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## **SAFIRE REPORT**

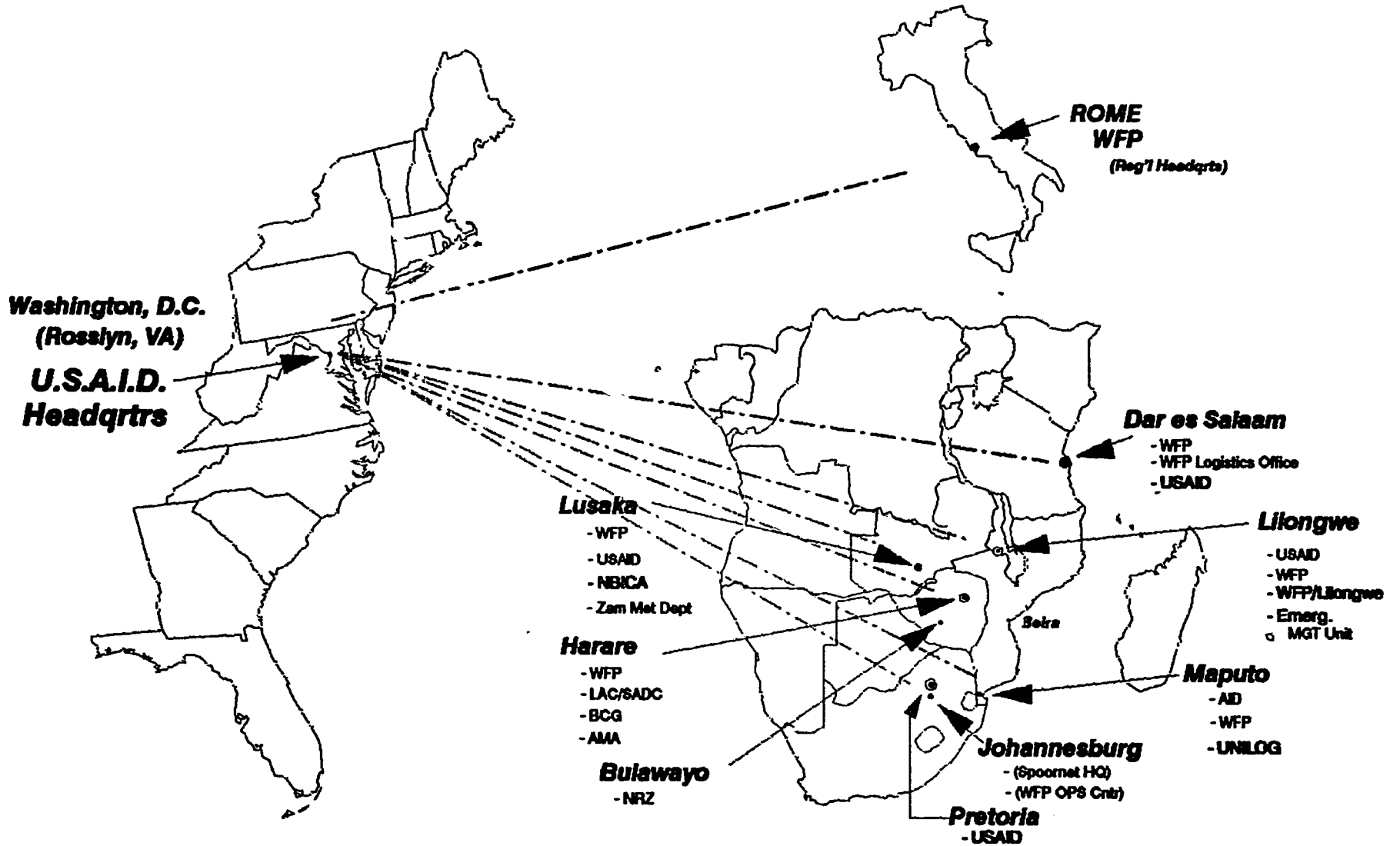
**Follow-up Visit to Mozambique, Zimbabwe,  
South Africa and Tanzania**

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**John Glaser**  
**March 1, 1993 to April 1, 1993**

# Southern Africa Food Information and Resource Exchange (S.A.F.I.R.E.)

Follow-up Visit  
to Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa & Tanzania



