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For PAIGC, August 3 is a date of special significance. That day in 1953 marked the turning point in the struggle for the independence of Guine-Bissau. For it was on that date that the dock workers at Pédiguiti went on strike for higher wages. The Portuguese response to this was to call out the police and the troops who opened fire on the strikers. In the ensuing massacre over 50 Africans were killed and the true nature of Portuguese colonialism revealed with brutal clarity. Pédiguiti occupies the same place in the history of PAIGC as the massacre at Mueda in 1963, does in that of FRELIMO. Both massacres showed the impossibility of peaceful methods of struggle in the Portuguese territories. Trade union organization and other non-violent stratagems were proved to be futile and suicidal in the face of Portuguese repression.

AUGUST 3

A month after Pédiguiti, the leaders of PAIGC, which had already been in existence for 3 years, met in secret on the outskirts of Bissau and declared themselves in favour of struggle against the Portuguese 'by all possible means, including war'. There then took place some three years of clandestine activity over the whole nation in which Amílcar Cabral and the other PAIGC leaders built an organization capable of taking on and beating a colonial army backed by the military might of NATO. By 1963 the political work PAIGC had undertaken in the villages of Guine had given it a solid enough base among the peasantry for guerrilla warfare to be launched.

Now, 8 years later, PAIGC controls over two thirds of Guine, the Portuguese are largely confined to the major towns and are not safe even there, for in recent months PAIGC has proved itself capable of launching rocket attacks on the capital, Bissau, with impunity. Seeing as proportionately Portugal has a larger army in Guine (35,000 men in a country of only 800,000 inhabitants) than the US has in Vietnam, the achievements of PAIGC are quite remarkable. The Portuguese have replied to PAIGC's success in savage and barbaric manner - eliminating the Americans in tactics such as the use of strategic hamlets whereby the population is forcibly regrouped in the hope of depriving the guerrillas of their support, the bombing of schools, hospitals and crops, and the indiscriminate use of napalm. But none of this shows any sign of turning the war in Portugal's favour.

In the two thirds of Guine that are now liberated, the people under PAIGC rule are learning a whole new way of life. The world record in illiteracy that Guine held before the opening of the armed struggle (approx 99.7%) is being rapidly destroyed by the provision of rudimentary schooling facilities in as many villages as possible. Well over 150 primary schools are now functioning in the liberated areas attended by over 15,000 pupils aged 7-15. To quote Cabral 'Considering that at the start of our struggle there were only 26 primary and elementary

schools (11 official and 45 mission schools) with a maximum total of 2,000 pupils, it is easy to understand the enthusiasm of our children and people for the Party's success in this field'. As with education, so with health. What few facilities were provided by the Portuguese were mainly in the towns, and for the use of the colonizing elite. In a few brief years PAIGC had exceeded by far the entire record of the whole colonial period. By 1969 there were six field hospitals in the liberated areas (now nine), 120 clinics and 23 mobile medical teams at work.

And PAIGC has succeeded in providing an alternative to the Portuguese way of ordering the economy. A chain of 'People's Stores' has been established



In the liberated areas where barter trade is carried out, new lands have been brought under cultivation, new crops raised and new methods of farming introduced. 'Keep always in mind', Cabral once said, 'that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone's head. They are fighting... for material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children. National liberation, war on colonialism, building of peace and progress - independence - all that will remain meaningless for the people unless it brings a real improvement in conditions of life'.

That real improvement has been brought to the people of Guine through the efforts of PAIGC.

To mark PAIGC Day the Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guine is holding an open discussion meeting. There will be a briefing on latest developments in the colonies, and in particular on the progress of PAIGC. There will also be a discussion based on the theoretical writings of Amílcar Cabral which it is hoped will act as a stimulus in tackling the practical problems of solidarity work in Britain.

Meeting place: The Pinder of Wakefield
324 Gray's Inn Road WC1 (Kings X end)

Time: 8.00 pm

Date: Tuesday 3 August

State against Church

Did you hear the one about the 'civilizing mission'? About how the Portuguese were going to bring the values of Christian civilization to Africa, and dispel the crude superstition of a benighted continent with the sweet light of religion? Anyone who has actually taken in by this sort of stuff will have received a rude shock at the news that the leading Catholic missionary order, the White Fathers, has decided voluntarily to withdraw from Mozambique. This order was founded in 1869 by Cardinal Larigerie, a crusader against slavery, exclusively for work in Africa. The White Fathers have 74 mission territories, and their basic principle has been the Africanization of the church, with the aim of making it as fully indigenous as in Europe. They appointed their first African bishop in 1939 and have trained more than a third of all the African clergy, including two Cardinals, Bogaamba and Zourgrana. The policy of Africanization proved to be somewhat less than congenial to the Portuguese and after 25 years of work in Mozambique, the White Fathers feel that they cannot continue to live the lie that is implicit in preaching sermons that are censored by the state, a state that is only interested in using the Church for its own ends. In a letter to the members of the Order, the Superior General of the White Fathers, the Very Rev. Theodore van Asten outlined the reasons for the decision to leave:

"In the first place, it is obvious that this measure has not been dictated by any question of lack of personnel. Every year since the Chapter, we have appointed young fathers to Mozambique. And we are ready to do so again this year. Nor has this decision been taken for external reasons, or for reasons of a material nature. The security of our men is not threatened. The living conditions are not bad. Besides, you know that this sort of motive would never cause us to give up a mission. Nowhere else have they benefited from such direct and substantial material aid from a government. And the authorities in Lisbon have never given any indication that the presence of the White Fathers was no longer desirable in Mozambique.

The reasons behind this decision are much more serious: On the one hand, the basic ambiguity of a situation where our presence ends up by being a counter-witness. On the other hand, the sincerity of a mission which recoils from having two conflicting faces in Africa.

The situation of the White Fathers in Mozambique is in fact more and more marked by a grave ambiguity. Sent as they are to bear witness to the Gospel and make the Church present as sign and means of salvation, the missionaries find that the confusion between Church and State, which is sustained by the constant practice of both civic and religious authorities, does a great disservice to the presentation of the Gospel Message and of the real face of the Church.

It is unfortunately a fact that in many spheres the Church is hindered in her freedom of action. If theoretically she enjoys freedom of action, in practice the preaching of certain aspects of the Gospel is constantly hampered. It is not our intention to present a dossier here, but to discuss any particular points. Let it suffice to stress that too often certain acts of apostolic ministry, especially those aimed at promoting real social justice, are considered as subversive acts, and that they are often the occasion of painful vexations, or even imprisonment and ill-treatment for certain Christian leaders more in contact with the mission.

We wanted, we asked and for a long time we waited for the Hierarchy to take a definite stand in face of injustice and police brutality. Faced with a silence which we do not understand, we feel in conscience that we have not the right to be accounted the accomplices of an official support which the Bishops in this way seem to give to a regime, which shrewdly uses the Church to consolidate and perpetuate in Africa an anachronistic situation, which in the long run is a dead end. Deprived as we are of the means of getting things properly clarified on the spot, our presence only engenders a regrettable confusion in the minds of the people.

