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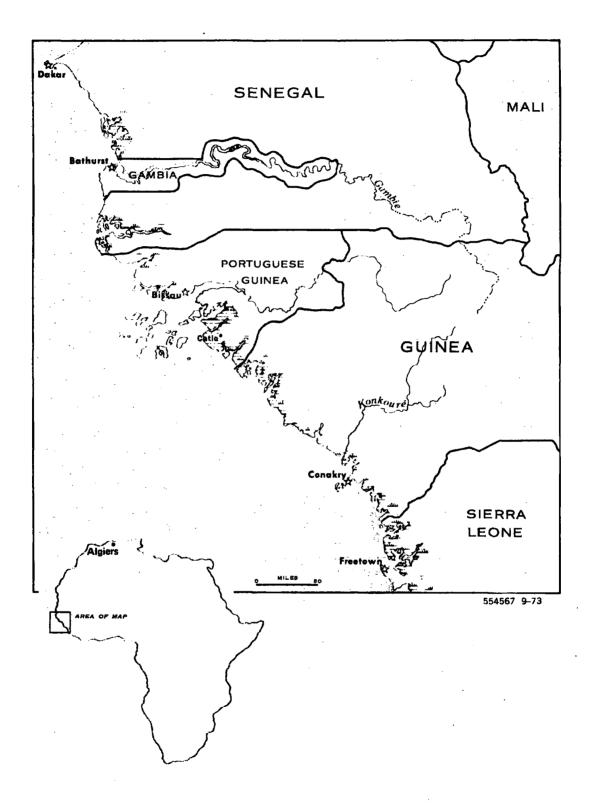
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PORTUGUESE GUINEA: The anti-Portuguese rebels may soon proclaim the establishment of an independent government, possibly at the nonaligned conference that opens next week in Algiers.

Leaders of the African Party for the Independence of Portuguese Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC) announced earlier this year that such a declaration would come before the end of 1973. In May, following military successes against the Portuguese, a high-level spokesman indicated the PAIGC would attend the Algiers conference as the representative of an independent state. PAIGC leader Aristides Pereira further announced in mid-August that the necessary preconditions for independence have been fulfilled.

A declaration of independence would almost certainly receive the support not only of African states, but of Communist countries, most nonaligned governments, and some European governments as well. The PAIGC hopes that widespread recognition will put pressure on the US and other Western countries to follow suit. The PAIGC expects that once a declaration is made, other countries will be willing to brand the Portuguese as aggressors, thereby opening the door to increased aid.

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