

## **FRIENDS OF MAKERERE IN CANADA**

### ANNUAL REPORT - 1994 - 1995

The past year has gone by quickly but it has been one of consolidation and significant achievements for the Friends of Makerere in Canada (FOMAC). The experiences of the past year and the great challenge of achieving sustained funding will assist in shaping the direction and program focus for FOMAC in the future. Of particular importance will be the goal of creating awareness and understanding of the issues surrounding the funding problems of African universities such as Makerere and of building support for public and private assistance to higher education in Africa.

Some of the year's developments in FOMAC are highlighted below:

#### **RENEWED MISSION**

A more focused Mission Statement for FOMAC has been developed and agreed. It now reads as follows:

"The Friends of Makerere in Canada Incorporated (FOMAC) is a nonprofit organization established to carry on and promote programs, projects and activities for the advancement of higher education in Africa with particular reference to Makerere University by:

- Raising, receiving, administering and allocating revenue to fund educational programs, projects and activities at Makerere University and other institutions of higher learning in Africa;
- Sponsoring, funding and facilitating academic exchange between Canada and African institutions of higher learning.

The next Annual General Meeting will consider the revised Mission Statement as well as the goals and objectives of FOMAC.

## **CHARITABLE STATUS**

At the last Annual General Meeting of FOMAC on April 16, 1994, all members recognized the dire necessity of a charity status as a key and essential element in the future viability of FOMAC. Accordingly the Executive was directed to pursue with vigour the application to Revenue Canada for a charitable status. The Executive discovered soon enough that the process was not simple. It was complex and involved intricate details and technicalities. Among the contentious issues was the fact that Makerere was neither a "prescribed University" under the terms of the Canadian Income Tax Act nor a "qualified donee". It became necessary therefore to engage a legal firm and thanks, to the assistance and generosity of Executive Committee member Mr. Norman Coghlan, the Winnipeg firm of Fillmore and Riley was retained. It is therefore, gratifying to report that, despite a frustrating start, FOMAC finally qualified for tax - exempt status and was registered as a charity under paragraph 149 (i)(f) of the Income Tax Act. It was assigned No. 1008820-21 with effect from July 1994.

Important responsibilities inevitably follow this new status and your Executive is determined to meet its obligations, not the least of which is to live up to the expectations of the Act and to file annual returns promptly.

More than ever before members and friends of FOMAC are encouraged to give their donations and gifts for the worthwhile cause of rebuilding Makerere. Tax receipts will be issued as appropriate. Exploratory contacts have been initiated to seek tax exempt status in the United States but these are unlikely to materialize until a viable chapter of "Friends" is established and registered in the USA. This applies as well to other jurisdictions.

The issue of creating a coordinating or "umbrella" body such as "Friends of Makerere International" will therefore be given appropriate attention only when chapters or branches of Friends of Makerere get established in different locations.

## **BUILDING FINANCIAL STABILITY**

While we rejoice in the achievement of a charitable status, we recognize the urgency of building a stable financial base and the challenges that face FOMAC in bringing that about. All the quarterly newsletters have carried appeals for Makerere alumni and friends to send in their membership subscriptions, donations or pledges. We take this opportunity to renew the appeal. Show your support and commitment to improve the state of things at Makerere. You can pay by cash, cheque or credit card, each according to your financial capability. FOMAC is working hard to connect with as many alumni and friends as possible and to expand and broaden the subscription sources. You can also assist by canvassing individuals, communities and organizations in your area. Gifts such as books and scholastic materials are welcome. Special recognition will be given to individuals or organizations whose level of donation merits the conferment of the status of the following: Sponsor (\$500.00 - \$999.00), Founder (\$1,000.00 - \$4,999.00) or Builder (\$5,000.00 +). In this regard we are happy to report that two members have recently achieved the status of Sponsor. They are Dr. Praful Patel of Winnipeg, Canada and Dr. Charles L. Vogel of Florida, U.S.A.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

Appended you will find audited accounts for 1993/94. The audited accounts for 1994/95 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on May 20, 1995 and if approved they will be appended to next year's annual report. In this regard we are grateful to Mr. Jack Trueman, C.A. for taking on this onerous task.

