

# Secret police seizē my Mozambique tapes

By Peter Pringle, Lourenço Marques

THE PORTUGUESE secret police, the DGS, have expelled me from the northern Mozambique town of Tete after only three days' investigation into the reports of the massacre of 400 Africans in and around the village of Wiriyamu.

My notebooks, tape recordings, personal diary, film from my camera and other documents have been impounded. Although at the time of the expulsion last Thursday I was assured that everything would be returned to me within 24 hours, my papers are still being held.

Two reasons have been given for my expulsion, the first by the DGS chief in Tete, Inspector Joaquim Sabino. It was that I have been seeing too much of the Spanish priests from the San Pedro mission where the massacre report was compiled. The inspector laboured the point: "Many journalists have been here recently. Some have visited the mission, but they have only stayed for a few minutes. You have been there for three days run-

ning and you have even had meals there."

A second explanation was given by Inspector Gomez Lopez, the DGS bureau chief in Lourenço Marques after my expulsion: "It is difficult for you to be allowed to stay there at this time when many people are making false declarations."

The expulsion order came at 11 am on Thursday as I walked from Tete's only hotel, the Zambesi, to interview the bishop, Augustus Cesar. Opposite the episcopal house is the headquarters of the DGS, and as I was passing this a man motioned me to go inside. I declined, but he insisted, taking me by the arm.

"You must leave Tete today" said Inspector Sabino. (I had done nothing illegal). He made me empty the contents of a small shoulder bag I was carrying on to his desk. It contained my notebooks, camera with film, tape recorder, some maps of the area, an airline timetable, and other docu-

ments—among them a statement from the Spanish fathers to their Director-General in Madrid. I was allowed to keep only the maps, the timetable and the tape recorder.

Inspector Sabino complained that I had not contacted the authorities since my arrival in Tete last Monday. In fact, on the Wednesday, I had applied to the Governor-General's office in Tete for permission to be taken by the army to Wiriyamu.

Next morning, an hour before I was picked up, I had telephoned the Governor's office in Tete to ask how my application was proceeding. There appeared to be some confusion at the other end of the line: "Do you know where Wiriyamu is?" asked a man's voice. I said I knew the area (the Portuguese army had already taken two parties of journalists to a village of that name). "Then why don't you go there?" said the man. I asked whether I had permission (official permission has to be obtained to

travel outside the limits of the garrison of Tete). There was a long pause then a voice, this time female, said: "No, I am sorry, you cannot have permission."

After Inspector Sabino had skimmed briefly through my papers, he assured me they would be returned to me on my arrival in Lourenço Marques. He would not give me a receipt for them. I was then escorted by a DGS officer to the episcopal residence. The bishop was out. In any case, said his secretary, the bishop's policy was not to talk to journalists about the massacre stories.

At 4 pm I was put on the Mozambique Airlines Boeing 737 for Lourenço Marques.

At Lourenço Marques airport, Inspector Lopez returned my camera, minus the film. He said the rest of my belongings could be collected from the DGS headquarters on Friday morning. I could stay in Mozambique until my visa expired in a week's time, but I could not go back to Tete Province.