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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

*African Weekly Notes*



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
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African Weekly Notes

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Portuguese Guinea

Amilcar Cabral, leader of the African Party for the Independence of Portuguese Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC), is preparing major new political initiatives in his movement's ten-year-old guerrilla war against Portuguese forces. In recent statements to various journalists during an extended foreign tour, Cabral has indicated that the struggle has entered a new stage. During this stage his movement will declare an independent state comprising all of Portuguese Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands and the creation of an independent government resident inside Portuguese Guinea.

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The exact timing depends on the completion of preliminary steps now under way. One press account from Cairo reports Cabral as saying the independence declaration would come shortly, but similar rumors during the last year have proved premature. The circumstances and venue of any proclamation will no doubt be carefully chosen for maximum propaganda impact. Cabral's supporters in the United Nations could try to take his case to the General Assembly this month.

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A prerequisite to any proclamation of a non-exile government was an independent verification of the claim that his group controls part of Portuguese Guinea--a claim hotly denied by Lisbon--and operates government services such as schools and hospitals.

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UN committee, meeting in Conakry, Guinea, followed with a resolution stating that the PAIGC was the "only and the authentic" representative of the people of Portuguese Guinea and urged the United Nations and its specialized agencies to consider this in dealing with the people of that territory.

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Cabral's present concern is to ensure that, when PAIGC announces a government, that body will be regarded by at least a substantial number of nations as legitimate and democratically based. Cabral has claimed on several recent occasions that an election of representatives to a popular national assembly is under way among residents within the "liberated" areas. It will be this assembly's task to organize and proclaim the new government.

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These new political moves, designed in large part for propaganda impact, are an important part of the over-all pressure by which Cabral hopes to force Lisbon to negotiate a favorable settlement on Portuguese Guinea. Cabral does not expect to defeat Portugal decisively on the battlefield, and he has reiterated his willingness to negotiate. Lisbon, however, is not interested in negotiations at present, and the declaration of an independent republic is not likely to change this attitude.

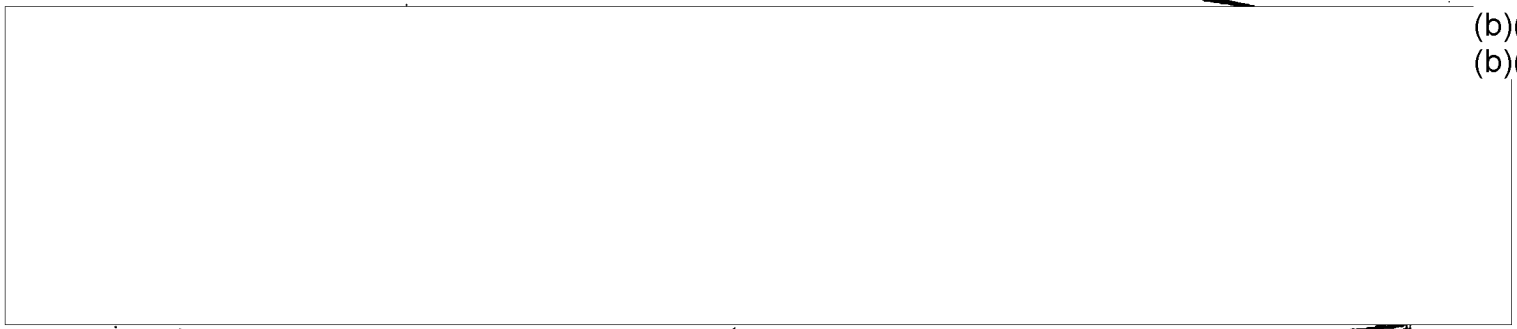
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