

A. PORTUGUESE GUINEA. — Continued Guerrilla Warfare. - Senegalese and Guinean Complaints to Security Council.

In a special statement issued in Bissau, the capital of Portuguese Guinea, on Jan. 5, 1971, the Portuguese military high command claimed that the Portuguese forces in the province, numbering about 30,000 officers and men, had made significant progress during the year 1970 in their continued fight against insurgents who, according to independent accounts, were said to consist of between 6,000 and 7,000 armed guerrillas of the *Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e do Cabo Verde* (PAIGC).

According to the statement, 895 insurgents had been killed during the year, including not only PAIGC members but also units of the regular Army of the Republic of Guinea and four Cubans; 749 guerrillas had been wounded; 86 were captured; and 132 had defected to Portugal. In addition, about 49 tons of armaments had been captured, mostly of Soviet and Chinese origin, including nearly 500,000 grenades and various weapons ranging from automatic rifles to machine-guns. Portuguese losses announced during the year totalled about 100 men killed.

The "staff headquarters" of the PAIGC, on the other hand, claimed in Conakry (the capital of Guinea) in mid-January 1971 that during November and December 1970 alone its guerrillas had killed 138 Portuguese officers and men and had destroyed seven river vessels, 11 military vehicles and also Army barracks and other military buildings.

Captain Pedro Rodríguez Peralta, a Cuban who had been taken prisoner in Portuguese Guinea in November 1969, was on April 26, 1971, sentenced by a Lisbon military court to three years and two months' imprisonment for having fought for the PAIGC and trained its guerrillas. On May 24 it was reported from Lisbon that 34 Cuban "technical advisers" had arrived in Senegal to take charge of armaments, communications and engineering units for the PAIGC, and in July the (Portuguese) Lusitania newsagency reported that they were stationed at the PAIGC camp at Cumbamory, in Senegal. General Antonio de Spínola, Governor of Portuguese Guinea, stated in Lisbon early in September 1971 that each guerrilla operational unit was led by Cuban officers, of whom there were several hundred among the 6,000 trained guerrillas, 1,500 of whom were at bases in Senegal and the rest in the Republic of Guinea.

In July 1970 four members of the Portuguese National Assembly (including the Guinean Dr. Pinto Bull) lost their lives when the military helicopter in which they were travelling crashed near the Mansoa River, as reported on July 29. In Addis Ababa a spokesman for the Organization of African Unity claimed on Aug. 21 that they were the victims of an ambush by PAIGC guerrillas.

Heavy fighting, mainly in areas bordering on Senegal and Guinea, continued to be reported by the Portuguese during 1971, with considerable losses on both sides.

General Venancio Deslandes, the Portuguese Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, flew to Bissau on June 29 after large-scale guerrilla attacks on targets further inside the province than before, including the launching of rockets against Bissau, had been reported. On Oct. 11 the Portuguese authorities stated that the Army had killed 37 rebels in a single day in fighting against attacks "on a broad front"; on Oct. 20 they announced the capture of Manguante Impute, described as a "leading political commissar" of the PAIGC; and on Oct. 31 they claimed to have beaten back "a major thrust" by rebels operating from Senegal, 16 guerrillas being killed. Reports from Bissau on Nov. 3 mentioned the death of 23 rebels and nine Portuguese soldiers in a running battle in which the insurgents were driven back into Senegal.

Senegalese Appeal to Security Council.

In response to an urgent request made by Senegal on July 6, 1971, the U.N. Security Council met on July 12 to consider a Senegalese complaint against "the laying of mines in Senegalese territory by regular Portuguese armed forces", similar complaints of Portuguese "aggression" having previously been lodged by Senegal on April 27 and June 16.

In a Note sent to the Security Council's President on July 12, the Portuguese Government repudiated Senegalese charges of "aggression", asserted that the mines laid had been found to be of Soviet origin and must therefore have been laid by the PAIGC, and added that "stepped-up insurgent attacks" against Portuguese Guinea were entirely the result of "hospitality and very special privileges" enjoyed by the guerrillas in Senegal.

The Security Council, in a resolution (294 of 1971) adopted on July 15 by 13 votes to none, with two abstentions (Britain and the U.S.A.), condemned Portugal for "aggression" against Senegal and decided to send a six-member mission to Dakar to inquire into the situation along the border between Senegal and Portuguese Guinea (this latter decision being separately approved by 15 votes to none).

