

Wiryamu investigator on mission to Lisbon

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, May 23

A member of the United Nations commission investigating alleged massacres in Mozambique flew from Madrid to Lisbon today for informal contacts with the Portuguese authorities.

Mr Atle Grahl-Madsen, of Norway, the West European regional representative on the commission, is understood to have made the trip in his personal capacity in order to elicit the cooperation of the Portuguese Government. He was expected to confer in Lisbon with Dr Mario Soares, the Foreign Minister, before rejoining the commission this weekend in Rome.

Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, of Nepal, the chairman of the commission, did not mention Mr Grahl-Madsen's Lisbon trip during a press conference in Madrid today. He did say that the commission had sent a telegram to the Portuguese authorities on April 30 and had not yet received an official reply. It was pointed out to him that the provisional Government of Portugal had not been formed on April 30.

He said the commission had no immediate plans to make an official visit to Lisbon, but he hoped eventually to question Portuguese Army officers and troops who might have witnessed

the alleged atrocities.

The commission would continue its sessions on Monday in Rome, where it was hoped to speak to more witnesses. He also said that authorities of the Roman Catholic Church, possibly including Mgr Casaroli, the Vatican's Secretary for Public Affairs, would be asked about evidence furnished by Catholic missionaries.

Mr Upadhyaya said the commission would go from Rome to Dar es Salaam, Lusaka and other places in Africa. He said that, after interrogating eight witnesses in London and 13 in Madrid, "all members of the commission think they have a clear concept of the location of Wiryamu, where missionaries claimed that one of the incidents took place".

Mr Upadhyaya said: "On July 10, 1973, the world community was once again shocked by the violence resulting from colonial oppression. On that date *The Times* of London published on its front page an article by the Rev Adrian Hastings reporting two series of massacres perpetrated by Portuguese troops against the African population in Mozambique."

Although some of the newspaper reports mentioned the alleged participation of Rhodesian troops in atrocities committed in Mozambique, the commission would probably not go to Rhodesia. He said that the commission had learnt the whereabouts of one survivor of a Mozambique incident, a boy identified in a *Sunday Times* report simply as Antonio, and his evidence would be sought.

The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution setting up the commission of inquiry on December 12, 1973.