A Church of silence, a muted Church, can remain a worthwhile sign in a regime where the Church is officially persecuted. She becomes a counter-witness in a country which openly proclaims itself Catholic and Protector of the Church but in the long run uses the Church for aims which have nothing to do with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The Portuguese response to this decision was to order the missionaries to leave Mozambique before July 1, the date that their Superior General had set for their withdrawal. Rui Patricio, Portuguese Foreign Minister, branded the White Fathers as prohibited residents and accused them of inciting Mozambicans to rebel and join FRELIMO, of insulting the Portuguese flag and national anthem, and of destroying equipment when they left the mission at Baroe. One Fr. Burridge, on behalf of the White Fathers Generalate in Rome, commented that Patricio had completely distorted the facts. The case of the priest accused of inciting rebellion had taken place several years previously, and merely involved helping some African youths to reach the frontier on their way out of Mozambique - since the White Fathers do in fact repudiate any kind of political action, the missionary order agreed to the removal of this priest from Mozambique. As for the case of insulting the Portuguese flag, this had taken place ten years ago, the culprit was declared persona non grata, but shortly afterwards rehabilitated and allowed to continue his work in Mozambique. And the charge of destroying equipment was a complete fabrication on the part of Senhor Patricio.

Fr. Burridge went on to illustrate the censorship and other difficulties which the White Fathers had found themselves confronted with in Mozambique. Thus, quotations on social justice, human rights and human dignity from the Church's documents "Gaudium et Spes" and "Populorum Progressio" are deleted from a pastoral letter. The entire issue of "Vox Africana", a Catholic weekly, in which a message from Pope Paul to Africa appeared, is bought up by the police to prevent its circulation. Allusions to the Church's social documents and social problems in sermons brings police to the mission-house door and appellations of "communist" or "politicians". Preaching that love of one's neighbours extends to giving labourers enough to live on brings the observation from local administration: that sermon is a crime.... Meetings of the Legion of Mary, teachers' reunions, courses on religion etc. are suspected of fomenting terrorism, and people who attend them are subjected to police interrogation, told that attendance at such meetings is evidence of "Communist" tendencies. A missionary who observed that the distribution of food given by the government is badly administered and supplies are rotting in the open while people starve is called and silenced by the governor.

Similarly, advancement and facilities for higher education are the preserve of people who qualify

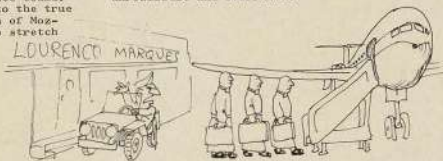
for and take Portuguese citizenship. Missions are expected to be, not envoys for an Africanizing Church and the advancement of African culture in a Christian context, but part of the imperial establishment... And, by way of a tit-bit, when the mission organized a 28 team football league with an African at its head, the administration informed them that that was a position which only a Portuguese citizen could occupy'.

This decision of the White Fathers is of immense significance for it is one of the very few occasions on which a Roman Catholic order has voluntarily withdrawn from a country on the ground that it can no longer reconcile its presence there with its conscience. If this affair is considered in conjunction with the audience that the Pope gave last year to the leaders of the liberation movements, it becomes clear that the Portuguese regime can no longer rely on the blind support of the Catholic Church as it once could. The testimony of the White Fathers as to the true nature of the Portuguese administration of Mozambique is extremely valuable, for by no stretch

of the Monday Club's imagination can these highly respected missionaries be regarded as 'terrorists' or 'communists'. They are simply men of honesty and integrity who could not continue to live in what they realized was a fundamentally dishonest fashion where the word of God was subordinate to that of Marcello Caetano.

The Bishops of Mozambique had also been attacked by the White Fathers for their servility to the will of the state. These worthy gentlemen issued a reply to this in which they claimed that the White Fathers' decision was the result of internal dissensions. The missionaries politely replied that this was so much nonsense - their decision was reached after long consideration of the problems, and had been almost unanimous. There had in fact been two dissentients who had wanted to remain in Mozambique - so that they could fight against the regime more directly. This attitude was thought unrealistic and overruled.

AND IN ANGOLA....



'PEACE, LOVE, EQUALITY - O.K. THAT'S CHRISTIANITY. PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE? THAT'S COMMUNISM!'

The action of the White Fathers in Mozambique deserves, and has received, wide attention. But the story behind their decision to leave has its counterparts in Angola too. When the armed struggle began in 1961 the Baptist missionaries were pre-occupied in denouncing the atrocities committed by the Portuguese and were subsequently forced to withdraw from the country. Now a Spanish priest, Fr. Waldo Garcia of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, has described some of the events which led to his expulsion from the country.

A seminary teacher at Nova Lisboa for several years, he was also involved in the Catholic Institute of Angola. He says 'Since my arrival in Angola I was attached to the mission as a Christian priest... The first thing I was told on arrival was that it was forbidden to speak of the "Pacem in Terris" encyclical in Angola. My first "subversive" act was to refuse to collaborate with the police, to become an informer, something which is asked of all the white priests. Unfortunately it must be admitted that many priests lead themselves to this kind of collaboration.

'... But what finally motivated my expulsion was the holding of a series of 5 pastoral conferences during which we wanted to face realities as Christians. The 2 Portuguese priests who led this initiative with me, Fathers Jorge Sanchez and Antonio Fernando dos Santos Neves, were also expelled from Angola, as well as the Reverend Lawrence

Henderson who also participated in the management of the Catholic Institute'.

Fr. Garcia also describes concrete situations faced by practising Catholics in Angola, citing 2 examples: in one case a man who had had to collaborate with the secret police during the interrogation and torture of prisoners; in another a local civil defence corps, or patrol in the Baixa de Cassange region, who shot all the eldest sons of African families that they could find in order to 'disprove' nationalist propaganda which claimed that their families protected them from Portuguese bullets.

'There are two churches in Angola... There is the Church which is martyr to the situation and there is the one that collaborates because it has been bought... There are two churches in Angola, the black and the white, the Portuguese and the African and that division begins among the faithful because, as in South Africa, the churches are segregated

And as in South Africa, the situation is presented to the world as the building of bridges in order to promote - in the end - 'peaceful change'.

LITERATURE LIST

- The Struggle for Mozambique by Eduardo Mondlane Penguin 40p
 Revolution in Guinea by Amilcar Cabral stage One 45p
 The Liberation of Guinea by Basil Davidson Penguin 30p
 Portugal and NATO by Dutch Angola Committee 15p
 Programme of the PAIGC 25p
 Statutes and Programme of FRELIMO 25p
 World Council of Churches - Profile of PAIGC 5p
 World Council of Churches - Profile of FRELIMO 5p
 Leaflet 'War on Three Fronts' £1.50 per 1,000
 Leaflet 'War on Three Fronts' £1.50 per 1,000
 Fact sheets on British involvement in 5p
 Cabora Bassa 25p
 Cabora Bassa and UN Sanctions on Southern Rhodesia 25p
 British financial interests in Portugal, Angola, Mozambique & Guinea 25p

Books

- *Cabora Bassa (as - Smash Cabora Bassa 10p
 MIA 4th February 1961 - 1971
 Mozambique will be free - Frelimo Vencera 10p

Films

- Venceremos - 16 mm 20 minute film from Mozambique £2.80 plus (plus postage)
 A Group of Terrorists Attacked - 16 mm 40 minute film made by World in Action team in Guinea £2.50 (plus postage)

Behind the Lines - 16 mm 50 minute film from Mozambique available from Contemporary Films, 55, Brook St., London W1 £8.50

Speakers

Speakers are available from the Committee to talk to public meetings and groups.

