

# Student denounces Mozambique rebels

By LAURIE DUNCAN  
Assistant State and National Editor

Mozambique, a nation twice the size of California, lies on the southeast coast of Africa. The country is half a world away, but its civil war may encourage U.S. intervention against the government in power.

Support for the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) will strangle the black, majority-ruled government, said Kenneth Fassie, a graduate student at N.C. Central University and a native of Capetown, South Africa.

Fassie wrote Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., Thursday to urge Helms not to support the MNR, which opposes the country's Marxist government.

Helms does not support the MNR and has not asked Congress to fund the resistance, but he also opposes U.S. backing for the Mozambican

government, said Helms spokesman Tom Boney. The Reagan administration should act, instead, as a mediator between the MNR and the "communist" government, Boney said.

Congress may fund the MNR if some U.S. officials use the threat of communism to criticize the Mozambican government, Fassie said.

In the letter, Fassie called the MNR "a marauding band of terrorists who routinely commit atrocities against and murder innocent civilians."

"Communist fighters" is a false label which the MNR holds up to the world to hide their heinous crimes against humanity," Fassie wrote. "The real purpose of their existence is to maintain South Africa's economic and psychological stranglehold on Mozambique through that white, minority-ruled government's policy of destabilization."

Both the MNR and the Mozambican government have killed civilians because the country is embroiled in a civil war, Boney said.

Two accounts are given for the MNR's origin, which was formed after Mozambique, a Portuguese colony for nearly 500 years, won independence in 1975.

Boney said blacks who helped fight the Portuguese in Mozambique's 10-year struggle for independence formed the MNR. When the Marxist party emerged, these blacks broke away because the new government did not have democratic elections, he said.

But a spokesman for the American Committee on Africa, an organization that supports freedom and black-majority rule in African countries, disagreed.

"The core of the people (in the

MNR) are the South Africans and various Portuguese who'd been in Mozambique when it won independence," said Richard Knight, spokesman for the private, New York-based organization.

In recent years South Africa has poured large sums of money into the MNR, despite an agreement between the South African and Mozambican governments not to support opposition forces on the other side, he said.

The MNR is very much like the Nicaraguan contras movement, Fassie said. Both groups are democratic rebels fighting Marxist governments, with secret police forces of preceding governments forming their cores, he said.

"The contras and the MNR are two sides of the same coin as far as I'm concerned," Fassie said.

# Helping the poor during holiday season

By SUSAN ODENKIRCHEN  
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is just another day with little or no food for some Chapel Hill residents, but the Inter-Faith Council helps the needy with a Thanksgiving dinner and food distribution during the holiday.

The dinner will be at the IFC shelter on South Merritt Mill Road, said Audrey Layden, spokeswoman for the council.

"We always will have a full Thanksgiving dinner for anyone at the community shelter, for anyone who

walks in along with our usual shelter clients," she said.

The IFC food pantry also distributes more canned goods during this holiday, Layden said. "Occasionally we receive canned hams. We can never predict what we will receive, but in the past, people have even showed up on Thanksgiving with turkeys."

Canned foods such as ham, soup, stew and fruit are good donations because they keep well, but canned pumpkin is not practical, Layden said.

"We get enough canned pumpkin in one season to last five years," Layden said.

Donations to the food pantry can be made at the annex to the United Church at 207 Wilson St.

Anyone donating food may take a free swim at the Community Center Pool from 9 a.m. until noon on Thanksgiving Day, said Clarke Charlton, aquatics specialist of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation.

The Department of Social Services refers families in need of food to the IFC, said Denise Shaffer, service

director for the department of social services in Chapel Hill.

Carol Oldham, YMCA youth director, said the organization collects canned goods to give to the IFC food pantry.

"Our pre-school children and after-school children are going from house to house in their neighborhoods collecting cans," she said. "We also have a deposit spot in our lobby."

The food drive was successful, Oldham said. "We've gotten a good response and a couple hundred cans of food."

# American, Soviet officials continue missile treaty talks

From Associated Press reports

GENEVA — American and Soviet arms experts failed Monday to clear all obstacles blocking a superpower treaty on elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles, which is supposed to be signed in two weeks.

Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze authorized a U.S. spokesman, Charles Redman, to describe the day's talks as "constructive."

A U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said at least one key issue was unresolved: the designation of a U.S. ballistic missile plant for the Soviets to monitor.

Redman said U.S. and Soviet arms experts, in three separate meetings, "made progress, but there are still things to be done."

The Soviets have acceded to a U.S. demand to observe the assembly of Soviet SS-25 missiles to ensure that the intercontinental weapons are not modified illegally to replace outlawed SS-20s.

The goal is to resolve the outstanding obstacles by Tuesday, giving lower-level negotiators two weeks to draft a final text for President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to sign Dec. 9.

## Right-wing leader accused

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — President Jose Napoleon Duarte said Monday that right-wing leader Roberto D'Aubuisson had been implicated in the 1980 assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

D'Aubuisson is the leader of the Republican National Alliance, an ultra-rightist group that has opposed Duarte's centrist Christian Democrat government.

"The crime against Monsignor Romero has been resolved. We know those who did it, we know who gave the order. We know who executed it," Duarte said.

He said investigators have questioned the person who drove the getaway car. "We have a composite portrait of the person who was the assassin," he added. "The case has been solved."

## Reagan may pardon aides

WASHINGTON — President Reagan on Monday refused to rule out the possibility of granting pardons to former White House

## News in Brief

aides under investigation in the Iran-contra affair, saying, "That's a question no one can answer."

He also belittled the newly released report by congressional investigators of the Iran-contra episode. "Maybe they labored and brought forth a mouse," he said.

In a firm voice, Reagan turned aside questions about presidential pardons, first at a Rose Garden ceremony and minutes later in the Cabinet Room during a meeting with business and investment leaders.

"This is a subject I have not and will not discuss at this time," Reagan said.

In an interview last month, Reagan said he did not think his former aides had broken any laws.

## Watkins drops out of primary

RALEIGH — Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan moved a step closer to capturing the Democratic gubernatorial nomination by default Monday as state Rep. Billy Watkins announced he would not enter the race.

Watkins, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said he would forego the campaign in the interest of party unity but insisted a poll he commissioned showed he could have won Jordan a good fight.

"One of my greatest concerns is that we do not permit the 1988 Democratic primary to repeat the mistake of . . . 1984," Watkins said. That year, he said, a divisive primary "fractured the party into partisan camps and helped to elect a Republican governor."

Jordan has been the state's ranking Democratic officeholder since 1984, when Republican Jim Martin was elected governor and Sen. Jesse Helms turned back a challenge from former Gov. Jim Hunt.

Watkins said in past years, when winning the party's nomination was tantamount to election, Democrats could afford bare-knuckle primary campaigns and wounded feelings. But with a powerful GOP incumbent seeking re-election, that's no longer the case.

Watkins said, "I will not be a voluntary participant in any venture I believe could hurt my party."

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## For the Record

In the Nov. 19 article, "Speaker discusses life under apartheid system," the Surplus People Project was wrongly identified as a government agency. The Surplus People Project is an independent agency that has studied the relocation of people under apartheid measures. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the reporting error.



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