

# Dr Caetano rules out UN inquiry into massacre allegations

By A. M. Rendel  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr Caetano, the Portuguese Prime Minister, accompanied by Dr Patricio, his Foreign Minister, continued talks with British ministers in London yesterday and in the afternoon met press representatives at the Portuguese Embassy.

This meeting was notable for an emphatic declaration by Dr Caetano that the Portuguese Government had never ordered or permitted irregular acts of warfare in Mozambique as had been alleged. He added a strong assurance that from the facts already known, as a result of the Portuguese inquiry to date, a massacre such as alleged had not taken place. He was immediately asked to elaborate, but declined to do so.

Dr Caetano began by declaring that he was very happy with the visit and with the warm welcome of the British people.

He then said that as there was certainly an interest in Portuguese policy in Africa, he would ask Dr Patricio to read out a statement on this. The press conference was then largely filled with the reading of a prepared text.

This said that the present campaign in Portuguese Africa was aimed to weaken Portugal's defence of her overseas territories and to force her to change the policy of creating a multi-racial society or societies, despite the fact that in the African territories various ethnic groups lived now in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship.

Why should Africa only be for black Africans? Portugal aimed at a multi-racial society accelerating the training and promotion of those capable of assuming responsibility for politics and administration.

The Portuguese Government felt it much more important to

win souls than to kill people. They condemned the treacherous struggle fought against them by rebels and hysterically emotional adversaries seeking Portugal's immediate withdrawal from Africa with the sacrifice of the immense work of civilization already carried out.

Dr Caetano was asked after the reading of the statement if he would allow a United Nations team to visit Mozambique and investigate the allegations of the massacre. Speaking through Dr Patricio as interpreter he appeared to reply that the Portuguese Government were sure that a United Nations team would be against a real inquiry into the facts.

The Governor-General of Mozambique he said, was responsible for the inquiry, which he had immediately ordered as soon as the "rumours" were known.

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Dr Caetano added that the Portuguese Government had also immediately allowed any journalists who wished, to visit Mozambique and go anywhere they desired. The difficulty for the Portuguese Government was that they were dealing with allegations which they could not identify.

Dr Caetano was asked if he would allow the source of the allegations to show the place of the alleged massacre. He replied that the Portuguese Government could not rely on people without good intentions.

Further requests for an independent inquiry were blocked with the answer—already given frequently throughout the visit—that the British Government would certainly not agree to an international inquiry in Northern Ireland on the basis of allegations by three Spanish priests who had connexions with the IRA.

Asked if he would agree that there was any justification for the many allegations over a number of years of incidents or massacres in the Portuguese African territories, Dr Caetano replied that in a guerrilla war when small groups clashed with small groups and terrorists tried to hide in the bush or in little villages among the population, the fighting was not organized as in an army at war.

No government after 11 years could guarantee that everything done by its troops was in strict accord with the rules of war. Mr Harold Wilson, he was sure, would not make that claim but any such irregular act was rigorously inquired into and punishment was effectively enforced. In some cases the commanders would be Africans since 70 per cent of the Portuguese troops in Mozambique were now African.

In his talk in the morning with Mr John Davies, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Dr Caetano discussed relations between Portugal and the European Economic Community.

Dr Caetano and Dr Patricio also met Sir Alec Douglas-Home for just over one hour for a general discussion of European and African questions.