

# Press Council is asked TT 17<sup>3</sup>/7/ to investigate 73

A prospective Conservative candidate, Mr John Jackson, has asked the Press Council to investigate the conduct of *The Times* in publishing the article by Father Adrian Hastings alleging a massacre in Mozambique.

He has written: "You will no doubt be well aware of the original article in *The Times* by Father Hastings alleging atrocities in a specified area of Mozambique by the Portuguese authorities.

"In view of the world controversy caused by this original report, I respectfully ask the Press Council to consider my formal complaint against the editor of *The Times* in the following terms:

"Whether in the view of the Press Council, *The Times* took the necessary steps to check the report prior to publication."

When asked why he was sending a complaint directly to the Press Council, who deal with complainants who cannot obtain satisfaction from an editor, Mr Jackson, who is a journalist, said that he was sending a copy of the letter to the editor of *The Times*.

He added: "But, in view of the fact that the editor did not see fit to check facts, I think that the matter should go direct to the Press Council. In view of the article's timing, I think that the niceties of going through the procedure may be a bit much."

Mr Jackson, who said he was concerned for the standards of journalism, is prospective candidate for Havering-Hornchurch. He fought Erith and Crayford for the Tories at the last general election.