by both student body and staff. Document delivery is to be facilitated by a developing network of libraries in the United States who are willing to FAX materials within a week of receiving citation requests.

The ANC would like this project to begin in late January, 1990.

For further information, please immediately contact: Joseph D. Reilly/10 Harvey Road/Windsor, CT 06095. Tel. (203) 688-5845, between 5pm-9pm.

~~I also note~~

It was also good to hear that you have started raising funds for our computer needs. ~~Presently~~ we have ^{recently received a} ~~new~~ micro-computer (Apple Plus), which we are ^{now} learning to use for elementary word processing and filing purposes. However, ~~there will~~ in the future there will be a need for a more advanced computer system, and ~~the preparations you are now making, will~~ ~~be of benefit for us in a proper manner.~~ ~~I should think that the system you are suggesting will be an excellent one for you all.~~ We very much appreciate your efforts, and wish you all the success in the campaign.