## **SAFIRE REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF WORK**

As a follow-up to the initial installation of the Southern Africa Food Information Resource Exchange network, the United States Agency for International Development and World Food Programme jointly agreed upon the following recommendations:

1. Selected offices in the Southern African region -- Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Tanzania -- are to be visited by a two person technical team consisting of John Glaser and Ellen Thomas.
2. Damaged equipment located in sites experiencing technical restraints is to be repaired or replaced.
3. New sites are to be established.
4. Training for both new and more experienced users will be provided.
5. A survey form is to be distributed to each site and to be completed by the system's operators.
6. The team is to travel to World Food Programme Headquarters located in Rome, Italy where they will debrief WFP officials.
7. The team is to depart Washington on March 1, 1993 for the Southern African region and return on April 1, 1993

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Southern Africa Food Information and Resource Exchange (SAFIRE) telecommunications project was jointly conceived and implemented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). SAFIRE's primary objective is to assist the drought stricken countries of southern Africa through the coordination of donor and host country humanitarian assistance efforts and to direct this assistance to those most affected by the worst drought in nearly a century. Financial support for this project has been furnished primarily through assistance from USAID.

As was indicated in the USAID Africa Bureau Action Memorandum authorizing this activity, the SAFIRE system has potential uses which could employ it well beyond the end of the drought. This enhanced African telecommunications capacity under the SADE needs to be translated into longer term developmental purposes. As was communicated during the preparation and installation phases of the project, there is widespread African interest towards the continuation of the SAFIRE network for longer-term developmental needs.

After the initial installation, it was recommended that a follow up visit to the southern Africa region be scheduled in order to provide technical assistance to sites requiring support. From March 1 through April 1, 1993, a two person team consisting of John Glaser and Ellen Thomas were dispatched to the southern Africa region to assist the fifteen sites located throughout Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. During this four week period, the team visited all locations to supply replacement equipment and to re-establish on the network those sites who were experiencing difficulty. The team also submitted a survey form to each office and provided additional training to new and advanced users. Furthermore, the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ), who was originally targeted as a potential candidate for the network but not setup during the initial installation of sites due to time and hardware limitations, was incorporated into the SAFIRE network.

The team discovered that the majority of technical restraints were due to hardware failures of which several were caused by rain water leaking into the building. Other restraints were a result of either screen failures or faulty components. Those sites requiring assistance were very anxious to receive their replacement equipment

and be re-established on the SAFIRE network. This is a clear indication that the FidoNet technology has had a significant impact on the communications world in southern region of Africa.

The team finished its tour at World Food Programme Headquarters in Rome, Italy where WFP officials were debriefed on the findings in southern Africa and the status of the Washington Hub system. The SAFIRE network and FidoNet technology -- and all their possibilities -- are definitely being recognized; there is a growing interest in this technology not only among the WFP officials but also among the sites established in the southern Africa region. However, a great concern affecting primarily the non-WFP sites is what happens next? In late 1993, according to agreement, WFP/Rome is scheduled to take control of the SAFIRE network and are only required to support the WFP sites. Non-WFP entities have expressed great interest in continuing these communication facilities beyond the termination of the project due to the system's capability to provide a wide range of non-drought related information. Currently, other alternatives are being investigated in order to continue this type communications network -- whether as a local African network of non-WFP sites or as an extension of the USAID SAFIRE project.

## SUMMARY OF EVENTS

### MOZAMBIQUE

#### WFP/Maputo 1:109/183.201

Contact person: Pablo Recalde  
Phone number: 258-1-490804  
Modem number: 258-1-493465  
System serial #: OSWGO

#### Brief Account

Upon my arrival, I found the WFP/Maputo system non-operational due to water damage from a leaky roof. Pablo had attempted to reload the program, but he failed to reconfigure the system properly. After viewing the configuration and noticing many missing files, I completely erased the old configuration and reloaded the software. Once the system was reconfigured, it appeared to operate properly. Before leaving, I tested the system and monitored several successful transmissions. I provided additional training to Pablo.

#### Detailed Account

A Dell system bios upgrade was performed on their machine. The command (\NO|) was added to the modem initialization string to eliminate the time out errors that were previously occurring. I configured the system to allow all files to be requested by the SAFIRE Hub located in Washington, DC for administrative purposes.