MOZAMBIQUE

CABORA BASSA

The Cabora Bassa project suffered another significant setback in May when it became clear that there was going to be no direct American involvement in the dam. American General Electric had planned to produce direct current conversion equipment for the dam - however to finance this GE needed a \$5 million dollar advance from the Export-Import Bank. It seems that the Eximbank did in fact approve GE's request - this however was on purely economic grounds and subject to approval by the National Advisory Council of International Monetary and Financial Policy. At this point economic advantage had to be weighed with political disadvantage. The advisory council's decision was still pending on May 6 when General Electric suddenly decided to withdraw 'because it appeared that financial assistance from US sources would not be arranged in time to meet the project's construction schedule'. And in a letter of May 10 Mr. Henry Kearns, President and Chairman of Eximbank, stated 'The General Electric Company has withdrawn its request for Export-Import Bank financing assistance in the proposed sale of US equipment related to the Cabora Bassa Dam in Mozambique. Therefore this case has been closed. The Export-Import Bank is not participating in this project'.

Although the State Department made no comment it would seem reasonable to assume that it had something to do with the decision. Also of paramount importance was the ready response of anti-colonialist and anti-racist groups in the US to any form of aid to Portuguese colonialism. Loud protests from a number of congressmen, led by Henry Reuss (Wisconsin) also played their part. A FRELIMO spokesman in Harare in June commented that if the reports concerning General Electric were true 'I must say that the US has done a great service to Africa and mankind' - which makes a change.

Portugal now faces the problem of finding someone to replace GE. There are only a few firms in existence who can carry out the work required. Three of these - ASEA, GEC-ABEL and now GE - have dissociated themselves from the scheme. So that if the West Germans are also pressured into abandoning Cabora Bassa the building of the dam may well become an impossibility.

The asserted visits of Tory MPs and British trade missions to Mozambique are beginning to bear fruit. More British firms are becoming involved in Cabora Bassa. Procter, Gardner and Rider, a Brighton firm of consulting engineers, have advertised in the Consultant Engineers Yearbook that they are being employed by the Portuguese government to advise on the laying of the transmission line from Cabora Bassa to Pretoria. And British Leyland has announced that it is going to open an assembly plant in Lourenca Marques for producing Mini-moke jeeps. The Moke is an ideal vehicle for the Portuguese to use on the rough roads of Mozambique. Doubtless these squat little British cars will soon be buzzing all over the dam site. Interestingly enough GKN - who still deny that they are involved in Cabora Bassa - have become so nervous about the whole thing that their South African managing director has been told to refer all press releases to GKN's London offices.

But the construction work on the Zambezi goes on. It is reported that the underground corridor for the central electricity works on the right bank of the dam is nearing completion. It will be 30 metres high and 250 metres long. And in order to facilitate construction work the drain holes in the Kariba dam in Rhodesia have been closed from

May 4 until August.

The Portuguese however are now desperately worried about the security of the dam, mainly because FRELIMO forces have crossed the Zambezi and are now operating in Southern Tete. According to a Portuguese statement, the unprecedented step will shortly be taken of putting Tete Province under a military governor - a tacit admission of Portugal's failure to check FRELIMO's advance. The man widely tipped for this new post is Brigadier Silverio Marques, a former Governor General of Angola.

Let anyone is still in any doubt as to who will be the real beneficiary of the dam the Portuguese 'Journal do Comercio' has provided us with the following interesting fact 'South Africa will consume 60% of the 18,300 million kw per year which the giant dam will produce' (24/5/71).

MILITARY ACTIVITY

April saw yet another of General Kaulza de Arriaga's abortive offensives in Northern Mozambique. The Daily Telegraph reportantly reported that helicopter-borne Portuguese commandos were firmly encamped in strategic new areas of Northern Mozambique last night after 2 of the biggest military offensives in the area for several months. The Telegraph's sources were admitted to be 'military authorities-in-lieu' who are 'in constant contact with Mozambique'. These authorities said that 'mopping-up operations were still going on after a 2-pronged thrust into key strongholds of the FRELIMO guerrilla movement'. The story then disappeared from the pages of the Telegraph and if we want any more information on this offensive we have to turn to the Tanzanian press where we find that it is perfectly true that the Portuguese landed troops in the liberated areas by helicopter, that the Telegraph did not see fit to report, was that the same helicopters were used a couple of weeks later to take the same troops out again after they had suffered heavy casualties. Let FRELIMO continue the story in its own words:

The Portuguese campaign of lies continues. Faced with dramatic defeats on the battlefield, they try desperately to convince their own people and the outside world that they are winning the war by inventing fabulous victories over our forces. Most recently, in their April communique, for example, the Portuguese armed forces in Mozambique announced that they had killed 139 FRELIMO guerrillas, destroyed 47 bases, captured 104 weapons and so on.

Ironically, however, it is the accumulation of these very lies which now unmask the tricks of the Portuguese and discredit their claims once and for all. For a particularly clear example of this one needs only to examine their Mozambique war communique which purport to summarize the events of the period from March 1970 to March 1971. In that document, they claim the following results: 663 FRELIMO guerrillas killed; 1874 captured; 6811 surrendered (many of whom were high officials of FRELIMO...); 309 FRELIMO bases and camps destroyed or occupied; more than 69 tons of war equipment captured or destroyed. Moreover in September of last year, General Kaulza de Arriaga had already declared that the final great offensive had begun... was in its 'fifth and final phase' this being 'the final blow against the few guerrilla bands, already disorganized and in complete disarray, which still remained'.

*Yet, as 1971 begins, we find the same communique announcing, unaccountably, the '1971 great offensive'.

live against FRELIMO forces". One wonders - if Kauliza had destroyed or occupied our bases (3541) destroyed or captured our weapons (60 tons) and inflicted losses on FRELIMO of 10,000 guerrillas (most of whom were "high officials"), if he had in fact already delivered his final blow - against whom was this fresh offensive launched?

'The truth is, of course, the exact reverse of these claims and even the complicity of the Imperialist news media which alone makes such systematic falsification possible, cannot continue to conceal the defeats which the Portuguese are suffering on all fronts in Mozambique. For far from being a "great offensive", the Portuguese operations for 1971 are actually a desperate attempted counter-offensive designed to contain our own advances. In fact in Cabo Delgado we are attacking the enemy on the outskirts of the capital, Porto Amelia; our fighters are operating on both sides of the river Montepuez and opening up new foci of armed struggle well behind the defensive perimeter claimed by the enemy. In Niassa Province we have isolated the capital, Vila Cabral, while at the same time extending the armed struggle towards the south and the east.

'In Tete province, we control large regions north of the Zambezi river. Our guerrillas have crossed the river and are operating in the Southern zone, having already engaged in important battles' throughout the whole of that zone, thereby directly threatening the imperialist project at Cabora Bassa.

'Thus this fresh "great offensive" found our fighters and people not only prepared for it, with all roads mined, the masses armed and guerrillas at their posts, but actually on the attack themselves' (FRELIMO Communiqué June 4, 1971).

LA GUERRA APPESA AL CHIODO armodelli

tipo
FRANCHI L.F.57
cal.9
scala 1:25



Costituita da una delle più prestigiose fabbriche italiane di armi da caccia, la pistola mitragliatrice Franchi L.F.57 ha la precisione di un'arma da tiro.

Dalle giungle dell'Estremo Oriente al Congo alle lontane giungle dell'Angola e del Mozambico, il "Sai Lupi" - così è l.F.57 - vanta in una non lontana occasione per devoto riconoscimento l'ammirazione di un'intera nazione, si è guadagnata la fama di arma dalle doti miracolose.

Ora è diventata un bellissimo Armodello. Questo significa che è identica all'originale in ogni particolare anche nei più piccoli, che è dotata di meccanismi di alta precisione, che funziona con cariche di plastica. Per la vostra collezione acquistate il Franchi L.F.57 nel negozio di giocattoli, modellismo, armi e sport. Chiedete anche l'opuscolo da parete "Tedeschi" n. 1 e n. 2.

