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4 July 1961

Press release from the Perm. Mission of  
Portugal to the U.N.

(Communiqué from the Portuguese Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs)

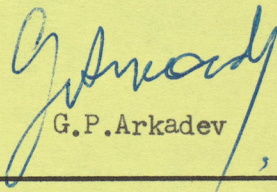
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ROUTING SLIP

Comments for the record should not be written on this slip. REFERRAL SHEET PT.108 should be used instead.

TO: Mr. Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General

	APPROVAL		YOUR INFORMATION
	MAY WE CONFER?		AS REQUESTED
	YOUR SIGNATURE		FOR ACTION
	NOTE AND FILE		REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE
	NOTE AND RETURN		PREPARE DRAFT
	YOUR COMMENTS		ATTACH RELATED PAPERS

  
G.P. Arkadev

DATE:

FROM:

FROM: Permanent Mission of  
Portugal to the U. N.  
630 Fifth Avenue  
New York 19, N.Y.  
(Circle 7-6736)

July 11, 1961

PRESS RELEASE

These communiquees from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the  
Portuguese General Overseas Agency were issued in Lisbon on July 4, 1961.

FROM: Permanent Mission of  
Portugal to the U. N.  
630 Fifth Avenue  
New York 19, N. Y.  
(Circle 7-6736)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following official communique was received today by the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Lisbon:

"For several weeks now, certain international political groups and foreign religious sects or missionary organizations have been waging a campaign against Portugal in connection with Angola, leveling accusations of 'barbarous repressions, deliberate extermination of peoples and the commission of atrocities and horrors' by the Portuguese forces. This campaign, which has served as a basis for the holding of public meetings and the soliciting of funds, is being encouraged by certain organs of the international press and promoted or stimulated by some foreign public men who are taking advantage of and exploiting the campaign for their own partisan political purposes. Aside from anonymous reports or the mentioning of isolated and unrelated assumptions, which are then used as a basis for formulating generalizations, no proof of the charges made has been submitted in any single case, but this circumstance has not prevented the reporting and publishing of such accusations, accompanied with extreme violence and emotion.

"In view of the foregoing, the Portuguese Government feels that it has not only the right but the duty to make the following statement: The accusations of barbarous repressions have no basis in fact. There is also no basis in fact for the accusations relating to the deliberate extermination of peoples. Nor is there any substantiation for the allegation that atrocities and horrors are being committed by the Portuguese Armed Forces. Therefore, the Portuguese Government completely and absolutely denies and repudiates in the strongest possible terms all such claims or suggestions as have been made along the lines indicated above.

"The truth of the matter is that the events which have occurred in the region north of Angola and the measures which have been taken by the Government and the local authorities are of an entirely different scope. The terrorists have directed their attacks against villages, small towns or isolated plantations, and they have been doing so in numerous groups or bands.

Prior to the arrival of the Government forces, these terrorists slaughtered, violated and quartered men, women and children of all races. They sacked and burned homes and other property. Through the use of torture and murder they intimidated the populations of towns and villages, forcing them to take up with the terroristic mobs. Many persons, primarily women and children, had to seek refuge in neighboring territories, and they are now about to return to their homes, as order is restored. During that period, the terrorists were the ones who were responsible for the greatest atrocities and horrors. With the appearance and strengthening of the military forces, there has been a gradual return of protection of life and property, the attackers have been repelled, communication facilities have been recovered, and living and working conditions are back to normal. The only objectives of the armed forces have been the restoration of law and order, and the means employed have been directed only toward that end. Therefore, unless the Government has the duty of permitting the passive slaughtering of such human beings as the terrorists may decide to attack, we fail to see how such objectives can be regarded as unlawful.

"Everything which has been stated above is public knowledge and cannot be disputed. The situation which prevails has been explained by the Portuguese Government more than once, and, only recently, the Portuguese delegate to the Security Council had an opportunity to describe that situation again, in detail. We therefore cannot understand how the organizing of a system of defense and protection (from which the missionaries of all nationalities benefit) can be regarded as a barbarous repression, or how the accusation of exterminating the population can be leveled precisely against those who are preventing the carrying out of premeditated genocide, which represented the fundamental objective of the terrorists' policy, in keeping with the orders they received from their foreign leaders.

"The Government deplors the accusations which it is now refuting. So fantastic and biased are those accusations that the Government does not know how it can confirm the good faith of the accusers. There can, however, be no doubt whatever of the complete irresponsibility of those accusers. This is all the more surprising since it involves persons and organizations which, even though they may hold viewpoints which differ from those which guide us, should not have the right to alter the truth where facts are concerned. But the Portuguese Government cannot, however much such an action may displease its accusers and even if it should provide them with a pretext for casting further insults against it, abandon its responsibility for protecting the lives, properties and interests of those who look to it for protection and defense, and it feels bound by the moral duty of serving humanity through the destruction of the terroristic activities, the genocide and the aid being provided in that connection by foreign sources."

The following report was received from the Portuguese General Overseas Agency:

"The General Overseas Agency reports that the Overseas Ministry of the Portuguese Government has received, through various channels and in widely different forms, such complaints, protests and objections as certain Protestant organizations and missionaries have deemed it necessary to file against the removal of some of those missionaries from places in northern Angola where they were accustomed to carrying on their activities. Not always the tone or the means used in the filing of those complaints, protests and objections can be regarded as being the most appropriate for this purpose, and we may even go so far as to say that recent events might well lead us to conclude that some of the persons and organizations which are linked with the Protestant activities are more directly interested and involved in waging a campaign against the Portuguese authorities than they are in the success of their evangelistic function.

"This does not prevent us from making it very clear that the decisions reached by the authorities in Angola to close down those Protestant missions which are located within areas that have been subjected to attacks by the terrorists--which decisions apply equally well to Catholic missions--have their basis in our concern for insuring public security and protecting the lives of the missionaries who worked and lived in those areas. Since it is a well-known fact that the terrorists will spare no one who refuses to collaborate in the commission of their crimes and atrocities, and flagrant evidence of this statement is provided by the cold-blooded murder of Fathers Angelo Graziani and Piero Giovani, it was deemed most advisable to evacuate those places which could most easily be reached by the terrorists until such time as the defense and security measures which are now under way could effectively insure the resumption of normal activities.

"In view of the fact that the Portuguese authorities have not, up to now, learned of any specific reasons which might provide a definite and positive assurance that the Protestant missionaries would be accorded special and favorable treatment by the terrorist bands, there was absolutely no basis for excluding them from the security measures that were generally adopted with regard to other organizations and persons."

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Portugal to the U. N.  
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