

Priest gives massacre details to UN committee

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From David Wigg
New York, July 20

Father Adrian Hastings, the Birmingham priest who reported the alleged massacre at Wiriyamu in Mozambique, gave evidence before the United Nations decolonization committee today.

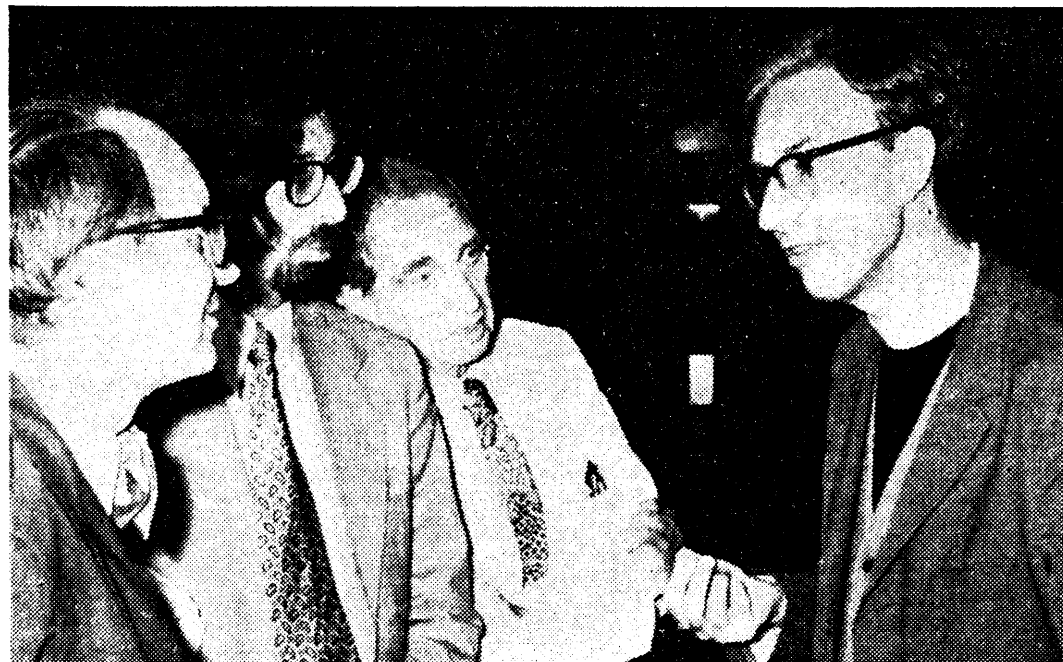
Calmly and without hesitation, he went through the background, the reasons for publication and the effect of the report of the alleged atrocities, which has caused world wide repercussions.

It was the most terrible atrocity in modern colonial history, he said. The Portuguese Government's reaction of denial and abuse showed how blind it was even to the seriousness of such charges. It was not surprising that a government in the grip of the Army and the special police would not tolerate a serious charge.

"They have got to be made to tolerate it", Father Hastings said. The massacre at Wiriyamu was only the tip of an iceberg. There were many others, possibly on a larger scale, about which there were no details.

He appealed to the allies of Portugal not to close their eyes to such atrocities and said there had to be a full, public and independent investigation. Portuguese troops had to be controlled and the Government had to realize the wickedness of its policy.

Father Hastings said he had been asked why the incidents



Father Adrian Hastings talking to reporters in New York yesterday before addressing the United Nations trusteeship committee on his allegations of massacres in Mozambique.

had not been revealed for seven months. Missionaries had published reports but little notice had been taken of them. It was only when *The Times*, a newspaper of influence, had published the allegations that the world took notice.

Mr Dos Santos, the vice-president of Frelimo, the Mozambique guerrilla movement, made an emotional and strong anti-Portuguese statement, making references to Guernica, Sharpeville and My Lai.

At one stage he turned to Father Hastings, who was sitting immediately in front of him, and addressed him personally. In publishing the report, he said, Father Hastings had con-

tributed greatly to the movement against oppression. "We appreciate your courage", he said.

Mr Santos claimed his movement now controlled 25 per cent of Mozambique and in the liberated areas was already building the Mozambique of tomorrow. The British people, he said, had reacted in the past few days against their alliance with Portugal, referring to the visit of Dr Caetano, the Portuguese Prime Minister, to London.

The period for questions was short. Mr Salim Salim, the chairman of the committee, quoted the editorial of *The Times* of July 11, referring to the motives

of the priests who talked to Father Hastings. He replied that it was beyond him to imagine that a group of hard-headed men had all conspired to produce reports which would destroy their own work in Mozambique.

Before the hearing Father Hastings briefly met Dr Waldheim, the Secretary-General. In a statement afterwards Dr Waldheim said: "It was with deep pain that I received the personal report of Father Hastings. His information, based on the testimony of missionaries in Mozambique, has aroused the conscience of mankind. I urge all member states to lend their support to the committee in its inquiry into the tragic report."