This is a reproduction of an advertisement which appeared in the popular Italian weekly "L'Europeo" on June 24. It concerns a toy submachinegun, made for the more belligerent of Italy's children. But the ad goes on to inform us that the real one - 'tipo FRANCHI L.F.57 cal.9' is proving a great success 'from the jungles of the Far East and Congo to the bushes of Angola and Mozambique'.

At the end of April Rhodesian troops suffered their first casualties in the Portuguese colonies. An army vehicle containing four Rhodesian soldiers, struck a FRELIMO mine - one of the occupants was instantly killed, 2 died later in hospital, and the fourth is seriously injured. The security forces headquarters in Salisbury claim that the men were not on active duty in Mozambique but had 'entered Portuguese territory for friendly contact with Portuguese border authorities'. Of course,

AID TO FRELIMO

East Germany has now made a very substantial donation to FRELIMO. The Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of the German Democratic Republic is giving aid worth £60,000 in the form of tents, blankets, medical equipment and educational books. Mr. H. Schmidt, President of the Committee, announced this in Dar es Salaam on May 5 when he presented 1,000 mathematics books to FRELIMO. He said that part of the consignment had already left the GDR by ship. 'These supplies have been bought with money contributed by the peasants and workers of the GDR for their fighting brothers in Mozambique' he said. In the same week the Soviet and Hungarian trade unions also pledged to continue their material and moral support for the liberation struggle in South Africa, Zimbabwe and the Portuguese colonies.

But not all East European initiatives are useful to the liberation movements. Czechoslovakia has recently concluded a trade agreement with Portugal by which she supplies the colonialist regime with lorries and other vehicles. So that United Transport and British Leyland motors will be joined by Czech lorries bouncing along the road to Cabor Bassa.

RAIDS ON SENEGAL

The Portuguese army is certainly no respecter of frontiers, as was amply proved by last November's invasion of the Republic of Guinea. And it seems that even the African nations who do not support the liberation movements are not immune from Portuguese attacks. Senegal, despite the Seneghar government's unfriendly attitude to PAIGC, suffered two such attacks on April 1 and April 16.

During the first raid Portuguese troops attacked the village of Kandienou, a few miles from the border with Guinea-Bissau. The raiders set fire to the village and 130 huts were destroyed, leaving 400 people homeless, 200 sheep were slaughtered and about 200 tons of grain in the village cooperative were burnt.

In the second village attacked, Karombou, on April 15, four people were killed including a child seven years old, and a Portuguese soldier, victim of a grenade explosion. 73 huts were burnt as well as 5 1/2 tons of rice and 620 sacks of millet. That same night the nearby village of Tenkonte was also attacked, where 75 huts were burnt to the ground and 9 tons of millet and 11 tons of rice destroyed. After these raids the Commander-in-Chief of the Senegalese Armed Forces was sent to the region along with paratroopers and armoured units.

Senegal has called on the UN Security Council to ask Portugal to end 'serious violations of Senegal's territorial integrity'. The appeal, in a letter from Mr. Ibrahim Beye, the Senegalese representative to the UN at New York, was directed 'particularly' to the Council's permanent members. His letter accused Portuguese army units based at Guidaj and Farime in Guinea of having attacked and burnt Senegalese villages, killing four people and injuring 17. Mr. Beye asked the Security Council to give Portugal a solemn warning that in future Senegal would not fail to take every effective measure to defend its frontiers and people.

PORTUGAL



Military support given by NATO members to Portugal for her colonial wars continues without abatement. What follows is some of the most recent information we possess on this subject.

In 1970 West Germany delivered 3 warships which the Portuguese navy had ordered from the Blohm & Voess shipyard in Hamburg. The Brandt administration persistently claimed that these ships were intended solely for NATO purposes - despite clear statements in Portuguese military periodicals that they were for use in the colonial wars. When the first ship, the 'Joao Coutinho', was delivered, it was not long before this ship appeared in the South African 'Star Weekly'; the 'Portuguese navy added its newest corvette, the 'Joao Coutinho', to its fleet in Angola. It is the first of 6 ships ordered from German and Spanish shipyards. (19/9/70).

The construction of these ships ran into trouble. In April 1969 NATO sent a letter to the managing board and the trade council of the shipyard, demanding that work on the ships be stopped. The chairman of the trade council refused to place this letter on the agenda, but this did not prevent a worker raising the issue at a subsequent council meeting. Far from getting a positive response, however, he was fired and the military security service was called in at the shipyard. On Mayday 1969 there was a demonstration in Hamburg against the delivery of the ships - the most immediate result of this was that the purge of militant workers at the shipyard was intensified. On October 13, 1969, a bomb exploded on a barge moored alongside the warships, completely destroying the barge and damaging one of the ships. West German newspapers talked of 'slight damage above the water line', but the Lloyd insurance company was under the impression that the damage was substantial - the surface layer was ripped open across a considerable length, 9 frames bars and the ball bearings for the propeller had to be replaced and the artillery renewed; total cost may have been a million dollars.

West Germany also supplies Portugal with aircraft and among other items the Luftwaffe has provided 20 Do-27 aircraft, currently in use in Angola. But there are signs that West German collaboration in the wars may be entering a new phase. On Jan 11, 1971, a government spokesman, Conrad Ahlers, stated that the military agreement will expire at the end of 1971 and that the West German government does not intend to renew it.

NATO members have also been particularly useful to Portugal in supplying one of the most indispensable weapons for fighting guerrillas war - helicopters. In 1970 Portugal received the first of 12 FUMAs helicopters. Although the helicopter Portugal had previously possessed, the French Alouette 2 and 3, could only transport 3 and 3 soldiers respectively,

the FUMA is a fine example of international collaboration - it is built by the French firm Sud-Aviation in conjunction with the British firm Westland, the Italian Fiat Company, and the Belgian SABCA manufacturers. Half the SABCA shares are owned by the French aircraft manufacturer Dassault and the other half by the Dutch Fokker company. Thus, this one transaction implicates 4 members of NATO.

Active support for the war is not confined to direct military agreements. In April 1970, the authorities in Mozambique signed an agreement with the Portuguese airlines, DETA and EMAC, stating that the transportation of supplies and troops was to be transferred to these 'civilian' airlines. It has become extremely difficult for the Portuguese to obtain airplanes overtly for military use because of the UN embargo - this problem has now been solved. On its transport flights DETA uses Boeing 707 planes recently bought with a loan from the US Export-Import Bank, as well as Dutch Fokker 27s. A question in the Dutch parliament confirmed the fact that these are being used for military transportation; the secretary of state at the same time said that the Dutch authorities would continue to issue licenses for their export to Angola and Mozambique. It also emerged that the Netherlands has supplied the Portuguese army with certain optical instruments which are used to detect enemy targets in the dark.

Britain joins the US and Holland through its involvement in the second airline, EMAC, which provides military transportation to the smaller unproved air fields in Northern Mozambique. In 1970 this airline received 3 planes from Britain, the British Norman 'Islander' type. The British film team that was in Niassa province last Autumn photographed a Norman Islander on reconnaissance. DETA has now announced that it intends to transfer its used planes (6 DC-3s) to the Portuguese air force as it just seems to be a question of time before the Boeings and Fokkers will also be able to shed their civilian disguises.

