

Government resists Labour move for debate as 'massacre' storm grows

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The Government last night resisted pressure from the Opposition for a debate next week on the massacres in Mozambique reported by a Roman Catholic priest in "The Times". Mr Heath has called for reports from the British Ambassador in Lisbon and the Consul-General in Lourenço Marques.

A Spanish priest, speaking in

Madrid, confirmed the newspaper account of atrocities in Mozambique, where he spent 14 years before being expelled. He also accused Rhodesian troops. The Portuguese Government announced yesterday that it had instituted an inquiry into the allegations. All reports of irregular behaviour by troops were investigated and culprits punished, it said.

At a meeting and a press conference in London, Father Adrian Hastings, author of the newspaper report, was questioned closely on the origins and credibility of his account (Report, page 6). In the Lords, Lord George-Brown questioned the authenticity of the report and warned Labour peers against adopting double standards for different dictatorships