

Mozambique settlers' morale at low ebb

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in Lourenco Marques

MORALE among Mozambique's 250,000 Europeans has reached a remarkable low level in the aftermath of the "massacre" allegations and the southward thrust by African guerrillas striking for the first time at mainly White areas.

Observers in Mozambique believe this to be a serious new factor in this critical phase of the 10-year insurrection by the Communist-backed FRELIMO.

One commentator in Lourenco Marques said: "The nerves of our people are battered as never before.

"The ferocity of the international campaign, based on such flimsy evidence, has staggered us. And the terrorist activity so close now to Beira, and possibly even further south,

means we're all now cleaning our pistols and taking another look at the condition of our rifles."

Already there are indications that African states are preparing an all-out attack on Portugal's administration in Mozambique during the United Nations General Assembly session in September, with more "disclosures" of the "massacre" type.

Beyond this there is the Portuguese general election in October which will also be contested in Mozambique, and arouse passions and attention.

But the most significant event foreseen is the public trial scheduled for the end of October, or beginning of November, of the two Spanish priests of the Burgos order who have been held in jail in Mozambique for the past 18 months on charges of treason and supporting FRELIMO.