In America, Senator Mike Mansfield made an interesting speech on May 18 on the subject of assisting US NATO forces in Europe, arguing that NATO would not collapse were this to be done; NATO wasn't shaken when De Gaulle withdrew France from NATO... when Trudeau withdrew a third of the Canadian forces... when Portugal sent 50,000 - 60,000 troops to Portuguese Guinea, Mozambique and Angola. This is the most authorized statement so far made in the Western world regarding Portugal's illicit use of NATO weapons and facilities. Trouble is, of course that certain important people in the NATO framework have no objection to this use - in the racial conflict of Southern Africa they are firmly entrenched in the white camp. A former commander-in-chief of the NATO forces in Central Europe, Johann Adolf

AND NATO

OPERATOR!! FOR THE
LAST TIME... I'M
TRYING TO PUT
THROUGH AN
IMPORTANT CALL
TO THE
FREE
WORLD!



von Kielmannsegg, recently made a visit to South Africa where he declared that 'the importance of the Republic of South Africa for the security of the Western world is ever growing'. He referred to the Simonstown agreement as tying South Africa to one of the NATO powers, Britain, and called this 'a useful fact.'

Further evidence of NATO's lack of concern for Portugal's colonial policy was the choice, despite international protests, of Lisbon for the meeting place of the NATO Ministerial Council at the beginning of June. The UN Decolonization Committee deplored the meeting as an act which 'cannot but afford political and moral encouragement to Portugal in the pursuit of its colonialist policies' and as 'a manifestation of collaboration with Portugal by the member-states of NATO.' Mr. Biallo Telli, Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, called on NATO members to cancel the meeting and it was savagely denounced by President Kabinda of Zambia. A statement from the Executive Committee of FRELIMO said 'Over the past year the Portuguese have been stepping up their offers of naval and air base facilities in the colonies, and we can therefore expect that they will not lose this unique opportunity to press home even more forcibly the strategic importance of the colonies in protecting western interests in the Atlantic and Indian oceans... A few of the NATO members expressed their reservations about holding the next meeting in Lisbon, but did nothing about it, being easily swayed by the stronger reactionary powers... Openly acknowledging that this will affirm their approval of Portugal's colonial policies, the NATO powers are thus indicating that more open and direct involvement in support of these policies is in the offing. The Mozambique Liberation Front denounces and condemns this further indication of NATO's support to Portuguese oppression in our country... and calls upon all progressive forces to oppose it'

Portugal went to a lot of trouble over the preparations for this meeting, spending over £25,000 refurbishing the old royal palace of Ajuda on the outskirts of Lisbon overlooking the Tagus estuary for 6 months prior to the meeting more than 500 workmen were engaged in converting the palace into a modern conference centre. No less than 5,000 yards of red carpet specially made for the occasion were laid in the palace and a maze of rooms on the 4th floor were converted into suites for the national delegations, all with sculpted ceilings and handsome period furniture. Some 270 valuable antiques were restored, mainly to decorate these rooms.

Unfortunately for the Portuguese this expense does not seem to have borne much fruit. The NATO ministers appeared far more interested in Berlin and the Warsaw Pact than in Angola and Mozambique, and if Portugal hoped for an official extension of the NATO zone to cover her colonial wars, she was disappointed. The Norwegian minister, Cappelan, noted

that Portuguese policy was not in accord with the principles and aims of the United Nations charter - something of an understatement - and that parliament had instructed the Norwegian government to discuss this issue with other NATO members. Portuguese colonial policy was undermining the support given to NATO by various NATO member states and defamed the reputation of the treaty organization in Africa and in other parts of the world. Cappelan wound up by appealing to Portugal to 'reconsider' its African policies.

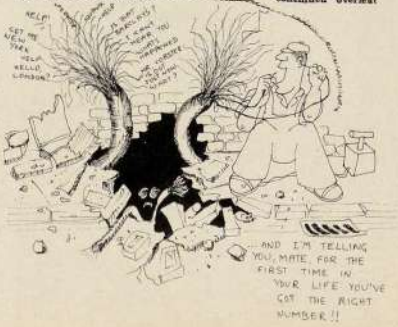
But what must annoy the Portuguese more than all this is the fact that the NATO meeting will not be remembered for what was said or not said at the Ajuda palace at all - but for a spectacular act of sabotage organized by Portugal's most effective opposition group, the urban guerrillas of ARA (Armed Revolutionary Action). Just before the meeting opened Lisbon was shaken by a major explosion at the central office of CTT, the Portuguese telecommunications network, which destroyed the vital junction box where the cables leave the building carrying messages from Portugal to the outside world. The result was that the NATO delegates, plus 300 representatives of the world press, ranging from American broadcasting stations to 'Tass' and 'Pravda' were cut off in a communications blackout that lasted for over nine hours. A second explosion took place at a CTT substation at Salavaca, some 30 miles from Lisbon: 12 hours later the bombing repairs were still incomplete and communications between the capital and the northern half of Portugal still effectively cut off.

...PROFILE OF THE MONTH...

From October 1 NATO is to have a new Secretary General. He is Joseph Luns, who has been Dutch minister for Foreign Affairs for 19 years. Luns' record is consistently and obnoxiously pro-Portuguese. The Dutch Angola Committee has compiled the following selection of statements made by Luns over the past decade:

1961: 'It cannot be denied that Portugal has been responsible for significant cultural progress in its overseas territories; it would not benefit any of the parties concerned if Portugal were to allow expressions of violent nationalism to bring about

continued overlet



Cont. from Page 7



its premature departure from Angola, thus leaving Angola open to Lusa into a second Congo'. 1965: 'The government does not consider the NATO assembly a suitable international organ to exert pressure on Portugal'.

1968: (After an official visit to Portugal during which Luns received the Grand Cross of the Order of Jesus Christ) 'I am very glad that I met the Portuguese Prime Minister, Antonio Salazar, who has ruled his country with so much wisdom for the past 40 years'.

1959: 'NATO needs Portugal more than Portugal needs NATO. The immense efforts Portugal has made since 1961 have made it more capable of fulfilling its NATO obligations than soon other NATO members'.

1970 (About arms deliveries by NATO countries to Portugal) 'So-called NATO arms do not exist, each country has its own responsibilities and NATO as such has no authority on this matter'. 'Portugal sacrifices its blood for our freedom'.

Luns attitude of complete support for the Portuguese has never wavered with the result that Dutch foreign policy has been cast in a pro-Portuguese mould. UN resolutions condemning Portuguese colonialism were never supported by the Dutch delegation and parliamentary criticism of Luns' policy had no effect. A resolution passed in the Dutch parliament instructing the government to change its policy with respect to future resolutions in the UN into a policy of condemnation of Portuguese colonialism, and asking the Dutch government to

urge NATO allies to respect the resolution of the Security Council concerning arms deliveries to Portugal, was never carried out.

With Luns as Secretary General of NATO, the Portuguese will undoubtedly have a strong ally in their attempts to obtain NATO recognition of the colonies as 'Overseas Provinces', and the official extension of NATO territory southwards with all the potentially disastrous consequences that would follow upon any attempt to make Africa an arena for East-West confrontation. With men like Luns at the helm of the Western Alliance, dark visions of NATO troops on the Zambezi cease to be fantasy.

The second Secretary General of the OAU, Mr. Sahnoun made the following statement: 'Several statements made by Mr. Luns show his complete approval of the policy of Portugal, and its colonial war with all the elements of genocide. We are surprised to learn that these statements have been made by such an important representative of the Dutch government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and we are very worried that a man with this opinion about Portuguese colonialism will become Secretary General of NATO. This would damage the relations between the African states and the Netherlands. Mr. Luns as Secretary General of NATO would be an enormous step in the wrong direction'.



