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Reaction to ^{ARB-P} 8(6) 15/7/71 Overseas Events

NATO MEETING IN LISBON

OAU Protests

p. 2144

On behalf of the leaders and the people of the OAU and the non-aligned States, President Kaunda on June 1st sent an appeal to the Governments of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) States. He urged them to do everything possible to put pressure on **Portugal**. Portugal was the only NATO member which "arrogantly rejected the Lusaka manifesto" (p. 1371).

The President also spoke of the shock caused by the NATO decision to hold a meeting of Defence and Foreign Ministers in Lisbon. "By this blatant action", he said, "NATO countries are openly giving it a certificate of apparent respectability to Portugal and encouraging her to continue her colonial occupation and exploitation of innocent African peoples." He added that the OAU member-States and non-aligned States were disturbed to learn that Mr. Luns, former **Netherlands** Foreign Minister, one of the most ardent of Portugal's supporters during the past ten years, was to be appointed as NATO's new Secretary-General. (TZ 2/6)

UK Statement

A statement issued by the UK High Commission in Lagos on June 5th said, however, that NATO membership in no way committed members to supporting Portugal's policies in Africa. The statement added that NATO membership also did not imply agreement with or support for internal or external policies of other member countries except in the strict context of NATO objectives.

NATO as such supplied no arms to Portugal, nor were arms supplied to that country by any NATO members for other than defined NATO purposes, the British statement added. (NA 5/6)

said on February 17th that the meeting of security chiefs in Salisbury should be regarded "as dangerous and hostile".

(R. Dar-es-Salaam 17/2)