

Nationalist
(Tanz), 10 July 1971

CABORA DAM:

The Germans won't budge

THE West German firm which is to supply generators and high tension lines for the controversial Cabora Bassa-Dam project in Mozambique yesterday declared its determination to fulfil its contract commitments.

"The availability of electrical energy contributes to development of the industry and economy of a region and benefits the entire population without racial or political discrimination," the board chairman of Brown Boveri of Mannheim, the West German branch of the Swiss firm of the same name, told a stockholders' meeting.

"We flatly refuse to be involved in any way in the political repercussions and discussions which surround the Cabora Bassa project," the Chairman, Prof. Eberhardt Schmidt, said adding:

"By its every nature and its utilization, our production cannot be exploited for political ends. We have signed contracts and we have the intention of respecting them scrupulously."

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) originally approved of the Cabora project. Prof. Schmidt claimed, but came out against it last year following African Heads of State pressure that the scheme would bolster "Portuguese colonialism."

It would be equally absurd to claim that the Egyptian Aswan Dam built with Soviet finance, would subjugate Cairo to Moscow and contribute to stepping up the fight against Israel he added