#### Comments

Due to the system failure at WFP/Maputo, there had been no activity for two months. At first, Pablo seemed to question the reliability of the network and all it actually had to offer. However, once the system was operational and transactions were taking place, we received a SAFIRE report from Washington written in

WordPerfect. Pablo copied the file to his computer and printed the document in just a matter of minutes. Pablo was very impressed by the speed with which he was able to have an actual report on paper in clear legible print. After this transaction, he was convinced that the FidoNet technology is vital for communications in Southern Africa.

**UNILOG/Maputo 1:109/183.204**

Contact person: David Zimmerly  
Phone number: 258-1-428042  
Modem number: 258-1-423339  
Fax number: 258-1-429628

Previous system serial #: ONJPX  
New system serial #: OSWG5

**Brief Account**

The UNILOG/Maputo system as well was not operational because of water damage. I exchanged their old computer with a new one and configured the new system with the proper software. I provided additional training for David Zimmerly, Alberto Mendes, Paula Faria and Maria Jose Costa.

**Detailed Account**

Due to a system failure at UNILOG, activity had been severed for two months. The replacement computer was configured before departure from Washington to allow the Washington Hub to request all files. The command (\NO|) was added to their modem initialization string.

Although the line to which I connected their system is a dedicated line, unfortunately it does not have international access. They can receive international calls, but are unable to place them. However, UNILOG is considering having their

system's line switched to share the fax's line which does have international access. Keeping this in mind, I setup the system so it could be easily connected to the fax line; once they have a transformer, they will be able to attach the switcher device that I left for their use.

Training went better than expected. David Zimmerly had picked up the technology very quickly due to his strong interest in the FidoNet system. Alberto Mendes had previously been trained. Two new users, Paula Faria and Maria Jose Costa, were instructed in the SAFIRE technology. Because of their computer literacy, they were able to learn it quite rapidly.

### **Comments**

T. J. Keusters, the Director of Operations at UNILOG, expressed interest in relying strictly on the FidoNet technology and is considering the eventual elimination of fax machine usage. In my short time at UNILOG, I witnessed a constant flow of fax transmissions. It is obvious that this office transmits an enormous amount of data and I believe the implementation of FidoNet could facilitate communications tremendously.

### **USAID/Maputo 1:109/183.202**

Contact person: Darell McIntyre  
Phone number: 258-1-490726  
Modem number: 258-1-491676  
Fax number: 258-1-492098  
System serial #: OSX6D

### **Brief Account**

The system was operating properly. I checked their configuration and further enhanced Darell McIntyre's training.



### **Detailed Account**

This system received a Dell system bios upgrade and was configured to allow all files to be requested from the Washington Hub for administrative purposes. I was able to provide advanced training to Darell McIntyre which included a discussion regarding conference mail.

### **Comments**

Darell has expressed great interest in communication with other networks. This is due partly to the satellite imagery files he receives each month which are necessary for his agricultural studies. Darell has a strong understanding of the FrontDoor program and I believe he has the ability and the fortitude to become a leader in this technology. Furthermore, he has discussed his concern for and interest in continuing this communications facility.

### **Amsterdam Port Control Consultants/Beira**

#### **Brief Account**

Upon arriving in Beira, my presence was never acknowledged by the personnel in spite of several attempts to contact their office. David Zausmer with the Beira Corridor Group in Harare allegedly coordinated with the APCC to prepare for my arrival. Because Captain Walterdrinker never responded to my messages, I was instructed to fly back to Maputo the next day. Later Mr. Zausmer informed me that the APCC was not particularly interested in SAFIRE, therefore they decided to neglect me at the airport and ignore my attempts to contact them.

The computer assigned to the APCC was left in the possession of Darell McIntyre at USAID/Maputo.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **USAID/Pretoria, 1:109/183.302**

Contact person: David Jackson  
Phone number: 27-12-3238869  
Modem/fax #: 27-11-211287  
System serial #: ON4WH

#### **Brief Account**

The original system had been damaged and already returned to Washington. In the meantime, they had been running the program on another computer. Furthermore, their dedicated line was not functional due to recent damage. They will continue to poll Washington until their line is available again. I provided additional training to David Jackson.

