



MOZAMBIQUE: THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

(57 minutes) Producers: Bob and Amy Coen

Nowhere is the tragedy of Africa's battle against white minority rule more stark than in Mozambique. The continent's poorest nation. And never has a film captured the horror of Mozambican life today as has "Mozambique: The Struggle for Survival" by the independent filmmakers Bob and Amy Coen.

Today Mozambique is at a crossroads. Under increasing pressure from a South African-backed rebel movement, its socialist government is turning to the United States and other western nations for help in averting full-scale famine and the potential collapse of the country.

The film was shot on location in Mozambique and takes its audience from the arrival of Portuguese colonists 400 years ago, through the death of its charismatic president, Samora Machel, to the situation on the ground today.

"Mozambique: The Struggle for Survival" features ordinary Mozambicans whose lives have been touched by the war against the rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance, better known as Renamo.

Mozambique's new president, Joaquim Chissano, explains his government's attitude toward South Africa and the rebels.

The film chronicles the development of Renamo, a guerrilla movement founded by the white government in neighboring Rhodesia nearly 20 years ago. For the first time ever on camera, the creator of Renamo, ex-Rhodesian intelligence chief Ken Flower explains why he formed Renamo and why he turned it over to the South Africans when Zimbabwe gained independence from Rhodesia in 1980.

"Mozambique: The Struggle for Survival" analyzes the importance of Mozambique's three major transport routes which make the country southern Africa's natural gateway to the outside world. As long as Renamo rebels sabotage those trade routes, the region remains locked into South Africa's economy and vulnerable to pressure from Pretoria.

Whoever controls Mozambique, the film argues, can determine the region's future.

The film also discusses the options facing the United States, as the Reagan Administration comes under strong pressure from conservatives in Congress to switch its support from the Frelimo government to the Renamo rebels. It provides Americans with the vital information they need to understand the key issues in southern Africa, which is today one of the most explosive areas in the world.

"Mozambique: The Struggle for Survival" is the story of a young nation torn apart by the epic war for freedom for the people of southern Africa.



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