

Mr Wilson demands cancellation of visit by Portuguese leader

House of Commons

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Leader of the Opposition, it was that. (Conservative cheers and Labour shouts of dissent.)

MR MACLENNAN (Caithness and Sutherland, Lab) sought to move the adjournment of the House to initiate an emergency debate on the reported massacre at Wiriyamu in Mozambique and the intended visit to Britain of the Portuguese Prime Minister.

The facts are specific (he said) as reported in *The Times* today, that on December 16, in west central Mozambique, there was an armed attack by Portuguese services on a village, following which the troops systematically and with ferocity massacred 86 named Africans, men, women and children, allegedly sympathetic to the Frelimo fighters.

That the matter was important scarcely required demonstration. That it was urgent that the House should debate the question flowed from the fact that the Government had issued an invitation to the Portuguese Prime Minister to be taken up next week.

The matter was suitable for urgent debate in the light of the imminent arrival of the Portuguese head of government.

This House (he said) should have an opportunity of expressing the utter abhorrence of the British people at the consequences of Portuguese policies in Africa, making it clear that the alternative for the Portuguese people is to join the civilization of Europe and abandon these policies. (Labour cheers.)

The SPEAKER ruled against the matter being debated under Standing Order 9.

MR HAROLD WILSON on a point of order, said he did not question the Speaker's ruling, but gave notice that following a statement they had issued, the Opposition would table a motion in the House, supporting Mr MacLennan's line.

MR HAROLD WILSON (Huyton, Lab)—Unless he is in a position to repudiate *The Times* account of the bestialities committed in Mozambique—(Conservative protests)—would he not be wise to cancel the Portuguese Prime Minister's visit and substitute the Prime Minister of New Zealand. (Labour cheers.)

MR HEATH—The answer to that is "No" and if ever there was an abuse of a question by the