

Army report confirms **TT.** **Wiriyamu** $\frac{24}{4}$ **massacre** $\frac{4}{74}$

By Our Foreign Staff

Confirmation of the massacre at Wiriyamu, Mozambique, in December, 1972, is said to be contained in a report drawn up by Portuguese Army officers, according to *The Guardian* newspaper yesterday. It is alleged that other massacres have taken place since Wiriyamu, some as recently as this year, and that Rhodesian troops have struck at targets inside Mozambique with orders to kill everyone they find.

According to the newspaper the report was compiled by "middle-ranking" officers who have served in Mozambique and who support the view of General Antonio de Spínola, the recently dismissed Deputy Chief of Staff, that there is no military solution to the problems of Portugal's overseas territories.

It appears the report was written specifically to publicize this view. *The Guardian* prints the report in full.

Allegations of the massacre of African villagers by Portuguese troops at Wiriyamu first appeared in *The Times* in July, 1973, and was based on information from missionaries in the area at the time. Yester-

day's report gives details from the military side of what happened and, if true, gives the first corroboration of the massacre from non-missionary sources.

The report says that there is "intimate collaboration in the military field" between the Portuguese Army and Rhodesian troops. Since the beginning of last year cooperation has been intensified with permission given to Rhodesian airborne groups to operate over a vast area to the north and south of the Zambesi River and, in special cases, to a depth of 60 miles or so inside Mozambique.

"Such activity consists of speedy paratroop actions, in specific spots, with the liquidation of any human lives (with no military or civilian prisoners) and immediate return to their bases in Rhodesia", the report says.

Our Lisbon Correspondent writes: Portuguese official sources denied the *Guardian* report. A spokesman said it was easy to say a report was drawn up by dissident officers but this meant nothing.

"It is speculative and has no official meaning", he said. "There are no Rhodesian troops on Portuguese soil."

Our Salisbury Correspondent writes: There was no official Rhodesian Government reaction to the allegations.

The Portuguese are sensitive to any suggestion that Rhodesian troops would be needed to clear their territory of guerrillas as they have always said they have matters in hand and, in fact, have criticized Rhodesian operational methods.