#### **Detailed Account**

USAID/Pretoria's new system was configured in Washington before departure. I had their replacement in my possession and was able to present USAID with their new system. Unfortunately, the line dedicated to the system has been damaged. This will force USAID/Pretoria to continue using the existing system and polling Washington until the damaged line can be fixed.

Although David Jackson was not present in November for the initial training, he was knowledgeable of the program. Since I visited this site on a Saturday, David was the only person available to participate in the training session.

#### **Comments**

David Jackson is definitely a leader in this technology. I found him to be very knowledgeable of the FrontDoor program and its capabilities. He has actually been able to obtain eight other conferences from the local WorkNet. It is unfortunate that David will be departing Pretoria this spring.

**WFP/Johannesburg, South Africa 1:109/183.301**

Contact person: Arnt Brievik  
Sue Kimberly  
Phone: 27-11-774-3216  
Fax/Modem number: 27-11-774-3213

New System Serial #: OTHKR  
Previous System Serial #: OSX3P

**Brief Account**

This system had recently experienced screen failure. Since I had brought the replacement computer with me, I was able to exchange the old system with the new upon my arrival in Johannesburg. Although I did not have much time there, I was able to provide additional training to Sue Kimberly.

**Detailed Account**

The new replacement system was configured in Washington before departure to allow all files to be requested from the Washington Hub for administrative purposes. I connected the system and provided additional training to Sue Kimberly. Sue had previously been trained and was quite knowledgeable of the program. My time here was limited so we were only able to review the more critical administrative aspects of the program.

**Comments**

WFP/Johannesburg was quite eager to have their replacement computer. Due to the system's failure, they were forced to use the system assigned to the Grain Operations Control Center which is conveniently located in the same building.

**Grain Operations Control Center 1:109/183.303**

Contact person: Collin Roberts  
Phone number: 27-11-773-6771  
Modem number: 27-11-774-4829  
System serial #: OSXT2

**Brief Account**

My visit to this site was brief due to the fact that no one was available for further training. I did speak with Collin Roberts before he quickly departed Johannesburg for a business meeting. I checked their configuration and then I departed for Bulawayo.

**Detailed Account**

I briefly visited this site before departing for Bulawayo. I performed a Dell system bios upgrade and configured their system to allow all files to be requested from the Washington Hub.

**Comments**

I was informed that the Grain Ops Control Center did not use the system to its full potential as a result of the diversity of information being transmitted. They remarked that they would like to see other locations targeted as potential SAFIRE sites, such as the Zimbabwe and Zambia Railways. They were quite pleased when I informed them that my next assignment was to setup the National Railways of Zimbabwe.

## ZIMBABWE

### National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ), Bulawayo 1:109/183.603

Contact person: M. Makumbe  
Phone number: 263-9-36344  
Modem number: 263-9-363660  
Fax number: 263-9-363502  
System serial #: OT40T

#### Brief Account

Despite having all my equipment detained at Customs in the Bulawayo airport for a day and a half, I was able to connect the system dedicated to the National Railways of Zimbabwe to a direct line and provide training to several employees.

#### Detailed Account

While waiting to regain my equipment from customs, I began to load the software on existing computers and to train personnel. Once I retrieved the equipment, I was able to connect the system to a dedicated line and monitor several successful transmissions. F. Zindoga, who was selected to receive the training because of his computer literacy, picked up the technology very quickly. Mr. Zindoga plans to then relay this information to selected personnel.

#### Comments

Mr. Makumbe, the Chief Signal Engineer, was quite interested in the SAFIRE Project. In addition to providing a dedicated line, he made all the necessary arrangements for me to conduct the training session. Participating in the FrontDoor training program were Luc Masse and Gary Broda who are consultants contracted to NRZ from CANAC International -- a subsidiary of the Canadian National Railways. Because of their interest in this technology, I left them information on how to obtain a copy of the software.

**WFP/Harare 1:109/183.601**

Contact person: Nicole Menages  
Phone number: 263-4-737634  
Modem number: 263-4-739984  
Fax number: 263-4-790586

**Brief Account**

WFP/Harare was provided with a Hayes 9600 baud modem since they already have the SAFIRE program loaded on their own system. I connected them to a line which is shared with a regular telephone. They have arranged to turn the system on at the end of working hours in order to receive calls. I was able to provide training for several persons and monitor successful transmissions.

