

President Sekon Touré's Continued Allegations of Further “Planned Aggression”. - “Purges” in Armed Forces and Administration.

Following the political trials arising out of the unsuccessful invasion attempt by alleged “mercenaries” and dissident Guineans in November 1970 [see 24525 A and 24353 A], President Sekou Toure repeatedly reiterated allegations about further preparations for aggression against Guinea, and also took measures against persons suspected of disloyalty to his regime, among them high-ranking officers.

Thus he alleged on March 28 that two camps, each containing 600 White and Black mercenaries, had been established in Portuguese, Guinea for the purpose of attacking Guinea with aircraft, ships and artillery. He announced that in response to this threat a decree had been issued under which militia units would be set up in all secondary schools, so that between 250,000 and 350,000 pupils and students would be “ready to defend the nation”.

On April 26 the President declared that he had escaped an attempt on his life, and he added that in the event of new acts of aggression against Guinea all political prisoners and suspects would be “liquidated immediately”.

The President also reiterated his accusations against Senegal, alleging on April 4 that it was “sheltering subversive elements hostile to Guinea” and hampering the activities of the Organization of Riparian States of the River Senegal [see 22674 A]. He refused to attend a meeting of the Heads of State of the four member-countries of this organization (Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal), which had been convened for April 20 and was subsequently postponed by President Ould Daddab of Mauritania until June 16.

On the latter date the Guinean President again alleged that preparations for renewed aggression from three neighbouring countries were in progress. M. Ismael Toure, the President's half-brother and Minister of Finance, announced that a further 450 persons had been arrested for alleged plotting, and that altogether five attempts had been made on the President's life. These arrested were reported to include six high officials.

On July 5 President Sekou Toure accused Portuguese, French and German troops of holding a meeting with representatives of a Guinean Liberation Front, which he had previously alleged to have been created in Paris by French private groups, and alleged that a four-pronged invasion plan had been decided upon at this meeting on July 2-3. He also alleged that Western Germany was responsible for several attempts on his life, and that Dr. Abdoulaye Diallo, a personal friend of his, had been given the task of giving him an injection to kill him or drive him insane.

President Sekou Toure also announced on July 5 the “forcible retirement” of General Keita Koumandian, who in February had been appointed Chief of Defence Staff and head of the military bureau at the Presidency; shortly afterwards Radio Conakry reported that the general and two other Army officers had been arrested for high treason, and that a widespread purge was proceeding in the armed forces and the administration.

In Paris, the *Regroupement des Guineens en Europe* (opposed to President Sekou Toure) claimed that “more than 5,000 persons” had been arrested and that particularly severe measures of repression had been taken in the town of Kankan. (Le Monde - Times - Neue Zurcher Zeitung) (Prev. rep. 24525 A.)