

African freedom movement leaders plead their case before the Security Council in Addis Ababa

From Michael Wolfers
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The Security Council special meeting on Africa today heard representatives of African liberation movements including those in the Portuguese colonies, South Africa, Namibia (South-West Africa) and Rhodesia.

Mr Amílcar Cabral, leader of the African Party for the Independence of (Portuguese) Guinea and Cape Verde, spoke of guerrillas as: "anonymous soldiers of the United Nations". He urged the Security Council to send a delegation to Guinea-Bissau.

Mr Cabral, who is regarded as the doyen of Africa's liberation-movement leaders, said that he had not come to ask for Portugal's expulsion from the United Nations, although even the Portuguese people did not enjoy elementary human rights.

The problem was not Portuguese expulsion but showing that Portugal did not have the right to represent the people of Guinea-Bissau at the United Nations.

He asked Security Council members to allow representatives of the movement to circulate in their countries. Mr Cabral, who recently made a lecture tour of Britain, cited France as a country which

refused to admit his party's representatives.

He asked security council members also to help to persuade Portugal to negotiate with his movement. If this could not be done, the council should increase help to the liberation struggle.

Mr Pascal Luvualo, speaking for the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, said that, without western help, Portugal would already have been expelled from the colonies. He rejected Portugal's right to represent Angola.

Mr Marcelino dos Santos, vice-president of the Mozambique Liberation Front, told the Security Council that one third of Mozambique was under Frelimo control. He spoke of the advance into Tete province where the Cabora Bassa dam is under construction.

The colonialists had fortified the Zambezi river "like a Maginot line", he said, but Frelimo fighters had crossed the river and were able to sabotage the approach roads to the work area. He said that South Africa now had three or four battalions of troops in Mozambique to defend the Cabora Bassa site.

He asked the Security Council to persuade Britain, France, the United States, West Germany, Italy and Japan to cease all forms of cooperation with Portugal which might

enable the Portuguese to continue the war.

He called for sanctions against Portugal, and asked the Security Council to end economic cooperation through such projects as the Cabora Bassa dam.

A representative of the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu) read a letter from the Rev Ndabingi Sithole which was smuggled from the Rhodesian prison where Mr Sithole is held. The letter rejected the proposed settlement which would, he said, leave all effective power in the hands of a white minority. The British assumption that majority rule would be allowed eventually was "naive and unrealistic, but also basically dishonest in its conception and tragic in its consequences".

Mr George Silundika, speaking for the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu), rejected totally the Pearce Commission and asked why the people of Zimbabwe should be asked to approve a document in whose formulation they had no part and which specifically precluded them from immediate effective control of power.

He called for Security Council condemnation of Britain for "the murderous military suppression of our people".