The Security Council mission, led by Señor Guillermo Sevilla Sacasa (Nicaragua), visited Senegal from July 25 to Aug. 1; its chairman said on the latter date that during its visit to the frontier area the military experts accompanying the mission had gathered information on two fresh border incidents in the Casamance district,

and that the mission had also heard a statement by Señor Amílcar Cabral, leader of the PAIGC. The mission was, however, not allowed access to Portuguese Guinea, the Portuguese Government stating early in August that the sending of the mission was not justified and proposing to Señor Sevilla Sacasa that a control commission should be established, consisting of representatives of the two countries and a chairman "known for his objectivity".

In its report submitted to the Security Council and published on Sept. 23, the mission strongly deplored Portugal's "lack of co-operation"; declared that an attack on a village in Senegal had been "particularly devastating" and had, according to witnesses heard by its military experts, been carried out by Portuguese forces; and recommended (a) that the Council should take all necessary measures to induce Portugal to cease immediately "acts of violence and destruction" and to "respect Senegal's sovereignty and territorial integrity"; and (b) that the U.N. Secretary-General should report to the Security Council on the matter within six months.

On Sept. 29, however, the Security Council deferred consideration of the mission's report until a later date.

Guinean Complaint to Security Council.

Meanwhile the U.N. Security Council had on Aug. 3, 1971, held an urgent session at the request of the Republic of Guinea, which claimed to have evidence of an imminent threat of invasion of Portuguese forces from the neighbouring Portuguese Guinea. The Council unanimously decided the same day that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Guinea should be preserved, and that a mission consisting of representatives of Argentina and Syria, accompanied by members of the U.N. Secretariat, should visit Conakry.

The Portuguese armed forces' radio announced on Aug. 4 that Portuguese forces had launched "a major airborne military operation in south-east Guinea" (i.e. close to the border of the Republic of Guinea) in order to dislodge "a strong guerrilla group" of the PAIGC. Both the Portuguese Foreign Ministry and General Antonio de Spínola, however, denied that any invasion of the Republic was being prepared.

The Security Council's mission visited Conakry late in August. Its report, which contained no recommendations, merely stated that it had been shown "a map containing a plan of attack on Guinea", as well as depositions by prisoners accused of plotting against the Republic of Guinea and an alleged Portuguese message stating that the frontier was "fully reinforced awaiting start action". The Council decided on Sept. 29 to defer consideration of the mission's report.

PAIGC Leader's Claim.

Senhor Amílcar Cabral declared during a visit to London on Oct. 25, 1971, that his movement, which was "fighting for the independence" of both Portuguese Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands, would like to see the conflict with Portugal solved by negotiation, but that it could not accept the continuation of Portuguese rule. Claiming that the PAIGC had "all the elements of a State" as it controlled "three-quarters of the country", he added that everybody knew that when General Gowon, the Nigerian Head of State, had said that at least one colonial territory in Africa would be "liberated" within three years, he had meant Portuguese Guinea [see page 24738].—(Times - Financial Times - Le Monde - Neue Zürcher Zeitung - U.N. Information Centre, London) (Prev. rep. 24353 A; 24147 A.)

B. GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE. — Accession of Zaïre and Romania.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (now Zaïre) and Romania became full members of GATT on Sept. 11 and Nov. 14 respectively, in each case 30 days after signature of the protocol of accession.

Prior to independence in 1960, the Congo had been covered by Belgium's membership, and since then had maintained a *de facto* application of the GATT provisions pending final decisions as to future commercial policy. Most formerly dependent countries had subsequently become full GATT members under Article XXVI—which allows such countries to become contracting parties in their own right without negotiation, provided they do so on the same terms, and offering the same concessions to other contracting parties as applied before independence; the Congo, however, had preferred to negotiate a fresh basis for adherence under Article XXXIII.

Romania's admission to GATT, also under Article XXXIII, followed negotiations which had lasted for three years. Since she has no customs tariff, it was agreed that her main concession should be an expression of firm intention to increase her imports from contracting parties at a rate not slower than the rate of growth of total imports laid down in her five-year plans. Romania is the third Comecon member to adhere to GATT, following Czechoslovakia, which was a founder-member, and Poland, which joined in 1967 [see 22663 A], while Yugoslavia has also been a member since 1966 [see 21545 D].

The accession of Romania brought the number of full contracting parties to GATT to 80.—(GATT, Geneva) (Prev. rep. 24180 D.)

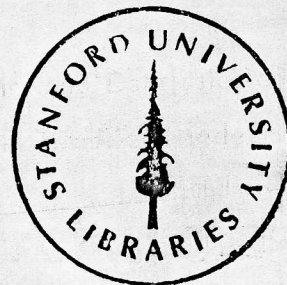
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