**Detailed Account**

I connected a Hayes 9600 baud modem to their existing computer which was previously configured with the FrontDoor program. I then connected the modem's line to be shared with a phone line. I provided a training session for Cecilliah Mwangi, Plaxedes Kuzakwawo and Simon Denhere. All three individuals were computer literate and as a result picked up the technology very quickly.

**Comments**

Nicole Menages, the Director of Operations, was quite anxious to be connected to the network. She allowed personnel sufficient time for training. In my opinion, the system operators were quite knowledgeable and will have no problem maintaining the system.

WFP/LAC/SADC     1:109/183.604

Contact person:     Mike Jones  
Phone number:       263-4-730661  
Modem number:       263-4-730667  
Fax number:           263-4-730666

New System Serial #:     ONBXY  
Previous System Serial #:   OSXSF

#### **Brief Account**

The WFP/LAC/SADC system was operational, however it was running a little sluggish. Because I had brought an extra system with me, I was able to replace their computer. I provided additional training for several persons at the LAC office.

#### **Detailed Account**

The LAC office was very accommodating. They provided a driver to transport me to the various sites I needed to visit. Although they did not have any system complications, I replaced their existing system with a new one that I had brought with me because their system appeared to be operating too slowly. Everyone at the LAC office was quite anxious to learn more about the FrontDoor program. I provided training for Rick Corsino, Hans Seipp, Pippa Giles, Lindsay Adamson and Maceline Musa.

#### **Comments**

This office is scheduled to close down this spring. The equipment assigned to the LAC office will be then handed over to the WFP/Harare office.

**Grain Marketing Board**

Contact person: Mr. Zena  
Phone number: 263-4-732011  
Fax number: 263-4-732038

**Brief Account**

I visited this site on Thursday, March 18, 1993. At this time, Mr. Zena informed me that they did not consider themselves as a potential candidate for the SAFIRE project. They stated that they would only provide duplicate information and suggested that the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture & Water Division should be setup in their stead. I contacted Washington and informed them of this development and, because time was short, I continued to visit the scheduled sites in Harare.

**Beira Corridor Group 1:109/183.605**

Contact Person: David Zausmer  
Phone number: 263-4-739302  
Modem/Fax # : 263-4-721956  
System serial #: ONM56

**Brief Account**

The Beira Corridor Group site was not operational because there was no available line for the system. I was forced to connect their modem to the same line as the fax. They have arranged to turn off the fax machine for approximately a half hour each day at 12:30 to allow for the modem to receive polls from Washington. I was able to provide training for personnel and monitor successful transmissions.



### **Detailed Account**

I attempted to bypass the switchboard and connect the line directly. However, I was unable to achieve this and was left no other alternative but to connect the modem line to the line used by the fax machine. The Beira Corridor Group agreed to power down the fax and turn on the modem at 12:35 daily to receive polls from Washington.

Training was provided for David Zausmer and Joyce Chinhori. Lisa Correia who had also participated in the first training session, will be updated by Joyce.

### **Comments**

David Zausmer was very pleased to be finally connected to the network. I feel that David's influence will be necessary in order for the BCG to be able to fully participate in the network. David appeared to travel quite frequently and I anticipate minimal usage without his presence.

### **Agricultural Marketing Authority 1:109/183.606**

Contact person: Felix Masanzu  
Phone number: 263-4-730944  
Modem number: 263-4-730947  
Fax number: 263-4-730948  
System serial #: ONHWQ

### **Brief Account**

Although a computer was left for the Agricultural Marketing Authority by the first SAFIRE team, this site's system had not yet been connected. In the two and a half hours allocated to this site, I was able to connect the computer to a dedicated line and provide training for AMA personnel.

### Detailed Account

Although this site was not targeted in the Lauer\Simon telcon agreement as a site requiring assistance, Barbara Keating suggested I contact Felix Masanzu at the AMA while I was in Harare. When I contacted the AMA, I discovered that Felix Masanzu was not available. I did speak however with Busi Sibanda who readily agreed to make the necessary arrangements to prepare for my arrival. I setup the computer left last December and connected the system to a former fax line. In addition, I reacquainted Busi with the system, updating her knowledge from the last training session. While testing the system, even though several regional polls were successfully monitored, I was unable to connect with the Washington Hub. Thus, an agreement was made that AMA would turn the system on at night in order to facilitate receiving polls from Washington.

