
LUSOPHONE COUNTRIES

Cultural Meeting ARB v.26(11)

The heads of state of the seven Portuguese-speaking countries (**Brazil, Portugal, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Mozambique, Cape Verde and Angola**) met in Sao Luiz do Maranhao in north-east Brazil at the beginning of November. They decided to create an International Institute for the Portuguese Language and signed a joint declaration. Following the example of **France's Alliance Francaise** or **Germany's Institut Goethe**, the aim of the organisation will be to encourage the speaking of Portuguese. In certain multi-racial African countries, the Portuguese tongue constitutes a unifying element. The organisation's headquarters will rotate. The final declaration congratulated the seven countries on their cultural co-operation and condemned "outside interference in the People's Republics of Angola and Mozambique."

The disturbances in Angola and Mozambique dominated the discussions on the last day. **Mozambican** President, Joaquim Chissano, asked for more clear cut action from the countries present against "United States interference." The heads of state replied that the role of the new institute would not be purely linguistic and cultural but would encompass political co-operation as well. (AFP 3/11)

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