

Governor-General condemns talk of independence. AFP Sept. 17, '73

Beira - Mozambique's Governor-General, Dr. Pimentel dos Santos, has indignantly rejected a suggestion that there might be a movement among whites in the territory of Portuguese East Africa to declare unilateral independence from Portugal. In an interview for the Lisbon daily "Diário de Notícias", he described the suggestions as "preposterous", and not warranting comment. Dr. Pimentel dos Santos said that independence for Mozambique, as demanded by the United Nations, would mean the destruction of the territory as a political entity. The Governor-General also revealed in the "Diário de Notícias" interview that, so far, over one million blacks had been resettled in Mozambique's "aldeamentos" - a scheme providing for the regrouping of villagers in the war-torn district within self-sufficient and self-defending settlements - and that 200,000 more would move into the new villages before the end of 1973. He described the scheme as the key to victory over the FRELIMO and as a "silent revolution without parallel in the history of contemporary Africa".