

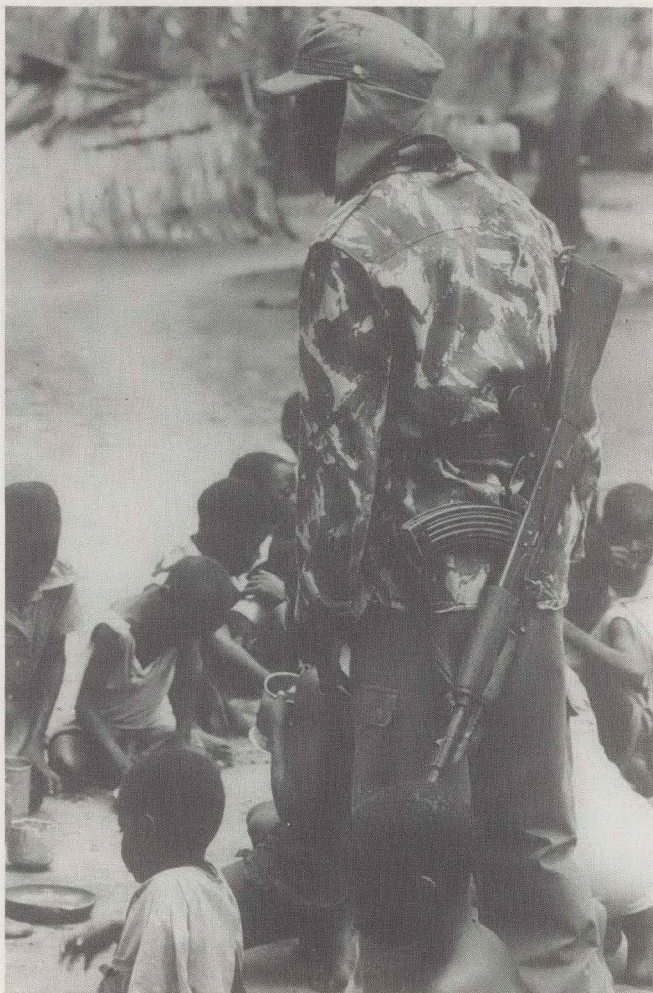
A stylized map of Africa is centered on a dark blue background. The continent is colored in shades of green and brown. A thick red horizontal band crosses the map, passing through the southern region. The southern region, including countries like Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and parts of South Africa, is highlighted in a solid red color with white outlines. The text 'FRONTLINE SOUTHERN AFRICA' is printed in large, bold, white capital letters across the upper part of the map.

FRONTLINE SOUTHERN AFRICA

DESTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT

FRONTLINE SOUTHERN AFRICA DESTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT

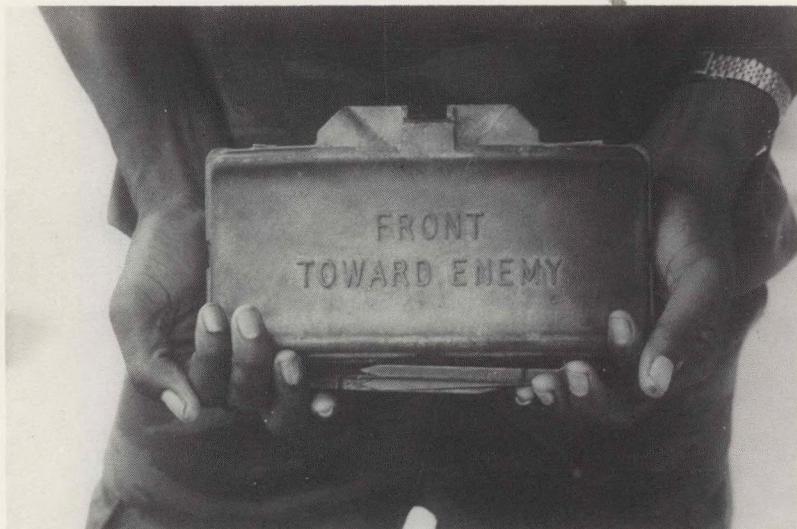
A 52 min documentary film by Toni Strasburg



War claims the lives of more than 360 small children every day in Angola and Mozambique. Because the theatre for this war is Africa, and not Europe, such tragic loss of life has gone virtually unnoticed. Nearly all media attention has been focused on the violence and oppression within South Africa

itself, despite the Commonwealth Report's description of a "major armed conflict spilling well beyond South Africa's borders".

South Africa has concluded that the best way to preserve minority rule is to fight a major war beyond its frontiers – in the neighbouring front line states.