'Portugal sacrifices her blood for our freedom.'

LABOUR PARTY FUND

The Labour Party has at last decided to implement the decision of last year's conference calling on the executive to support fighting African freedom fighters both morally and materially. On May 19, the Labour Party national executive committee agreed to set up an appeal fund for money to help the liberation movements. There will be no strings attached - the money will be given 'unconditionally' and can therefore be used to buy arms.

It is the word 'unconditionally' which has annoyed the Labour right wing. Denis Healey, shadow Foreign Secretary, attempted to amend the motion so that financial aid would be confined solely to medical supplies, but he was defeated mainly through the trade union vote. Lord George-Brown, whose record on Southern Africa is disgraceful to the Labour movement, has expressed dissatisfaction

with the decision. However, Sir Harry Nicholas, the party's general secretary, said after the meeting that "When people know you have money it is usually food and medical supplies they need, not guns and ammunition." The general attitude of many executive members seemed to be the eminently sensible one that if freedom fighters wanted an arm's length, they might find it necessary to put a gun on top of it.

The money is being collected through a top level committee of the party which has been set up with George Buckley, general secretary of DARA, as treasurer. Money collected in local parties and area branches should be sent to Sir Harry Nicholas at the National Labour Party headquarters. Perhaps significantly the Labour Party itself is not as yet contributing anything to the fund.

ANGOLA GULF UNDER FIRE

Gulf Oil held its Annual General Meeting on April 27 in Atlanta, Georgia, only to find itself under persistent attack for its bolstering of Portuguese rule in Angola. Four proxy proposals were submitted which asked stockholders to vote on the establishment of a committee to study the corporation's involvement in Portuguese Africa, disclosure of corporate charitable gifts, enlarging the board of directors, and amending the corporate charter to exclude investment in colonial-ruled areas. For two hours speakers took turns to attack Gulf's role in the Third World. Abel Guimaraes, president of the Angolan Student Union in America declared 'Angola's know Gulf is our enemy. It is helping to kill men, women and children in our country... Gulf Oil is part and parcel of all the Portuguese criminal acts against the Angolan people'. Maradeou Koita, an Angolan who is a University of Indiana student senate spokesman stated 'Every dollar Gulf pays to Portugal can be used to kill someone of my people'.

The Gulf chairman, E. D. Brockitt, replied in a very predictable manner - he gave basically the same speech that we in Britain have had served up to us from Barclays Bank, ICI and Rio Tinto Zinc. The basic issue, he said perceptively, 'is whether there is something reprehensible about Gulf's operations in Angola. In the last 15 months the Gulf management and board of directors has spent many agonizing hours over these accusations and we have come to the conclusion that these allegations are unrealistic and untrue. When it came to voting on the proposals the directors inevitably carried the day - each proposal was defeated by 172 million shares to 1.5 million. Similarly the board of directors

nominated by the management were overwhelmingly accepted. This did not stop certain unlikely people being nominated for the board. The New York Times, its political and geographical knowledge of Africa lamentably at fault, reported 'The matter of selecting Gulf's board of directors saw two South Africans nominated from the floor during the meeting. They were Augustinho Neto, president of the Angolan Liberation Effort (sic) and Amilcar Cabral, an agronomist from Guinea (sic)'. Angela Davis was also nominated, by someone described in the New York Times as 'A bearded youth wearing a faded denim jacket and holding the proxy of a person owing one share of stock'.

Gulf made its position perfectly clear some days later when Paul Sheldon, the Corporation's Vice-President, submitted a statement to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on Africa in which he claimed that Gulf was in no position to either condemn or defend the actions of the Portuguese government in Angola, having brusquely declared that withdrawal from Angola is utterly out of the question. Sheldon then goes on to make the astounding assertion that Gulf actually benefits the people of Angola - by creating jobs for them (he does not mention the wages), by building roads (which the Portuguese find useful for military purposes) and by introducing new skills such as drilling, welding, operation of light and heavy machinery etc. (no: very useful in an overwhelmingly rural nation - you can't eat oil). Shockingly rural nation - you can't eat oil). Sheldon's statement manages to avoid any reference to the war in Angola or to the fact that Gulf advances payments to Portugal largely finance this war.

MILITARY ACTION



According to figures released in April, MPLA killed a total of 1,400 enemy troops last year on four out of the five fronts on which the war is currently fought. Of these 293 were Angolans working as 'puppets' of the Portuguese regime and 62 were mercenaries drawn from the former Portuguese territories of the late President Nino Salazar. 25 bridges were sabotaged, 77 vehicles destroyed, 33 Portuguese barracks attacked and 7 boats sunk by guerrillas during the year. The bulk of this activity was centred in Angola's eastern region. MPLA attributes these achievements to the fatal re-organization of its military structure with the result that the guerrilla detachments have improved in quality and in quantity. And it is because of this increased effectiveness that the Portuguese have resorted to the use of napalm, herbicides and defoliants to destroy crops in the liberated zones.

In reviewing the ten years of its armed struggle, MPLA also discusses the problems which have hindered the movement. Prominent among these is the refusal of Congo-Kinshasa, under General Nkutu, to allow MPLA to use its territory to bring supplies into northern Angola. Instead the Kinshasa regime recognizes GRAL, the spurious government-in-exile set up by Holden Roberto.

MPLA has also accused West Germany of delivering a large number of military planes to Portugal for use in Angola since the beginning of this year. These deliveries had been concealed by the use of intermediary landing-bases, notably in fellow NATO countries. In this connection it is interesting to note that Franz Strauss, head of the Bavarian wing of the Christian Democrats visited Angola in April and stated that 'during the ten years of my term in office, I always did all I could to keep our relations with Portugal as good as possible'. Here Strauss seems to have a strong liking for the Portuguese - at the beginning of June he paid the author's visit, this time in Lisbon.

West Germany is also, it should be noted, wholeheartedly in favour of Portugal becoming an associate member of the Common Market. The West German ambassador to Portugal has guaranteed 'his country's support in the talks about Portuguese associate membership of the EC which should begin in Brussels in October.'

GUINÉ

REPORT FROM A DUTCH DOCTOR

From December 1969 to March 1971 a Dutch doctor, Dr Van Albada, worked for the medical services of PAIGC, at first in Senegal and the Republic of Guinea, then in the liberated zones of Guinea itself. This article relates some of her experiences there.

'Before returning to Holland I was given the opportunity of working in the liberated zones themselves for two months. For the sake of my safety, PAIGC chose for me a relatively quiet region. They sent me in there so that I could get some impression of the situation in the liberated areas and to see if it was desirable to set up there the first hospital in Guinea specifically for health promotion. The other 9 hospitals in the liberated zones are meant to treat the wounded and are all in places of great military activity.

'One of the most interesting things I saw in Guinea were the people's stores. All over the liberated areas PAIGC set up these stores where the people can bring their own products. The people bring their rice, livestock (mostly goats), peanuts, palm-oil seeds and a kind of rubber to these stores. They don't get money in exchange for their products - instead they are given a piece of paper stating exactly what they brought to the store and how much it is worth. They can use this piece of paper to "buy" whatever they need in the store. For example: blankets, soap, winter jackets, material, kitchen utensils and farming equipment. This distribution system works very well. It is impressive to see how small a quantity of rice, 7 and 10 pound sacks, keep adding up until there is enough to feed the army, the civil service and the hospitals. Sometimes people have to walk for hours to reach the stores where they can exchange their goods.