## **NETWORKING**

FOMAC is actively engaged in building relationships and networks throughout the world as a strategy of not only disseminating and sharing information but also of drawing attention to the plight of Africa's universities and educational institutions which have been made to suffer and "slide" or as some would say to "collapse" by cash-strapped African governments. A recent article by Keith Richburg in the Washington Post appropriately titled "Top University's Slide Tip of African Iceberg" (which was attached to your newsletter of December 23, 1994) brings home the message of the practical financial realities faced by Makerere and other African universities today and comes to the grim conclusion that "with Africa's universities in such a dismal state, a generation already has been lost". African institutions of learning are desperately crying out for help as they groan under the continent's overall economic gloom and it is up to all the people of goodwill everywhere who recognize this tragedy to come to the rescue.

FOMAC has therefore chosen to play the role of the "awakener" and to this end has entered into communication with like minded patriots and organizations in far flung places, including, Australia, Russia, South Africa, the U.K., the USA, Zimbabwe, etc. Of significant interest is the fact that a firm relationship has now been established with Makerere it self. The Vice-Chancellor Professor P.J.M. Ssebuwufu has been in regular contact with FOMAC and during his recent visit to North America, he managed a long distance telephone conversations with FOMAC and a number of issues were discussed and settled, although regrettably he was unable to come to Winnipeg due to a time constraint. As well Dr. Olweny has paid several visits to Makerere during his infrequent journeys to his homeland, the last of which was in April, 1995.

In November, 1994 FOMAC was represented by its President, Dr. Charles Olweny at the Uganda North American Annual Convention in Los Angeles.

Considered the largest gathering of Ugandans in North America, the convention facilitated direct interaction with a large section of the people who would naturally be interested in Makerere. Dr. Olweny conducted a motivational seminar, distributed a large number of FOMAC brochures and sold a few audio cassettes.

A chapter has yet to materialize in the USA although a large number of people have been in contact and have expressed interest and paid membership fees. Efforts will be continued in future to pursue the possibility of establishing a chapter of "Friends" somewhere in the USA. Georgiana F. Coughlan of California has offered to try and get the first U.S. Chapter going.

The United Kingdom has a solid base of Makerere alumni and friends. Thanks to the efforts of Dr George Kirya, the Uganda High Commissioner in the U.K. and Professor Margaret Macpherson, the erst-while friend and authority on Makerere who has continued to shepherd the flock in the ancient country, a meaningful dialogue has been sustained. In reality a "Friends of Makerere" exists in the UK in all but name and consideration is being given to formalising a structure. FOMAC has received from Professor Mcpherson an extensive list of alumni in the UK. They will be added to the FOMAC database.

Makerere already has a functional relationship with various universities in Canada, including the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Dr. S.H. Toh, the Director of the Alberta/Makerere project has supplied useful information. The prospect of a FOMAC chapter in Edmonton is good based on the information supplied by Augustine Ebine, a resident of Edmonton and former faculty member at Makerere.

Within Uganda useful relationships have been established with the Rotary Clubs of Kampala and the Spear Motors through its Chairman/Managing Director, Gordon Wavamunno who participated in the aforementioned Los Angels Convention.

Exploratory contacts for project funding have been made with the following organizations: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), The Rotary Club of Winnipeg, University Women's Club of Winnipeg, Partnership Africa Canada (PAC), the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the Aga Khan Foundation. So far the Rotary Club of Winnipeg and WUSC have responded positively.

## **PROJECTS**

### **A University Press**

Quite early on FOMAC identified the establishment of a University publishing house as a worthwhile project for Makerere. Such a press would benefit not only Makerere and other educational institutions in Uganda but also academic institutions in neighbouring states. It would cater for publishing needs of faculty members as well as the broader community of scholars, authors and students who wish to publish their research or original works and provide an indigenous alternative publisher in an environment currently dominated by British and North American multinational publishing companies.

Accordingly, FOMAC has commissioned an experienced consultant, Mr. Ian Montagnes, to undertake a feasibility study on "The Need for An Academic Publishing House in Uganda". Appropriate terms of reference have been discussed with the consultant and with the Vice Chancellor of Makerere and agreed. Mr. Montagnes will travel to Uganda in June, 1995. If the feasibility study confirms the desirability and potential of such a University press at Makerere, FOMAC expects to proceed with the development of an appropriate marketable project proposal and to seek funding.

