

Frelimo report issued on massacre by Portuguese

Dar es Salaam, Oct 7.—The Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) which declined to comment after allegations in June that Portuguese troops had massacred 400 people in the Tete province of Mozambique, has now completed its own inquiry, a guerrilla spokesman said in Dar es Salaam today.

The full details of Frelimo's investigation which quotes eyewitnesses, are expected to be published this week in the front's bi-monthly magazine *Mozambique Revolution*.

According to the Frelimo report, Portuguese troops on December 16 last year massacred almost 100 civilians—men, women and children—at Wiryamu village located to the south of Tete town.

The report says that the massacre came after Frelimo guerrillas had a day or two earlier fired on a small Portuguese aircraft flying from Beira to Tete.

Frelimo named one of the people on board the aircraft as Senhor Jorge Guera who, they say, on arrival at Tete called first on the directorate general of security and then on the Army to complain. His aircraft had been hit by ground fire but it landed safely.

The Portuguese pinpointed the villages of Gossinho, Wiryamu and Chawola, the report goes on, as the area from where the shots had been fired. On December 15 an African security official, named as "Chico", visited the villages asking about Frelimo activities.

The villagers denied all knowledge of Frelimo but the front says that "Chico" returned with two lorry loads of troops on December 16. Again the villagers denied any knowledge of Frelimo but soon after the vehicles left the village of Wiryamu they were ambushed on the Beira-Tete road at a village called Corneta. A number of soldiers were killed and wounded, according to the report, and the lorry destroyed.

The Portuguese moved up reinforcements and after the dead and wounded from the ambush had been sent back to Tete they burnt houses and grain stores in the Corneta village.

Then, they moved on Wiryamu where men, women and children were ordered to stand in three separate lines. Eyewitnesses quoted by Frelimo said that more troops had arrived by helicopter while jets circled overhead.

Then, according to Carlos Dinheiro, who says that his parents and grandparents were killed, the Portuguese opened fire. Those who survived were herded into grass huts which were set on fire.

The Frelimo report is in many aspects similar to one published 10 days ago in the Johannesburg newspaper *The Star*, quoting Portuguese military sources. Frelimo's report should have in fact been published in the middle of last month but Mr George Robello, the publicity secretary, who was collating it was in hospital with hepatitis and was discharged only on Thursday.—Agence France-Presse.