I was present when a store was bombed and tons of rice went up in flames. At that store, the total supply was 33 tons. At another store, the supply of soap went up in flames. You could see the fire miles away. The way soap bars are Portuguese reconnaissance planes have spotted one of the stores, it becomes a prospective target. Therefore, they are built as inconspicuously as possible, although their location cannot be concealed indefinitely. Such large quantities are brought to the stores and if possible, the trucks are used to transport the goods. Even though there are no paved roads, when a particular route is used regularly there are bound to be visible tracks and then you can count on trouble.

When a reconnaissance plane was spotted, they sent me into the woods with the women and children. The men stayed near the living quarters and the store, to put out the fire if necessary. Now the woods are not safe any more. The Portuguese know that the people try to seek shelter there, so they aim for the dense woods. The big trees scattered here and there are also an easy target now. Small groups of people used to sit under the trees because the large branches concealed them from the planes. But now better protection must be found.

Education in the liberated areas is still very rudimentary. There was a tremendous vacuum, because the Portuguese had done very little about education. There were a few Portuguese schools but these were expensive. The children often had their heads beaten with the palmatoria (a flat stick with holes in it). Now PAIGC has set up schools in numerous villages. I spent a few weeks in a village where there were only a few hundred people, but there was a teacher.

Education is free of charge, but is not yet compulsory. In the beginning attempts were made

to get all the children to attend school, but this was not feasible. What can a teacher do with a class of 80 children? It is impossible to give them all a good education. Since most of the schools were only started relatively recently, in some places the schooling is only less one year. In other places it's two years, but the maximum for each school is four years. This corresponds to the Portuguese elementary school, which is less extensive than our elementary school here.

In addition to the village schools, there are three boarding schools. One is in the north, one in the south, and one in Boe Oriental. The most promising children are sent to these boarding schools, along with children whose parents both work for the party and children whose parents are killed in the war. The boarding-schools have a four-year course, the elementary school curriculum. Then the children go to the école pilote at Conakry, a kind of high school.

The boarding schools are hidden from view and can only be reached by foot; these locations were chosen in order to keep the children as safe as possible. But this leads to other difficulties. Groceries have to be brought in from the nearest village (an hour and a half's walk). A boarding school with 80 children and 7 adults needs a lot of groceries. The children fetch all supplies by foot.

Every day a group of girls is in charge of the meals. Other groups are in charge of laundry, the household chores and the construction of new living quarters, frequently necessary because the schools have to move so often. The boys and girls all have their daily chores.

The children get condensed milk for breakfast. (A Dutch product, but donated by Sweden.) The diet consists of a lot of rice and - if there is a hunter in the neighbourhood - fresh meat and a kind of gravy made out of the fruit of the oil-palm trees. The children have to fetch the fruit themselves in the forest, they slice it and then wash it. It's a lot of work and the result is a gravy for one day. They learn to climb the palm-trees at a very young age. The palm leaves are also used for the walls of the houses. The roofs are made of grass, in the same way that we make our thatched roofs. They don't pick the grass near where the house is going to be built, because then the bare spots might be visible from the air. What a time-consuming way to build a house!

All these safety measures take a lot of time. This is actually the most significant effect of the bombings, more significant in a way than the actual victims, who are few. When I visited one of the boarding schools to give the children a medical check-up, they were right in the middle of moving. It took three months before the children had finished building the new school and the lessons could resume. Once a plane has been spotted near a school, just once, it's time to move. In general, the children at the school were in good health, although rather thin.

I asked 50 children how many of their brothers and sisters were alive and how many had died. 211 were alive and 80 had died, maybe more... 5 of them had died as war victims. So this is not the chief cause of death. The chief causes are malnutrition and parasitic or infectious diseases. The prevalence of these makes it clear how backward the area was under the Portuguese regime.

The people know very little about the nutritional needs of children. That's why Kwashiorkor (protein deficiency) is quite common. The children have badly swollen bellies and their hair is parched and discoloured. They don't make use of all the

STARVATION IN THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

After 3 years of intensive drought, the Cape Verde Islands have been hit by a famine which could reduce the population by 30-50%. The 250,000 islanders live in conditions of misery which are perhaps unequalled even in the rest of the Portuguese colonies. Subsistence agriculture is the only means for these people to live - yet the frequent droughts render any form of agriculture an extremely hazardous undertaking. The Portuguese have ruled these islands longer than any other part of Africa, yet the centuries of their presence have not improved the economic conditions of the Cape Verde islands. No measures have been taken to promote development, nor even to stave off the periodic famines which regularly kill tens of thousands of the islanders.

Since 1747 there have in fact been 56 years of famine which have destroyed more than 250,000 lives. 21 of these years, accounting for 135,000 lives, have passed since 1900. For the last two centuries the Cape Verde islanders have had to face one year of famine for every four years of existence - a horrifying indictment of the 'civilizing mission' of the Portuguese in Africa. In the past the Portuguese response to famine has been to exploit it for their own ends, using it on the one hand to strengthen their domination over the islands and on the other to gather cheap labour (virtually slave labour) which they export under the label 'contratados' to the large plantations owned by the white settlers and the colonial companies of Angola and Sao Tome. At least there will be something to eat on the plantations.

The Portuguese authorities have officially recognized the present situation of crisis on the islands - yet at the same time they are doing their best to conceal the famine from the knowledge of the world. Prime Minister Caetano himself did in fact visit the islands recently, making vague promises about 'aid'. But it is not visits and promises that the islanders need, but food. A great deal of food, for the last 3 years of savage drought proved especially vicious on the island.

available sources of protein. They hardly eat any vegetables. In addition to rice, they eat meat or fish if it is available. But because of the influence of Islam, pork and monkey meat (the most easily obtainable sorts of meat) are often taboo.

When I arrived in the liberated area and saw all those undernourished children, I was terribly disheartened. What can a doctor do for them? But the nurses and the medical assistant, who had been trained in Bulgaria, did not show my defeatist attitude when I told them how I felt. The nurses suggested that we organize informative meetings for the women. "The men learn about politics, and we can teach the women about medicine", they said. We decided to give it a try.

We organized one informative meeting. The women were very enthusiastic. They have a positive attitude towards anything that comes from the PAIGC, so they had a positive attitude towards the information we offered. We told them about nutrition and hygiene, and that they should go to the nurse if their children had fever, diarrhoea or an eye infection or a runny ear. Right after this meeting, a lot of mothers came to the visiting-hour with their children. They said that although their children were healthy at the moment, they sometimes had fever, etc.

The military position of the PAIGC is encouraging. The morale is high. The training is good. They have Russian-made arms, including heavy artillery. If Portugal just had the weapons it has now, the PAIGC could be sure of victory. But what's going to happen if Portugal keeps receiving new weapons

of production which is the centre of agricultural Santiago for the archipelago and feeds about half the population in 'normal' times. It is therefore not an empty scare tactic to predict what if effective measures against the famine are not forthcoming, then 30-50% of the population could die off like flies.

The past has adequately shown that the Portuguese government is both incapable and unwilling to take measures to alleviate the situation. The 'aid' Caetano promised has not yet materialized and it is doubtful if it ever will. Portugal, the most backward nation in Europe, spending 50% of its budget on 3 colonial wars, is unable to solve problems of malnutrition among her own peasantry let alone famine in the colonies. And there would be political advantages accruing to the Portuguese under the actual loss of a major part of the population of the islands, decimated by famine or exportation for forced labour in other colonies. For this would undoubtedly damage PAIGC which has been making considerable progress in the archipelago. The Portuguese colonialists have shown many times in the past that the lives of Africans in the colonies are of no importance to them. They will be prepared to go to any lengths to maintain their control of the Cape Verde Islands, even if this does mean that tens of thousands of Africans die of starvation.

