

Mozambique secret police keep an eye on correspondent from *The Times*

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From Michael Knipe
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Maintaining what appears to be a somewhat melodramatic "protection" act, the Portuguese secret police, the Directorate-General of Security, insisted that I fly from Beira to Lourenço Marques today.

After ordering my departure yesterday from Tete, the district where the Wiriyamu massacre is alleged to have occurred, thus effectively hindering my inquiries into the situation, the DGS today turned down flat my request to fly to Nampula, where the military headquarters is situated, or even to stay in Beira. I had to go to Lourenço Marques, said the short, burly DGS agent who kept a watchful eye on me in Beira "for my own safety".

The security police claim that public opinion in Mozambique has been so outraged by the massacre allegations made by Father Adrian Hastings in *The*

Times that my personal safety is at risk.

In Beira yesterday evening, when I decided to leave my hotel to seek a meal in the centre of town instead of a taxi, my DGS escort drove up to the hotel steps. He was kind enough to drop me off at a pleasant restaurant.

I dined alone but, half way through my meal, the head waiter came over to me. "You are English, sir?" he asked. "That's right", I replied. "A correspondent of the London *Times*?" "Yes", I said. "How did you know?" He smiled and shrugged.

This morning my security police escort was waiting for me at the hotel reception desk. It appeared that I had been fortunate to have a peaceful night. Two men had arrived at the hotel seeking me at 3 am, the hotel manager told me gravely. When I asked what they had wanted, he said he did not know but they were clearly up to no

good. Apparently the police had not been called, however.

Tomorrow I hope to continue my inquiries into the many questions surrounding the massacre allegations which remain unanswered. The DGS has assured me that I will be allowed to.

The fact that I have received open and courteous assistance from the Military Governor of Tete and from other officials, both civilian and military, and the fact that my inquiries were cut short by the DGS, suggests that there are two schools of thought among the Portuguese authorities.

One is that a relatively free hand and considerable cooperation should be given to any attempt to put the massacre allegations into some new perspective. The other is that the Government should brook no inquiries from outsiders, least of all from *The Times*.

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