

Can I use you as a Guild post box in the U.S.? Then I don't have to worry about crossed wires, or duplication of effort? It's going to take me a while still to get integrated here, language being the major problem. So I have to get the right blend of enthusiasm and working through structures, which in fact means moderating my enthusiasm a little bit. I look forward to receiving Guild materials re the southern Africa campaign. I'd also like to hear about your work with agricultural workers, both because it's about you, and because transformations of agriculture are so important here.

Greeting for the New Year.

- Albie

And my very special regards to Ernie & to Bill, when you are in touch with them. Will you let them know how I'm doing? Till I write to them myself.



503 Hayes Street,  
San Francisco,  
Calif. 94110.

Av Kenneth

960  
Maputo, R.P.M.  
29/12/77.

Dear Abby,

Many thanks for your enquiry, and for the N.Y. Times article which conveys a lot of what is so special here. I'll pass it round - people will be pleased to see it, and will find in it confirmation of the value of the FRBLIMO position on the U.S.A. - principled but not simplistic.

About visits here: I must stress that I am just one of thousands of cooperants who have arrived here. Everything here goes by structure, though 'contacts' certainly help in finding one's way through the structure. So I'm not in an authoritative position to advise. But I'll give you the picture as I see it. People seem to come here in three categories: a) to work as cooperants, or technicians employed by the R.P.M., usually on a 2 year contract. It seems that Portuguese-speakers, or at least Spanish or Italian speakers, will get priority here. b). As guests of R.P.M. - almost invariably organised groups representing Communist Parties, Women's Organisations from socialist countries etc. There aren't a great number of these. However, when they arrive, they are given facilities to travel and meet people. c). Individuals arriving to visit friends and family, or to study, or for whatever reason. Visas are needed, and not too difficult to get <sup>in principle</sup>. People in this group are responsible for their own accommodation, travel etc. Sometimes, they are lucky enough to get travel facilities.



It seems that persons like yourself would come here either as part of a Guild group - officially organized or as a visitor / scholar. [I think the Guild should start preparing the way for a visit. This should be done through whatever structure the R.P.M. has or consults <sup>with</sup> in North America. The visit by any American group here has implications going beyond the group itself. It may be that the Guild is just the sort of organization that would be suitable for such a visit: representing progressive America, with a practical interest in southern Africa. The fact that the Guild has been given facilities to visit Cuba and Vietnam might carry a lot of weight. An application should be properly prepared, and should allow for much time (my English is going, without Portuguese replacing it!). You should get together something setting out the history of the Guild, and document its support for Cuba, Vietnam etc. as well as its position on internal U.S. issues, and especially, of course, its activities in southern Africa. You should make it plain that this would be a disciplined group of politically conscious people, concerned to learn at first hand about the transformations taking place in southern Africa. Indicate in a practical way the financial basis of the visit, the possible size of the group etc. Some particular themes you might express interest in are: the relevance of international law to struggles in southern Africa against racism and colonialism, and for social liberation; the special FRELIMO position on dealing with crime through re-education and the transformation of people; the 'lectures' for the popular assemblies.



... is total support for ...  
Committee, and President Agostino Neto. FNM  
a group for Jivem <sup>reaction</sup> imperator. UNITA etc.  
with South Africa in the dual task of keeping MPLA  
stretched and pre-occupied with war rather than reconstruction,  
and of harassing SWAPO guerrillas. The Neto Alves  
group are different, in that they have a record of struggle.  
But at crucial stages they engaged in factionalism  
of a serious kind, and in the end, murdered some of  
the finest MPLA militants, including the former MPLA  
representative in Europe. There appear to have been two  
strands to the group: no, I won't attempt analysis - you  
can see the same documents as I do. All I can say is  
that of all the people I know with Angolan connections,  
there's not a single one who supports the Alves faction;  
on the contrary, there's great relief that his attempt  
failed, and that MPLA can get on with the job of  
reconstruction without constantly being undermined  
from within. I should add that my friends and  
informants seem to have a special love for Angola -  
perhaps because of the special dangers it has faced,  
perhaps because of the Angola Angola - MPLA -  
style, which is open, vivacious, expansive. Their (MPLA's)  
record of support for liberation struggles in southern Africa  
is unimpeachable. (I think people outside underestimate  
the heavy practical cost to both Angola and  
Mozambique for their support for liberation struggles -  
the economic damage and the psychological cost of  
constant invasions is severe.)



~~U~~  
~~... a video ...~~  
~~... find too onerous - that you send copies of~~  
~~to you and to Phyllis in L.A. O.K.?~~

About the position of yourself or other individual  
guild members who might wish to come here: I don't  
see that this need wait on a guild delegation being  
accepted first. To come just for a visit of a couple  
of weeks, say, self-financed and organised, should  
prove too difficult, though people can wait ages for  
visas. To come for a longer period would require a  
more concrete objective: to do a piece of research, say,  
which will prove helpful to Mozambique as well as to  
the visitor. Knowledge of Portuguese or Spanish would be  
an asset. But you really have to find out what  
structures, if any, exist in North America, and  
work through them. Then if there's anything that I  
can do to assist, I'll gladly do so. I should be  
able to help with accommodation and how to use your  
time fruitfully; and it would be lovely to see you  
here.

Greetings for 1978 - may you be  
happy in struggle, and may my Portuguese  
improve.

- Albee,



...na suave enchendo uma vela  
a esperança flutua o mar surdão.

the a  
hope fills

I love it here. Part of it is very personal. This is not just another country that has followed the path of revolution and progress, this is part of my world that has liberated itself. I walk to the University past the army barracks, past the central prison, past the grand houses and schools of the colonial bourgeoisie, and they all have been liberated. I see the result in the transformations, which people here already take for granted. I see children playing on a street corner, and it is like a miracle. 'Desculpem-me, crianças brincadas na esquina, desculpem-me por interromper, mas eu queria só apertar tua mão. Desculpem-me, crianças pretas, castanhas e brancas, mas eu queria só marcar esta pequena milagre. Desculpem-me, mas eu sou um sul-africano, e a normalidade desequilibra-me um pouco.' Desculpem-me.

I enjoy meeting people all the time. Everyone is interesting, everyone has a story. The Mozambicans are interesting because their lives have changed so much, so that ordinary people doing ordinary things have found themselves involved in huge transformations. The cooperatives are interesting, because nobody just happens to be here - each person made a decision, each person represents a different reorientation of political, cultural and personal events. That man having lunch over there - he's a colonel from the Portuguese Army, who led a soldier's revolt in 1961 or 1962 and was nearly killed in the attempt. That woman on whose mural worked one morning is a landscape architect from Chile, her husband with whom I had dinner was a Minister of Agriculture in Chile, his brother was hanged by the fascists. That very-looking businessman that runs the largest hotel here, is a former Italian partisan leader, who gathered intelligence for RELIMO while working in Salisbury. There are dental technicians from Guinea-Bissau, Teachers from Holland, agronomists from Belgium, language students from China and Korea, Engineers from Brazil, doctors from England, philosophers and economists from the R.D.A. (G.D.R.).