

# Mr Wilson leads Labour attack

By David Wood  
Political Editor

Mr Heath does not intend to ask Dr Caetano, the Portuguese Prime Minister, to cancel the official visit he is paying to Britain from July 16 to July 19. That was made clear behind the scenes as Mr Wilson led the Opposition in a demand that Dr Caetano should be told he was *persona non grata* after the report in *The Times* yesterday that Portuguese troops had massacred more than 400 men, women, and children in Mozambique.

Last night Mr Wilson and members of the Shadow Cabinet tabled an early day motion headed "Massacres in Mozambique". It read: "That this House expresses its horror of reports of brutal massacres of innocent civilians by the Portuguese military authorities in Mozambique and, in the absence of any authenticated and validated repudiation of the reports, calls upon the Prime Minister to inform the Prime Minister of Portugal that his proposed visit to this country is unacceptable to the British people."

The signatories include Mr Edward Short, deputy leader of the Opposition, Mr James Callaghan, Mr Douglas Houghton, chairman of the parliamentary Labour Party, and Mr Michael Foot. If the Opposition had not exhausted its Supply days, in which they can take the initiative, there is little doubt that they would have forced a debate.

Mr Thorpe, the Liberal leader, Mr Grimond, and other Liberals last night tabled a similar motion. They asked the House of Commons to express "grave concern at the reports of massacres in Mozambique being perpetrated by Portuguese troops." They called for the immediate cancellation of Dr Caetano's visit.

When Mr Wilson asked Mr Heath if he would not be wise to change his mind about Dr Caetano's visit and substitute the Prime Minister of New Zealand [whose Government is protesting against French nuclear tests in the Pacific], Mr Heath replied: "The answer to that is 'No'."

Later it was explained that Mr Heath's reply could be taken

to mean that, even if the allegations in *The Times* proved correct, Dr Caetano's visit would not be cancelled at London's request.

Hugh Noyes, Our Parliamentary Correspondent, writes: The reported massacre by Portuguese troops in Mozambique, described yesterday in an article by Father Adrian Hastings, is certain to be debated in Parliament after the announcement in the Commons by Mr Wilson that the Shadow Cabinet would table a motion on the Government's refusal to reconsider Dr Caetano's visit.

The Government's acute embarrassment over the article and its repercussions in Parliament was shown clearly at the end of the Prime Minister's question time when Mr Wilson intervened to ask him whether he was in a position to repudiate the account of the bestialities committed in Mozambique.

As question time ended, Mr Robert MacLennan, Labour MP for Caithness and Sutherland, moved in with an unsuccessful

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application to the Speaker for an emergency debate on the reported massacre. With the obvious approval of Labour's front bench, Mr MacLennan at once grouped together the reported massacre at Wiriyamu with the visit to Britain of Dr Caetano. *The Times* report, he said, "scribed an armed attack on a village after which the Portuguese troops systematically and with bestial ferocity massacred 86 named Africans—men, women and children—allegedly sympathetic to the Frelimo fighters.

It was urgent that the matter should be debated because the Government had issued an invitation to Dr Caetano for a visit next week. The Commons, he said, should "seize the opportunity to express the utter abhorrence of the British people at the consequence of Portuguese policies in Africa, making it clear that the alternative for the Portuguese people was to join the civilization of Europe and to abandon these policies.

**Our Diplomatic Correspondent** writes: Earlier in the day a spokesman at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office declined to comment upon the account in *The Times*. Reports from British representatives in Mozambique and Lisbon had been requested, he said. The spokesman recalled that Mr Anthony Royle, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, had stated in a

parliamentary answer on March 21 that it was well known that African matters had been a source of open and acknowledged disagreement between Britain and Portugal. That did not prevent Britain from wishing to maintain friendly relations with Portugal. Britain had no right to demand an explanation from Portugal, although with such matters that caused concern in Britain the Government normally did make inquiries.

Among diplomatic observers of the African scene, there appeared to be general agreement in London that the report of the massacre was all too likely to be accurate. In spite of the recent claim by the Portuguese that the military problem posed by insurgency in the central southern areas of Mozambique has been overcome, a private aircraft had been shot down by guerrillas not far from the port of Beira, which means that the guerrillas had penetrated to an area much farther south.

That the situation in Mozambique has continued to be serious is proved beyond doubt, to those western diplomats whose task it is to assess it, by the fact that Portugal keeps there some 60,000 of the 100,000 troops of European origin now stationed in Mozambique and Angola.

The morale of the guerrilla movement, the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo), has been boosted

recently, as one western diplomat told me yesterday, by efficient training from Chinese instructors from among the 30,000 Chinese who have entered Tanzania to work on the Tanzania-Zambia railway.

The guerrillas have also obtained more sophisticated weapons. This has enabled them to strike at units guarding the Cabora Bassa dam with 122mm rockets and 82mm mortars and to mine the important highway from Mtali to Beira from bases now probably in Malawi.

Lord Gifford, chairman of the Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea, yesterday delivered a letter to Mr Heath demanding that he should withdraw the invitation to Dr Caetano. "It must now be out of the question for the British government to play host to the head of a government guilty of such butchery", the letter said.

Brussels, July 10.—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions today called for an immediate investigation into alleged Portuguese massacres of Mozambique Africans.

Lisbon, July 10.—A spokesman of the Ministry of Information suggested that the massacre report had been "arranged" to coincide with Dr Caetano's visit. We cannot even locate the village of Wiriyamu," he said.—AP.