The World University Service of Canada has agreed to provide financial support for the feasibility study and FOMAC has expressed profound appreciation.

Makerere will contribute by providing accommodation, local transportation and office facilities for the consultant.

### **Information Highway**

Through a generous donation by the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, FOMAC has purchased a computer (with accessories including a printer and a modem). As well, a facsimile machine was purchased for Makerere and has been installed. The object of these purchases was to facilitate better and rapid communication and make FOMAC more self reliant. FOMAC is now on the internet and is able to access useful and relevant information.

### **Staff Accommodation**

There is limited accommodation at Makerere for tenured faculty members and much less for visiting academics. Lack of accommodation could be a deterrent to academics from abroad who wish to spend sabbaticals or undertake short term teaching or research assignments at Makerere. FOMAC is exploring the feasibility of repairing or renovating a suitable building or house in Kampala which will provide accommodation for academics on FOMAC programs at Makerere.

### **Staff Recruitment**

FOMAC is compiling Curricula Vitae of academics in North America who wish to spend teaching or research time at Makerere. Send your resume if you wish to be include in the databank. CV's will be forwarded, at intervals, to the Vice Chancellor for processing.

### **Mailing List**

FOMAC is continually updating its membership database and welcomes information or new names of alumni and friends. We wish to expand the list as well as subscription sources.

## **Newsletter**

To help increase public awareness of FOMAC activities we have written an informal quarterly newsletter. It has served as a kind of internal communication between the Executive and the members. It is proposed in future to make the newsletter more elaborate and to use it as a medium for members informing each other about their activities and advancing ideas or suggestions.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Logo:**

FOMAC has a logo and new letterhead. The logo features an artistic impression of Makerere University Main Hall tower which is a structure well known to the alumni and friends. We are grateful to Dr. Sultan Baloo for identifying the artist and paying for the cost involved.

### **Brochure:**

Copies of the new FOMAC brochure are available on request. The back flap may be used for transmitting fees, donations, etc.

### **Inaugural audio tapes:**

The inaugural ceremony of FOMAC held on November 6, 1993 at the Westin Hotel, Winnipeg, was captured on tape. It features an address by Professor Ali Mazrui on the subject of "The Future of University Education in Africa" and includes interesting insights on Makerere. Audio tapes are available at a cost of \$8.00 including shipping, handling and insurance.

### **Books:**

FOMAC has received a variety of donated books and journals for onward transmission to Makerere. FOMAC extends its gratitude to: Ms. Gracie Ochieng of Washington, D.C. (for a supply of books from the World Bank).



Prof. John Loxley, Head of Economics at the University of Manitoba (from a personal collection). Mr. Godfrey B. Bahiingwa of the University of Missouri- Columbia, U.S.A. secured a donation of Journal Collections for the Faculty of Agriculture. These should be shipped shortly. Ms. Georgiana F. Coughlan of Gardena, California, U.S.A. who studied at Makerere in 1964 has donated her collection of the Transition. The Transition was a multi-disciplinary Journal edited by African Scholars and published in Africa. It was a very popular academic African Journal in the 1960's and some of the articles published then are very relevant today.

### **Books and Journal Shipment:**

Dr. George Otto of Ontario, Canada has kindly offered space and facility for storage and shipment of scholastic materials including books and journals. Depending on the volume, these can be mailed to Makerere on a monthly basis out of Toronto. A recent discussion with the Rotary Club of Kampala finalized the mechanisms for receipt, clearance with customs and onward transmission to Makerere.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

The Volunteer Executive Committee has met regularly and has conducted the affairs of FOMAC fairly, impartially and responsibly. It has operated strictly within its mandate and gratefully acknowledges the support of all members of FOMAC. Two important Sub-committees were struck in the course of the year. These are Project/Fundraising and Publicity/Communication Sub-Committees. Initial planning meetings of these sub-committees have been held. Their role will become more obvious in due course.

**The Executive Committee consists of:**

Dr. Charles Olweny	Chairman/President
Peter Luzige	Treasurer
Yunus Lubega	Secretary
Wilson Okwenje	Coordinator
Norman Coglan	Member
Dr. Praful Patel	Member
Ms. Phoebe Olweny	Member
Dr. Sultan Baloo	Member
James Kasule	Member

**Annual Report**

**1994/95**

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