

Reprisal on Wiriyamu survivors feared

By Richard Wigg

The Spanish priest who yesterday gave me the names of five African survivors of the Mozambique massacre today was asked at a London press conference why he had not released these names before.

Father Vicente Berenguer Llopis, one of the Burgos fathers who prepared a report on the December 16, 1972, killings at Wiriyamu, Chawola and Juwau, said that when they learnt that the Portuguese police had seized the notebooks and tape recordings of Mr Peter Pringle of *The Sunday Times*, they felt it was the only thing they could do. They had not done so previously because they feared reprisals against the injured survivors.

Father Berenguer, who left Mozambique voluntarily in April, said then that four of the survivors named were in Tete hospital. The report in *The Sunday Times* about the survival of a 15-year-old boy, Antonio, said that his four-year-old brother had died from his injuries.

The priest said that as soon as their report was completed, on December 19, they had gone to the episcopal palace in Tete and asked for an inquiry, and had sent letters to all the Roman Catholic bishops of Mozambique.

Asked what they now wanted to happen, both Father Berenguer and Father Julio Moure, another Burgos missionary, said that Dom Cesar Augusto Ferreira da Silva, the Bishop of Tete, should "tell the truth of these happenings" and confirm that the disclosures were not made for political reasons.

Father Moure pointed out at the press conference that it was Dom Cesar who first informed him, one night at supper in Beira, about the killings.

Father Berenguer said the Vicar-General of the diocese had come to his mission station at Changara after the killings and explained that they all wanted an investigation. All they subsequently obtained was the formation of a sanitary commission which was able to fly over the area in an official helicopter.

He thought the Portuguese Army's operation on December 16 arose out of the authorities' concern over an incident which Frelimo guerrillas believed to have attacked troops near a region adjacent to Beira to Tete road, which served the Cabora Bassa hydro-electric scheme.

Father Berenguer, who emphasized that he did not believe that "the high authorities ordered the massacre", said he had been appointed by the superior of the Burgos fathers as a lecturer to train young recruits at their Madrid headquarters.

Our Political Staff writes: Mr Harold Wilson, who is on holiday in the Isles of Scilly, intends to contact Mr Heath when he returns to London from Ottawa about the new evidence concerning alleged massacres in Mozambique published in *The Sunday Times* on Sunday and in *The Times* yesterday. He will ask Mr Heath to comment on the reports, and to use his good offices with the Portuguese Government to make sure that neither the African boy witness, Antonio, nor any other potential witness comes to any harm.

Call to EEC: Mr Dick Taverne, Democratic Labour MP for Lincoln, is asking the European Commission to summon the Portuguese Ambassador and to demand an immediate independent investigation into the alleged massacres in Mozambique.