### Comments

When I connected the system to the former fax line, I noticed several incoming fax signals. Evidently outside offices still identify this line as a fax machine. Due to her present work load, Mrs. Sibanda stated that she would not be able to pay much attention to the SAFIRE system until May 1, 1993.

## TANZANIA

### USAID/Dar es Salaam 1:109/183.402

Contact person: Tej Mathur  
Phone number: 255-51-32977  
Modem/Fax #: 255-51-46431  
System serial #: OSXVX

#### **Brief Account**

This site was operational and had been receiving polls, but not on a consistent basis. I discovered that their system was configured to answer only between the hours of 2:00 am and 4:00 am, thus only allowing for a two hour window. Since their system is shared with a fax line and is connected to a switcher device, I configured the system to answer at all times. This will allow Washington to monitor and determine the most reliable time to poll.

#### **Detailed Account**

Upon our arrival in Tanzania, we discovered that we had arrived in the midst of a holiday. Despite all offices being closed for two days, we were still allowed to enter the building. The system currently shares a line with the fax machine and is connected to a switcher device. It received a Dell system bios upgrade and was configured to allow all files to be requested by the Washington Hub for administrative purposes.

While I was there, I noticed that they had not received a poll from Washington in several days. The phone lines in Tanzania were by far the worst I had seen to date. I conducted a training session for Joshua Manyama and Baynit Williams. Baynit was more familiar with the program, but Joshua had no difficulty absorbing the new technology.

### Comments

This site has not participated in the SAFIRE technology as much as other AID offices. I attribute this lack of transactions primarily to the poor quality of the phone lines. The hub in Washington automatically calls USAID/Dar es Salaam every day, but only connects occasionally.

### WFP/Dar es Salaam 1:109/183.401

Contact person: H. Tongul  
Modem/Fax #: 255-51-46901  
Phone number: 255-51-36837  
System serial #: OSWLY

### Brief Account

This site was not operational due to hardware complications. I exchanged their damaged computer, serial number OSX3Z, with a new one and connected their system to a switcher device which allows the system to be shared with their fax line. Unfortunately, their line had been previously damaged and was not functional. This left us no means for testing the connection. Once the line is repaired, I will coordinate with WFP/Dar es Salaam to ensure connections are functioning properly.

### Detailed Account

I presented WFP/Dar es Salaam with their new system in exchange for the damaged one. Since their lines were not functional, I could not test the connection. I conducted a simulated training session for A. Kundi, G. A. Mkini, C. A. Masiaga, H. Tongul and A. Moshi. Several employees had previously received training, so simulation of the program was not totally foreign. On the second day of training, Captain Madsen and John Jensen from WFP/Logistics Secretariat joined the WFP/Dar es Salaam staff in the training session. During the session, the power

was cut off and we were no longer able to even simulate the program. After a brief discussion, I setup their system so it could be easily connected to the fax line and switcher device.

### Comments

The staff at WFP/Dar es Salaam was very interested in the program -- everyone wanted to participate. They were anxious as well to be back on line. The down time definitely hurt this site. The power here is cut off every day at certain time periods to conserve energy. This creates a problem with the Dell system since the battery is turned on when the power is cut which completely drains the battery. The power is cut again in the middle of the night. I believe this is what caused the problems with the first system. After testing the damaged system, I found that the system would operate on a new battery but not on the AC line. The new system is now experiencing similar problems.

### WFP/Logistics Secretariat 1:109/183.404

Contact person: Captain Madsen  
Phone number: 255-51-37052  
Modem number: 255-51-46596  
Fax number: 255-51-36623

### Brief Account

This office is dated to close in June 1993, at that time their system will be handed over to WFP/Dar es Salaam. Captain Madsen and John Jensen joined the staff of WFP on Saturday, March 27, 1993 in a SAFIRE training session.

