

Frankfurter Rundschau (W. Germ.) Aug. 17, '73 (translated)
AFTER A MASSACRE REPORT: AN INFORMATION GAP WAS FILLED

by Klaus Pokatzky

ation, that is what matters - not making other crazy!" Werner Gönner, chairman of workers' council of the aluminium rolling mill at Singen (Alusingen) knows what he is talking about. His Portuguese (almost a thousand out of nearly 4,600 workers), he says, have been rather upset.

'Metall', the official organ of the trade union IG Metall, had reported the news of the massacre at Wiriyamu in Mozambique and demanded an end to the participation of German firms in the building of the nearby Cabora Bassa dam. This led to embarrassment for Gönner and the entire labour union in the 50,000 man town on the Swiss border.

A German member of the workers' council of 'Alusingen' reported to Gönner the anger of the Portuguese workers because their national pride had been hurt. Gönner asked the Portuguese workers to present their criticisms themselves, which they did.

To begin with, a delegation of only ten demanded an early "correction" of the news, but admitted in ensuing talks that the described atrocities do take place, but that "such massacres are carried out only after the other side - FRELIMO and similar groups - had started with them, eliminating their relatives", according to Gönner. At the same time, the delegation threatened the

IG Metall with serious repercussions. "We shall throw our membership cards back at you", they said.

The chairman of the workers' council, Mr. Gönner, appealed immediately to the central office of the labour union in Frankfurt for help. The editor-in-chief of the magazine 'Metall', Jacob Moneta, quickly arranged the printing of handbills in German and Portuguese which are being distributed these weeks in all metal factories with large numbers of Portuguese workers.

The German workers were thereby notified that the neighbour on the production line or on the work bench coming from the Iberian peninsula is not a colonial oppressor with aptitude for cruelty, but that he is himself a victim of colonial politics.

The Portuguese workers, on the other hand, are to receive in this way such basic information which citizens under a dictator never receive and which, presented alone and without explanatory comments, hurt their sensitive national pride. It is particularly the citizens under a dictator who need such information. That is why editor-in-chief Moneta announced a speedy preparation for the publication of a labour magazine in Portuguese (alongside with issues in Spanish, Italian, Greek, Turkish, and Serbo-Croatian).