

# Africa's White Rebels

The armed whites who have seized the radio station in the capital city will not be able to delay for long the agreement leading to the independence of Mozambique concluded over the weekend by Portugal and the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo). Mindless bloodshed and exacerbation of racial tension are all that this small rebel group, which includes some former Portuguese soldiers, can possibly hope to achieve in Mozambique itself.

Over on the west side of southern Africa, however, this defiance in Mozambique could reinforce the determination of diehard whites to attempt something similar in the Portuguese territory of Angola, where independence is not yet in sight because of bitter divisions among the African liberation movements. And if the white rebels of Mozambique could hold out for some time, the white Government of South Africa might be tempted to intervene, as it has in Rhodesia, in an effort to preserve white rule.

It is thus imperative that the Portuguese forces carry out quickly their orders from Lisbon to "restore peace and tranquility" in Lourenco Marques, so that the agreement signed with Frelimo can be implemented and the 130,000 whites in Mozambique will be disabused of the notion that there is any alternative to black majority rule after independence next June.

As illustrated by the Mozambique agreement and the formal coming to independence of Guinea-Bissau tomorrow, the revolutionary Government that overthrew the authoritarian regime of Premier Caetano in April in Lisbon has moved with courage and speed to disengage Portugal from its African colonial role. This admirable record must not be wrecked by a small group unwilling to accept the reality that the days of white minority rule are numbered in Africa.

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