

Issue Date: November 18, 1970

# Portuguese Africa: Portuguese Guinea: Fighting Stepped Up

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The military governor of Portuguese Guinea July 7 broadcast an offer of guaranteed security for all "terrorists who wish to surrender." Five days later, a guerrilla group crossed into the territory from Senegal to launch a major attack against the Portuguese.

A Lisbon broadcast July 7 said the governor's offer had been made in reply to a radio appeal over Radio Conakry by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC). Members of the PAIGC, according to the Lisbon report, had asked for amnesty, citing military failures and division within the movement as reasons for their desire to return. The governor, Brigadier Antonio Spínola, answered that he "absolutely guaranteed" no harm would come to those who returned.

A PAIGC spokesman July 8 denied that the guerrillas had asked for a safe return. The spokesman said it was "a propaganda maneuver." The statement was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation from a Radio Free Portugal broadcast.

The Portuguese military command reported July 16 that a guerrilla force of more than 300 had crossed from Senegal July 12-13 in a surprise raid on the village of Pirada. Two other guerrilla groups attacked from Senegal at other points. Fifteen persons were killed in the raid on Pirada. Portuguese troops retaliated July 14 with artillery bombardments in the province of Casamance in Senegal.

The action prompted the Senegalese government to ask an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting to deal with the situation. In another action, Senegal ordered reinforcements into Casamance July 17. Senegalese President Leopold Senghor said in an interview July 20 that France should "intervene diplomatically" to halt Portuguese operations in Senegalese territory. Senghor cited a French-Senegalese treaty as a basis for his demand.

Four Portuguese agents were killed August 20 in an ambush in Guinea-Bissau. Following the announcement of the deaths, Lisbon said four agents had died July 26 in a helicopter accident.

A November 4 report said Portuguese troops, with the aid of villagers, had inflicted heavy casualties on guerrillas operating in the Gabu region of Guinea.

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## [Modern Language Association \(MLA\)](#)

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