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MILITARY AND SOCIO-POLITICAL SITUATION IN  
MOÇAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA

The Organic Law for Overseas Territories aims to give greater autonomy to overseas territories "without affecting the unity of the nation". The regional parliaments will assume many of the powers now held by Lisbon, except external and Defence matters.

Moçambique.

1972 was a difficult year for Moçambique, mainly because of the increased terrorist activity, particularly in the Tete province. Frelimo is the biggest recipient of aid from the World Council of Churches, and they gained an important diplomatic victory when the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations decided to grant terrorist groups Observer status.

The Portuguese troops (there are some 142,000 in Africa) carried out 6,000 operations during 1972 and lost 200 men, while killing 1,400 of the enemy. It was reported that Frelimo was making increased use of Malawi as a base, and that as a result of Portuguese punitive raids across the border, relations between Malawi and Moçambique became strained.

The Consul-General in Lourenço Marques states that according to the Portuguese there are four bases in the East for attacks against Southern Niassa and signs of others in the West, with Tete as their objective.

Malawi, of course, has denied the existence of terrorist bases in their country and the Ambassador in Blantyre has recently reported that relations between the two countries have improved of late.

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Angola.

The most important single political change during 1972 was the appointment of Engineer Santos e Castro as Governor-General, the first civil incumbent in 12 years.

The general security situation at the end of 1972 was considerably more encouraging than at any time in the course of the last three years. The use of "Flechas" (non-European troops under the control of the Directorate-General of Security) has brought about a drastic improvement in the struggle against the MPLA in Northern Angola. The majority of these "Flechas" are ex-terrorists who have come over to the Portuguese side.

Approximately 2,000 MPLA terrorists have been killed by Portuguese forces in Eastern Angola in the last two years, with the result that MPLA strength in the East is now estimated to be only about half of what it was in 1970.

The system of offering cash rewards for all terrorist war material handed in by the local Bantu population has also been very successful.

However, favourable as the overall situation appears to be, serious difficulties could arise as a result of the apparently successful reconciliation of the rival E.L.N.A. and MPLA terrorist organisations in December 1972. They have now formed a joint "Supreme Command for the Liberation of Angola", as a result of pressure from Mobutu on Kaunda.

There have been previous attempts at reconciliation between these two groups and time will tell how successful the latest attempt will be.