

Bishop of Tete says his duty is not to become involved in controversy

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From Our Correspondent
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Mgr Augusto Cesar, the Bishop of Tete, refused to talk to journalists about allegations of massacres by Portuguese troops in his diocese, it was reported from Tete in Mozambique today.

He said he would not be used by either the Government in Mozambique or by journalists. His first duty was to his people and not to become involved.

"This is something political, so you should go and talk to the politicians and not to me", he said. If the allegations of a massacre of 400 people in the village of Wiryamu were already public knowledge, it was not within his competence to comment.

The Spanish priests who made the allegations should take the responsibility for what they say, the bishop added, and not involve him.

Our Milan Correspondent writes: More atrocities allegedly committed by the Portuguese in Portuguese Guinea are disclosed in today's *Corriere della Sera* quoting an Italian missionary, Father Amedeo Brunelli. He is on his way from Africa to London with documentation that will be submitted to the Committee on Human Rights.

Among the episodes described is the massacre on January 31 of a party of civilians, most of them women, who after the assassination of the nationalist leader, Amilcar Cabral, were descending the river Geba on their way to the funeral. Their

boat was ambushed and machine-gunned, with the death of 35.

The documentation also refers to tortures inflicted on political prisoners in the Bissau region and gives a long list of villagers wiped out as a reprisal between February 5 and May 5. Dates and names are given in full. The Portuguese are said to have bombed the villages with napalm, after which ground units landing from helicopters finished the job. They were using German jets and French helicopters.

Father Brunelli said that the Portuguese were exasperated because they felt that their days in Guinea were numbered. **Our Rome Correspondent** writes: Father Luis Alonso Da Costa, the Portuguese missionary priest expelled from Mozambique, states in an interview to be published here that he saw with his own eyes "Portuguese soldiers playing with the heads of natives just decapitated, torture, pregnant women having their children cut from their stomachs and shown to them as they died, rapes . . . much more than the Nazis would have been capable of doing."

The interview will be published in the next edition of the Rome periodical *Il Mondo*. It took place at Naples just before Father Da Costa left Italy for Peru. He is now preparing a White Paper for the United Nations, documenting the "infamies" which the troops of his own country have carried out in the African territories.