
MOZAMBIQUE-PORTUGAL

Diplomat Expelled *ARB-P 26(3)*

Relations between Portugal and Mozambique soured when Mozambique expelled a Portuguese diplomat on March 18th, in retaliation for the removal of an official at the Mozambican embassy in Lisbon.

Portugal's Prime Minister, Mr. Anibal Cavaco Silva, said relations between the two had deteriorated with Maputo's decision.

Mozambique was reacting to the expulsion on March 17th of the third secretary at its Lisbon embassy, who is suspected of involvement in the murder of the rebel MNR leader, Mr. Evo Fernandes.

"There is no explanation for Mozambique's attitude," the Prime Minister said. "We will never tolerate the practice of criminal acts in this country by any foreign citizen, even under cover of diplomatic immunity."

The Portuguese Government had already requested that Mozambique lift the diplomatic immunity on its official, Mr. Rafael Custodio Marques. The request was refused and Mr. Marques was then expelled.

Portuguese police claim that Mr. Marques paid and instructed Mr. Alexandre Chagas, who is imprisoned in Lisbon, to assassinate Mr. Fernandes, a founding member of the MNR. He allegedly paid Mr. Chagas about £4,000. *(GD 20/3)*

(See p. 9206C) *15/4/89*