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Bookfile

Editorial Staff

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"Robben Island Hell-Hole"—one man's account of political imprisonment, by Moses Dlamini, published by Africa World Press, Trenton, N.J.

This 202-page paperback is a diary of the author's imprisonment at the dreadful Robben Island prison in South Africa under conditions designed to degrade human beings and destroy the ideals of African liberation.

In the years about which Dlamini writes, Robben Island prison contained both "criminal" and "political" prisoners, the former ruthlessly used by the South African government as an extension of its power to destroy dissent.

Moses Dlamini, who was imprisoned from 1963 to 1969, served more than two years of his confinement at Robben Island. He became politically active in 1960, shortly after the Sharpeville massacre, and until his arrest was an underground member of the Pan Africanist Congress. He writes:

"As we went into the boat, we saw looming in the distance, what was to be our home for a very long time. For me, with a six-year sentence, it was to be my home for almost two-and-a-half years. For some of us it was going to be home for life."

After his release, Dlamini was banished to Eastern Transvaal from where he was able to escape to freedom.

BOOKFILE

"Freedom

Rising"—life under apartheid through the eyes of an American on a four-year clandestine journey through southern Africa, published by Macmillan Publishing Company, New York.

This 336-page book with index, by James North, chronicles life in southern Africa from the perspective of an outsider whose travels throughout that part of the continent made it possible for him to interact with hundreds of people—truck drivers, miners, farmers, political detainees and government officials.

Against the backdrop of increasing violence and tension, he lets the people he meets speak for themselves about conditions in South Africa.

FREEDOM RISING

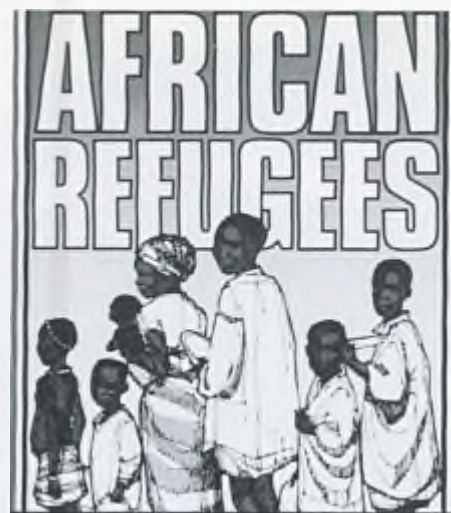
LIFE UNDER APARTHEID
THROUGH THE EYES
OF AN AMERICAN ON
A FOUR-YEAR
CLANDESTINE JOURNEY
THROUGH SOUTHERN AFRICA

JAMES NORTH

"African Refugees"—by Gaim Kibreab, published by Africa World Press, provides detailed analyses of the refugee situation in Africa.

In the past few years, the politics of war and famine in Africa, as well as poor governmental planning and management, have intensified the refugee population in the continent.

Approximately half of the more than 10 million refugees in various parts of the world are in Africa. In this 129-page paperback, the author successfully tackles the problems and prospects for African refugee resettlement, integration into host communities and even repatriation.



"Fire From the Mountain"—by Omar Cabezas, published by Crown Publishers, Inc., New York.

This 233-page book is an autobiography of a former guerrilla fighter in Nicaragua who currently holds a high post in the Sandinista government. It is a story of the early years of the Sandinista revolution, a personal account of the author's recollections of what he describes as his country's struggle for independence.

"So much junk has been written, especially in Latin America, about what it means to be a guerrilla. The Guerrilla is made into a mythical being who never feels pain and is happy to die at any moment.

"My book shows the fears and the longings and the pain we felt during our years underground," he told a *New York Times* interviewer some time back. □



This column on current releases will appear from time to time.

NEW DIRECTIONS

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7