

War against ^{18/7} Frelimo 'like ⁷³ fight with IRA'

By David Leigh

Dr Caetano, the Portuguese Prime Minister, yesterday compared Portugal's war against the Frelimo guerrillas to Britain's fight against the IRA. He was explaining Portuguese reluctance to let an international inquiry investigate massacre accusations.

Asked in an interview with the BBC if he would be prepared to allow an investigation of the massacre allegations by an international body, Dr Caetano replied through an interpreter:

"Let us think that Great Britain were accused by three Spanish priests with connexions with the IRA of having practised some kind of excess in a place unknown to everybody. Would the British Government hasten to ask or to admit an international inquiry?"

He went on: "I should say that since these rumours of excesses of Portuguese troops in Mozambique have arisen, Portugal immediately took steps to try and gather all the data which was allowed the Government, to judge the situation.

"This is in view of the respect the Portuguese Government owes to its principles and the respect it owes to the military forces, and not by reason of the international pressure."

Earlier in the interview, Dr Caetano blamed the allegations on an international campaign against Portugal,

New York, July 17.—Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, will discuss the alleged massacre in Mozambique with Father Adrian Hastings, who published the first account, a United Nations spokesman said today.

Father Hastings is due in New York on Thursday to testify before the General Assembly's special committee on colonialism, at its invitation.—Reuter.