



# American Committee on Africa

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## NATO MINISTERS COUNCIL IN LISBON CONDEMNED - GROWING WESTERN ALLIANCE WITH PORTUGAL AND SOUTH AFRICA CITED

The American Committee on Africa issued a fact sheet (see enclosed) today condemning the growing military alliance between NATO, its member states and the repressive governments of Portugal and South Africa. Issued at the time of the NATO Council of Ministers meeting in Lisbon, the fact sheet points out that the meeting itself, shaped by Portuguese and other pressures, will focus "off the record" on the "problems of Southern Africa, the need to contain the growing movement for African liberation there, and the future role of Southern Africa within the defense structure of the Western Bloc." Although the U.S. has tried to prevent the question of Portugal's colonial policy from being brought up at the ministerial gathering, it is clear that the West, now obviously aiding South Africa and Portugal in their military development, will try to expand, officially or through a new alliance structure, the cohesion of military powers aimed at continuing foreign and minority rule in Southern Africa. Thus the British Government has cited Soviet expansion in the Indian Ocean and preservation of the Cape route as justification for a new direct subversion of the U.N. arms embargo; France continues to be the major arms supplier to South Africa with jets and submarines; and the U.S. sells troop transport planes to Portugal, helicopters to Mozambique, light planes to South Africa and encourages American economic expansion in all the territories. There are other indications that the NATO zone will be extended to include Southern Africa (Indian Ocean/southern Atlantic areas), and both South Africa and Portugal are lobbying strongly in order to securely tie in the West. This at a time when the Portuguese "offensives", especially in Mozambique, have failed and the opposition to Portugal's role in Africa has heightened in the West.

The American Committee on Africa called for widened opposition to the NATO alliance extending into Southern Africa, and greater support for the struggle of the liberation movements in Southern Africa.

ACOA is an organization which concentrates on supporting the liberation struggle throughout Southern Africa, and opposing the economic, political and military aid that goes from the United States to strengthen the Southern African colonial and minority regimes.

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FLASH FLASH ELASH

It has just been discovered that a U.S. subsidiary of Textron Incorporated, BELL HELICOPTER of Fort Worth, Texas, sold five helicopters (worth \$616,400) to the Zambesi Development Office which were assembled in Beira, Mozambique to be used for logistical work involved in the CABORA BASSA DAM PROJECT. Bell, which also has a subsidiary outlet in South Africa, is thus aiding in a project which the Portuguese and South Africans have created as a means to prevent the true liberation of Mozambique by the freedom forces of the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO). The governments of Sweden, Italy and the U.S. have not granted credit guarantees for companies directly involved in the Caborg Bassa dam construction, but apparently this equally important sale of helicopters to an office involved in removals and resettlements (there are plans to settle 1 million Portuguese in the Zambesi Valley) is approved by the U.S. Government! Protests should be sent to the White House, Department of State, your Congressmen, and Bell Helicopters, P.O. Box 482, Fort Worth, Texas.

June 2, 1971  
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