

A voice from South Africa

by Dr. William N'Komo

PEOPLE say to me: "What can we do to liberate you?" Black men offer me guns and military and other support. And today there is bloodshed in Mozambique and on the borders of South Africa, because of men who have been misled into thinking that violence can be the answer.

When Africans speak to me, the first thing I say to them is that the greatest thing you can do for South Africans is to live great and make a success of your hard-won independence. I say, if you do that you will convince the people in my part of the world that there is after all something in black men, and that under God they can do something.

To the rank-and-file Westerner, we are barbarians and primitive people. But to people who see us through God's eyes, we are a team that is held in reserve, whose hour has come at a time when the world is at its extremity, when drugs and love of power are so intoxicating modern men that he neither knows where he has come nor is going. This is the moment when Africa should arise and give humanity a sense of direction once more.

There are people who are trying to isolate South Africa. They think that thereby they are liberating the masses of black Africans. I believe that those who do so are only playing a role that helps those who want division on the continent of Africa.

Unless we open our eyes now to see clearly, we are likely to get overtaken by greater strategies, of people who use the moral weaknesses of men and women to undermine stability and integrity.

If you want to give us help, give us help of a moral kind, which will make us strong and adequate leaders for the times in which we live. We need economic development. We need homes, we need food. We need education. But when you have given people these things, you have not given them everything, because I have seen men with all these things become rascals and sell their nations.