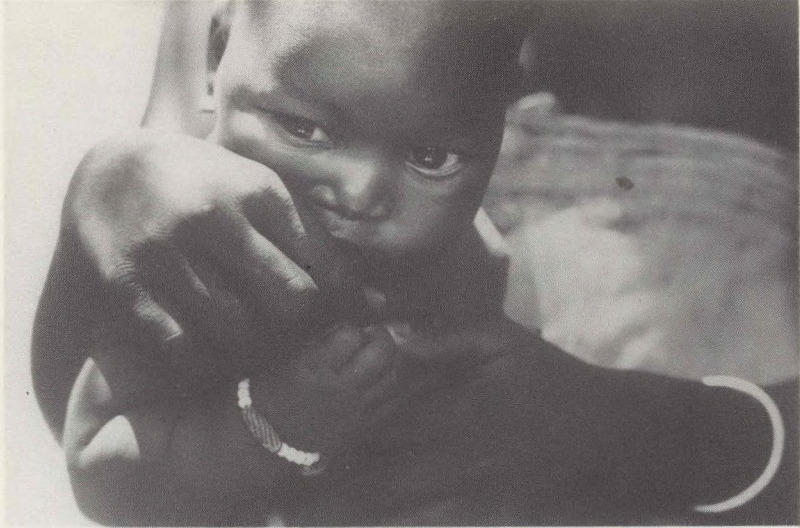
Frontline Southern Africa – 'Destructive Engagement' examines the staggering effects of this war on these neighbouring countries – Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola and Zambia. The human cost of South Africa's 'Total Strategy' is almost incalculable; the economic costs run into tens of billions of US dollars.

Today, Mozambique struggles to survive. The country has been terrorized and undermined by the MNR (Mozambique National Resistance), started by white Rhodesia and now openly supported by South Africa. The film allows the victims of this campaign of terror to tell their own stories.

400,000 lives have been lost in Mozambique, as a result of this war, half of them children under 5. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced, within their own country. Driven from their land by the MNR, peasant farmers are prevented from planting and harvesting their crops. 4 million people are on the edge of starvation because of the destruction of food crops and transport capacity. Famine has become an effective weapon of war.



South Africa's punitive power is economic as well as military. Zimbabwe, Zambia and other landlocked states are forced to send much of their freight through South Africa, at an immense extra annual cost of US \$300 million. *'Destructive Engagement'* examines the reasons for this and travels the Beira corridor to



discover the efforts being made to re-open alternative routes to the sea.

The film explains why it is crucial for the region that South Africa is not successful in its aim to control, and how, along with Tanzania and Malawi, Zimbabwe is heavily committed to supporting the Mozambique Army. Zimbabweans, both black and white, reveal more about the attacks on the farmers in Matabeleland.

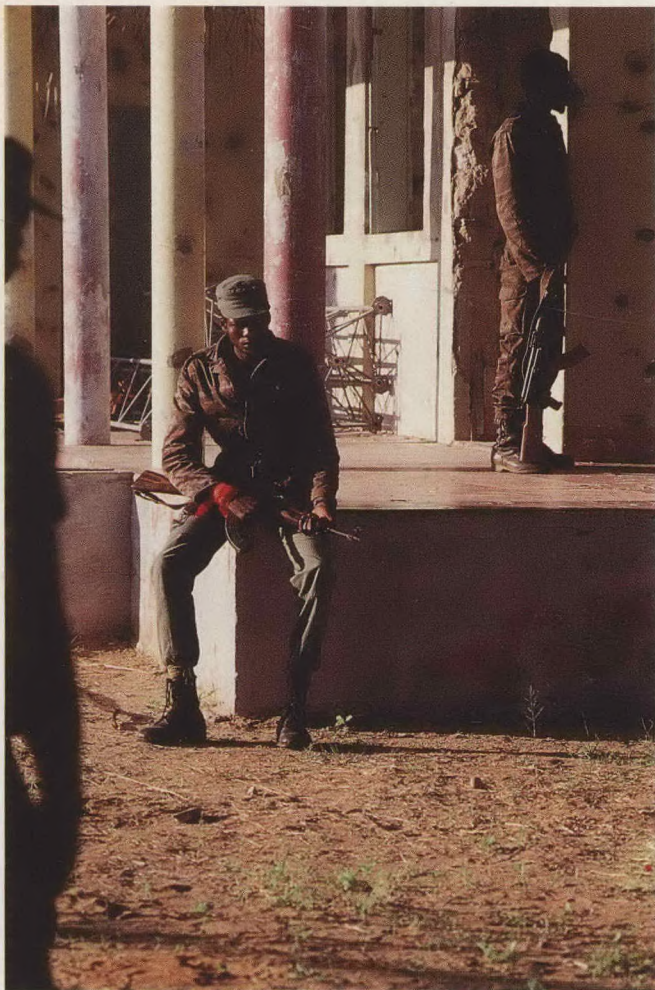
Zambia, despite the fact that it has no borders with South Africa, has not been left alone. Apart from direct South African attack, Zambia has the additional burden of an enormous refugee population from all over the region.

Angola, like Mozambique, were left with a largely illiterate population in a country which had been systematically wrecked by the Portuguese. The film sees and hears from some of the victims, displaced people, the 20,000 limbless (victims of land mines) and commandantes of the Angolan army.

Angola is subject to repeated invasion by South Africa's Defence Forces, who together with the United States, back the dissident UNITA forces, and consistently undermine the country. The estimated cost of the Angolan war since the MPLA gained independence in 1975, is US \$18 million.



'Destructive Engagement' is a deeply moving account which for the first time shows in detail the effects of South Africa's policy in the Frontline Region. None of these countries has ever attempted to cross into South Africa, despite the years of aggression. Struggling to build new nations since independence, they have been forced to militarize.



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Sound
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Stills Photographs
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