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Front Matter

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Journal

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, 9(3)

ISSN

0041-5715

Author

n/a, n/a

Publication Date

1980

DOI

10.5070/F793017309

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UFAHAMU

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EDITORIAL NOTES

FORWARD ZIMBABWE

The African Activist Association welcomes the independence of the new African state of Zimbabwe. We recognize that this triumph was made possible only after nearly two decades of armed struggle by the people of Zimbabwe. Many obstacles had to be surmounted on the way to independence as a result of the heritage of colonialism. Undoubtedly, there will be new dangers to the security of the revolutionary process of the Zimbabwean people as they continue the necessary tasks of social transformation and consolidation of their victory. Foremost among these dangers are the interests of the transnational corporations, and the fascist regime of South Africa. But if modern history is any guide, we know that these obstacles, also, will be surmounted. We are confident that the progressive forces of Southern Africa, and their world-wide allies among progressive humanity shall continue to struggle and to build their unity until final victory over the forces of racism, reaction and oppression is achieved.

A word of homage to the many fallen comrades of the Zimbabwean peoples' struggles would be proper at this point. A worthy Representative of the many dedicated members of the liberation struggle was the late Josiah Magama Tongogara, guerrilla leader and chief of defense of the ZANU wing of the Patriotic Front. In a bitter twist of fate, Comrade Tongogara was killed in a motor vehicle accident in Mozambique on December 27, 1979, one day before the ceasefire negotiated at the London Lancaster House conference came into effect.

Tongogara was a key figure in the organization of the liberation war that laid the basis for the negotiated settlement. Widely respected as a strategist in both his own and the ZAPU wing of the Patriotic Front, he was also a strong proponent of full Patriotic Front unity.

Tongogara carried his progressive belief in the need for political change into practice in many spheres - chief among the these being his integration of women into ZANLA's active fighting forces. He consistently encourage women to take up their rights and responsibilities in the struggle; and spoke highly of the women commanders in the ZANLA army. He pointed to the traditional customs which held women back and told women that they must be prepared to boldly challenge and change them.

Born of a poor peasant family in Selukwe, southern Zimbabwe, Tongogara spent most of his life struggling for his country's political liberation. His death is a serious blow to Zimbabwe, but he leaves behind a strong legacy upon which others will build a new society. (Acknowledgement to Southern Africa magazine for factual account of Tongogara's life.)

* * * *

The editor-in-chief extends a grateful acknowledgement for special editorial assistance to the following friends and colleagues at U.C.L.A.: Danli Imani Bayne, Dwight Gatling, Marianne Joensen, Donna Jones, Teresa Joseph, Michael F. Lofchie, Kipkorir Aly Rana, Corine Young, and the members of the African Activist Association.

* * * *

Apologies are extended to our subscribers and readers for the delay in publishing this issue of UFAHAMU. Unavoidable staff adjustments and equipment breakdowns have contributed greatly to the re-scheduling of our editorial datelines. Our offices will be open and functioning this summer (1980) and we shall do our best to get back on the track with the publication of Volume X, No.'s 1, 2 and 3 in the fall, winter and spring quarters of 1980-81 respectively.

UFAHAMU will continue with its interdisciplinary format, occasionally featuring a special issue on a subject area needing closer scrutiny. Greater efforts to broaden our editorial contacts among other publications and interest groups relating to Africa will be made. We plan to increase general readership and subscriptions to enable the journal to continue publishing in this period of inflation. Relative to the subscription cost of journals today, UFAHAMU is reasonably priced. Therefore, we urge you, dear reader, to promptly renew your subscription, and recommend a subscription to your institutional library, and your friends and colleagues.

Suggestions, criticisms and general information directed toward inproving the journal are welcomed.

* * * *

ART WORK: ZIMBABWE is the work of Miss Selma Waldman who has previously provided graphic art on the African liberation struggle to UFAHAMU.

OBIOMA LEAVES THE VILLAGE (64), GINTAR BOY (102), GOLGOTHA (126) are pen and ink drawings by Obiora Udechukwu who is a member of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Nigeria. Nsukka.