PAIGC has made an urgent appeal for international aid for the people of Cape Verde and has asked the UN to take immediate measures to evaluate the gravity of the situation and to aid the people of the Islands in combating the famine. It has also demanded that the Portuguese government stop using the famine as a political instrument and as a means of repressing the liberation struggle, and that the Caetano regime facilitate collaboration of both national and international groups that manifest their wish to give material aid to the people of Cape Verde against the famine. But such pleas are unlikely to evoke any response from Lisbon.

The day after I left the liberated area, the Portuguese made three landings with helicopters in Boe Oriental. These were the new PUMA helicopters. These helicopters, which can transport 20 armed men, are one of Portugal's most recent acquisitions. For years it was impossible for Portugal to penetrate into this area, but now we, Portugal's allies, have made it possible. And if the PAIGC is on the verge of winning, we will supply even better weapons.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

To: Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola & Guinea
531 Caledonian Road, London N7 (phone 01-607 2170)

- I would like £10 receipt books for the Medical Aid Fund
 - I enclose a donation (in multiples of 50p) to the Medical Aid Fund
 - I would like to order Querrilhetras on sale or return (quantity at 5p each)
 - I enclose 50p subscription to Querrilhetras * (50p outside UK)
 - I enclose 50p subscription to Mozambique Revolution (£1-50p outside UK)
 - I would like you to send me a Banker's Order
 - I also enclose a contribution to the work
- Total

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

CHEMICAL WARFARE

Portugal still denies the use of herbicides and defoliants in Angola - but recently the following figures have come to light. In 1969 US exports of herbicides to Portugal were valued at \$7,330 dollars for the whole year. In the first 11 months of 1970 exports of herbicides already amounted to 229,320 dollars. The US denies that these are going to Angola - but isn't it a strange coincidence that it was in May 1970 that MPLA began to report Portuguese use of herbicides in Angola? Companies exporting these products include Dow Chemicals, Agrisect Chemicals (New York), Hercules Inc. (Wilmington, Delaware), Monsanto Inc. (St. Louis), and US Rubber Co. (Nagatuck, Connecticut).

Dutch and German journalists have visited Angola recently and have reported further evidence of Portuguese use of napalm and defoliants. According to Josef Raab of the 'Frankfurter Rundschau': 'At the air bases of Luso and Gago Coutinho there are hundreds of napalm bombs stored. They are lying in front of bombers ready for take-off, hidden under tarpaulin. One observes Yakovlevs equipped with special spraying apparatus for chemicals. Official explanations: the chemicals (such as defoliant spray) serve to keep the defence strips next to the bush roads clear'. And the Dutch journalists brought back fragments of napalm bombs and of crops withered by defoliants from Eastern Angola to Lusaka.

Similarly in London, at a press conference held on behalf of MPLA, Mr. D. Humburaci, of the Zambian Bur-

Sir Alec in Lisbon...

Sir Alec Douglas-Home spent a two-day official visit in Lisbon on the 11th and 12th of this month. He was accompanied by the Portuguese foreign minister, Rui Patricio, at the beginning of June, just before the NATO ministerial meeting. Attempts were made to persuade this most pre-historic of British political phenomena to abandon his visit, notably by Lord Gifford, Chairman of the Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea. Sir Alec's reply was in principle, 'I am anxious to see the British Government has never made any secret of our differences with the Portuguese government' over Portuguese African policy -- but the two countries are closely linked, oldest ally, NATO, European Free Trade Association, etc., etc., etc. In Parliament over 150 back-benchers signed a Commons motion which read as follows: 'That this House, noting the forthcoming visit by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to Portugal, urges him to give priority to discussing with the Portuguese government the widespread concern which exists in Britain at (a) the continued denial of full democratic rights for the Portuguese people, (b) the suppression of genuine trade union organization, (c) the restrictions on press freedom, (d) all the other manifestations of a police state, (e) the deliberate sabotage by Portugal of international action designed to isolate the illegal regime in Rhodesia and (f) the desire to which Portugal uses the opportunities provided by her membership of NATO to support her war of colonial repression in Africa.'

This ideal agenda for an Anglo-Portuguese meeting was, we may be fairly sure, not adhered to. The Portuguese press certainly saw Sir Alec's visit as something of a triumph and a vindication of Portuguese policy. Or, in the words of the 'Financial Times', 'The overriding impression is, however, that from the Portuguese point of view the purpose of Sir Alec's visit is largely to restore old confidences and build new bridges after the alarmist and excruciating of the past decade. The mere fact of Sir Alec's acceptance of Dr. Patricio's invitation is taken as a vote of confidence.' And the main topic of discussion was undoubtedly Africa. African affairs in fact

ean for information for Western Europe, accompanied by Mohammed Salomon, Assistant Secretary General of the OAU, showed his audience pieces of cassava root as well as branches and leaves, damaged by herbicides, and compared them to healthy specimens. To dispel all scepticism he handed the diseased plants over to a Sunday Times journalist for analysis at any British laboratory of his choice. And an open invitation was given to British journalists to visit the library and see the devastation caused by chemical warfare - indeed MPLA had even volunteered to pay for 3 first class air tickets from London to Lusaka. As for Iain Sproat MP, who had boasted on television the previous night that he had visited Angola and had seen no signs of chemical warfare, Mr. Humburaci gently pointed out that it would have been most surprising if he had, seeing as he had been in Portuguese controlled areas, not MPLA zones. The Portuguese are not in the habit of destroying their own crops. (In any case Sproat's visit to Angola lasted all of 3 days).

Part of a film shot by an Italian team in December 1970, near the Kameya gorges, in Eastern Angola, was also shown. This depicted fields looking in a pretty woeful state after a spraying from the Portuguese air force. The damaged plants had dried and shrivelled and their leaves crumbled away when touched. The film also included shots of a child and a young woman being treated for napalm burns - the same napalm that Iain Sproat declares the Portuguese have never used in Angola.

took up nearly half of the allotted time, so that everything else - NATO, Britain, Commonwealth, EFTA etc. - had to be crammed into the other half.

What Sir Alec is reported as saying during his visit is not inspiring. For instance: 'I believe that new opportunities have opened up before Portugal and Britain.' and, on Portuguese racial policies, 'no one can deny that the Portuguese are racists. You have set an example to black and white. The difference of opinion between us has been on the scope and pace of advance.' This is in perfect harmony with, for example, Monday Club MP Patrick Wall, who has just returned from a visit to Mozambique and South Africa. Recent months have seen a succession of Tory MPs doing the rounds of the Portuguese colonies, including Iain Sproat and Duncan Sandys, who was quoted from Mozambique as saying 'There is no doubt that Mozambique, with its natural resources, its increasing industrial potentiality and its magnificent ports, is a land of opportunities, and will attract many investments in various fields' and 'I leave Mozambique with the opinion that it is a happy land, where people of all races live in harmony for the common progress and happiness'.

MEDICAL AID

The \$1,000 Medical Aid Fund for Angola is progressing towards its target - £100 was raised in a collection taken at the meeting of Behind the Lines. Many people have taken receipt books to sell, but more volunteers are needed. Please write to the Committee for a book, and/or to send a donation.

Clothing is still being collected and should be sent to the Committee.

And we need more local initiatives, such as the one in Hull that has produced a donation of 2-3 tons of milk powder for the MPLA from a local milk manufacturer. Or that in Stockport, where 3 tons of blanket pieces have been bought up cheaply, and are being made into fullsize blankets.