

COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE REP BLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU



Photo Credit:
Mike Shuster/LNS

Gil Fernandes (center), member of the Supreme Council of the PAIGC, accepting a scroll bearing the "Message of Solidarity from the People of the United States to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau" signed by 9,365 people. Dramane Ouattara, Ambassador from the Organization of African Unity to the United Nations (left) looks on while Robert Maurer of the Committee to Support the Republic of Guinea-Bissau presents the scroll. Celebration of Solidarity, September 24, 1974.

WE ENCOURAGE organizations to run this photo and a description of the People's Campaign in your Newsletter and other publications, as well as in progressive periodicals in your community. The Campaign has focused the strength of support for the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the struggle on Cape Verde, and the Celebration of Solidarity, held on the first anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (September 24, 1974), at which this photo was taken, is a symbol of that strength.

The Committee's work is done, but the struggle is hardly over. Guinea-Bissau must be protected from neo-colonial strategies. Cape Verde must be liberated. There are many organizations throughout the U.S. and the world supporting these goals, and it was deeply felt at the outset that, once the Committee had organized the People's Campaign and held the Ceremony, its continuation would only mean an unnecessary duplication of efforts.

So, WE ASK YOU to remove our organization's name from your mailing list. And we wish to inform you that our literature distribution is now being handled by the American Committee on Africa, 164 Madison Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10016

COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU

Final Report

November, 1974

The Committee, which originated on October 10, 1974 with the support of seventy-seven sponsors, concluded its work on September 24, 1974 with the Celebration of Solidarity on the first anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. During the year-long life of the Committee, whose purpose was to focus national attention on a People's Recognition Campaign, the following items were accomplished.

9,365 signatures were gathered for the Message of Support and Solidarity to the People and Party of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

On the evening of September 24, a scroll bearing this Message was presented to Gil Fernandes, a member of the Supreme Council of the P.A.I.G.C., as an act of the people of the United States extending recognition to Guinea-Bissau. Dramane Ouattara (Ambassador from the OAU to the U.N.), Charles C. Diggs, Jr. (member of Congress), Stephanie Urdang (journalist), William Booth (president of ACOA), Robert van Lierop (AIS), and Robert Maurer of the Committee made presentations during the ceremony. "Natividade: A Battle Hymn to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau" was also presented.

145 organizations across the country assisted the People's Recognition Campaign in one way or another. Many did mailings to their constituencies on the Committee's behalf, and others circulated the Message among their members. Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Women, Cape Verdean, White Liberal and other groups made major contributions.

500 inmates of more than 20 state and federal prisons signed the Message, and wrote moving letters of solidarity for their African brothers and sisters.

Community colleges, Vietnam Veterans organizations, lawyers collectives, women's clinics, community organizations, Southern Africa support groups, church projects, black student unions, research organizations, task forces, campus ministers, and so forth responded to the People's Campaign. The focus on the principles of self-determination and national reconstruction brought together a varied and broad-based response.

During the life of the Committee, the following items were produced:

- a brochure of general information on the struggle in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde (25,000 copies)
- a resource list combining all the available resources (tapes, pamphlets, books, buttons, posters, etc.) from 10 different organizations. Copies of list available from the American Committee on Africa. (10,000 copies)
- listing of some 40 organizations in the U.S. and Canada supporting liberation movements in southern Africa. (1,000 copies)
- Message of Support and Solidarity (25,000 copies distributed throughout the country)

MORE ...

page two.

The Committee also participated in the production of the following:

- a 30-minute tape on the history and current situation of the struggle in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, produced by KPFA (Pacifica) and distributed by "Rest of the News".
- a 15-minute tape of interview with Gil Fernandes, with music from Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, produced and distributed by "Rest of the News".

The production of a record by Paredon Records was discussed extensively, but was dropped. The record would have been of music from Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau.

Acting as a mail order operation for materials from other organizations, the Committee passed on orders for \$450 worth of materials for...

- 197 posters to the Chicago Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea
- 25 buttons to the Africa Liberation Support Committee
- 3 tapes to the "Rest of the News"
- 50 orders for pamphlets to the New World Resource Center and the American Committee on Africa
- 15 requests for the PAIGC/USA Newsletter
- 3 subscriptions to the Southern Africa Committee Newsletter.
- 15 orders for legal arguments on international recognition to the Angola Comite, Amsterdam.
- 7 requests for information about films on Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde to Tricontinental Film Center.

Ads for the People's Campaign was placed in 25 newspapers and magazines.

The Committee acted as a clearinghouse of information, especially on agencies and organizations passing resolutions urging the U.S. government to recognize Guinea-Bissau. Resourcing agencies and organizations with materials to consider their position on Guinea-Bissau was another off-shoot of the People's Campaign.

With respect to financing the Campaign:

\$2,350 received from church agencies
1,000 from individuals
\$3,350 in income and expenditures (The campaign was a pay-as-you-go operation, so there is a zero bank balance at the end of the Campaign).

The Committee wishes to express its most profound appreciation to the individuals and church agencies who made this campaign possible. Without their generosity, it would not have happened.

This Campaign would not have happened without the advise and work of a large number of people, among whom Janet Hooper (SAC), Dick Leonard and George Houser (ACOA), and Bob van Lierop (AIS) should be especially noted. Bill Booth, chairman of the Committee, was especially helpful as well.

A LUTA CONTINUA

submitted by Robert Maurer, Secretary
Second Floor - 164 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10016