**ITALY**

**WFP/Rome 1:109/183.30**

Files Only

**WFP/Rome 1:109/183.31 UNICC Geneva**

Contact Person: George Simon  
Keith Burberry

Phone number: 39-6-5797-5935

Modem number: 39-6-579-75825

Fax number: 39-6-5127400  
39-6-5133537

**Brief Account**

We arrived in Rome in the afternoon of Tuesday, March 30 1993, two days later than planned due to a cancelled flight from Kenya. I immediately contacted World Food Programme Headquarters to schedule a meeting with WFP officials. George Simon, Patricia Kennedy, Keith Burberry, Enrique Lorenzoni, Liviana Simeon of WFP and David Gams, Ellen Thomas and John Glaser of USAID attended the meeting. I educated David Gams on the SAFIRE Project and debriefed the WFP officials on my visit to the southern Africa region. I gave a detailed account of the events at each site visited.

Mr. Lorenzoni had many valid questions concerning the FidoNet technology regarding such topics as the availability of software, regional technical support, conference mail, and private networks. The remaining time in Rome was spent debriefing WFP officials and answering questions concerning SAFIRE.

### **Detailed Account**

Present at the first meeting were WFP officials: George Simon, Keith Burberry, Patricia Kennedy, Enrique Lorenzoni and USAID representatives: John Glaser, Ellen Thomas and David Gams. After debriefing the WFP officials and discussing the elements of SAFIRE, the meeting concluded until the following morning.

Early the next day, we met with the above mentioned WFP officials and with the Logistics officer Amir Abdulla. Mr. Abdulla expressed a strong interest in the FidoNet technology. He stated that the SAFIRE network has proven to be a faster means of communication than the telex. Amir's primary concern however was how to address the issue of confirming the receipt of messages. He was pleased with the communication capabilities from Malawi and Zambia, yet he also noted that Dar es Salaam remained the most difficult location from which to receive a response.

Afterward, I met with Mrs. V. Sequeira and her associates whose department focuses on the southern African region. They are quite interested in this technology and are planning to schedule training sessions in order to become more familiar with the FrontDoor program .

The later part of the day was spent meeting first with J. M. Boucher -- the Chief EPR, to debrief him on the status of the SAFIRE project, and then with Liviana Simeon where I provided additional training and checked the configuration of the WFP system.

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THE SAFIRE PROJECT**

The following is a list of all the participating stations in the region:

### **Zambia**

USAID/Lusaka  
WFP/Lusaka  
NBICA National Bulk Import  
Commodity Association  
Zambia Meteorology Department

### **Malawi**

USAID/Lilongwe  
WFP/Lilongwe  
WFP/Blantyre  
EMU Emergency Management Unit

### **Tanzania**

USAID/Dar es Salaam  
WFP/Dar es Salaam  
WFP-Logistics Secretariat/  
Dar es Salaam

### **Mozambique**

USAID/Maputo  
WFP/Maputo  
UNILOG/Maputo

### **South Africa**

USAID/Pretoria  
WFP/Johannesburg  
Grain Operations Control  
Center/Johannesburg

### **Zimbabwe**

WFP/Harare  
WFP/LAC/SADC/Harare  
Beira Corridor Group/Harare  
Agricultural Marketing  
Authority/Harare  
National Railways of  
Zimbabwe/Bulawayo

### **Italy**

WFP Headquarters/Rome



## ADDITIONAL SITE REQUESTS

### MOZAMBIQUE

T. J. Keusters, UNILOG/Maputo Director of Operations, has requested that the system assigned to Amsterdam Port Control Consultants in Beira be placed instead at the UNILOG office. The system was left at the USAID mission in Maputo.

David Zimmerly, formerly with UNILOG and now with USAID, has requested that the system assigned to CFM Railway be placed in the UNOHOC office in Maputo for the reason that the CFM Railway has not previously participated in the SAFIRE project.

### MALAWI

In agreement with the LAC/Harare office, USAID/Lilongwe has requested that the Malawi International Transport Co. LTD. (MITCO) be included in the SAFIRE network. MITCO was appointed by the government of Malawi last year to coordinate both commercial and donor maize during the drought relief effort. WFP/Rome officials have rejected this request. However, despite Rome's rejection, USAID/Lilongwe and LAC/Harare still insist that MITCO ought to be included in the SAFIRE network.

## STATISTICS

| Sites Visited | Functioning | New | Never operated | Damaged |
|---------------|-------------|-----|----------------|---------|
| 15            | 7           | 1   | 3              | 4       |

There are now eight sites operating which either did not previously exist or were non-functional before our trip to the South African region.

# SAFIRE PROJECT COUNTRIES

