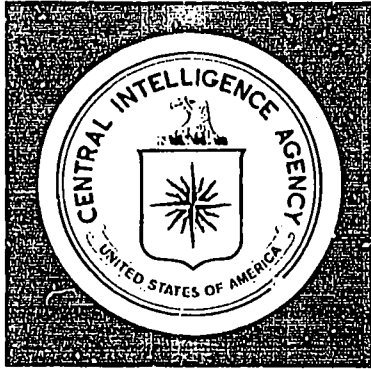


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DIRECTORATE OF  
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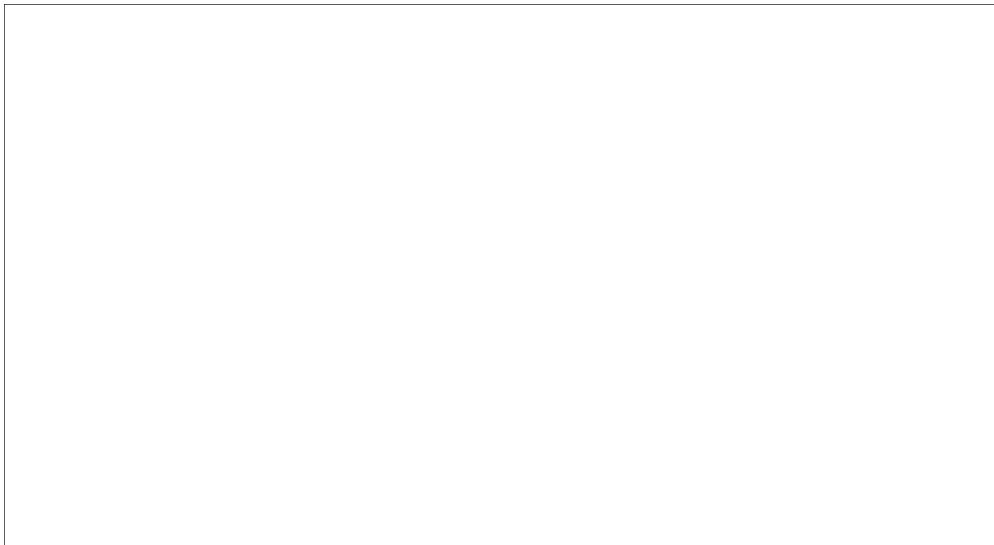
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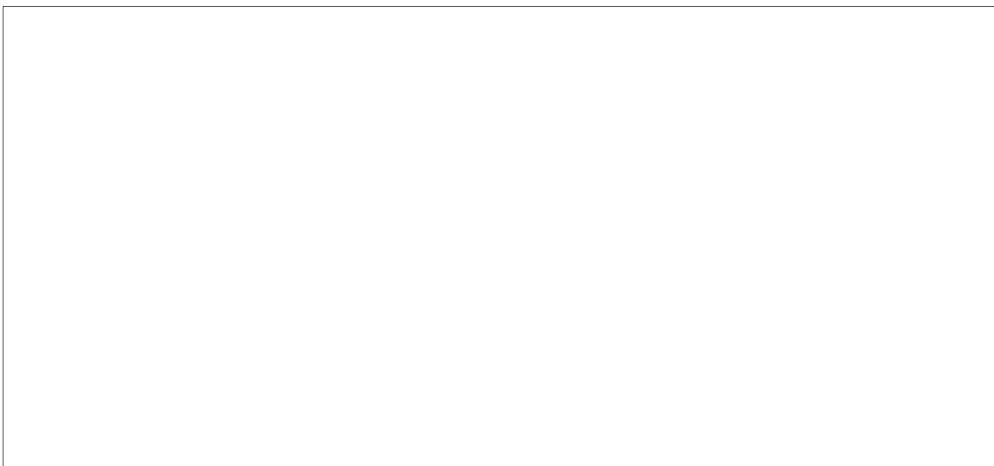
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PORTUGUESE GUINEA: Leaders of the insurgent movement have announced completion of popular elections in those areas of Portuguese Guinea that they claim to control.

According to a communiqué released from rebel headquarters in the neighboring Republic of Guinea on 7 January, a national assembly has been elected by some 82,000 Portuguese Guineans and will meet inside that territory "sometime in 1973." The assembly's first task will be to promulgate a constitution and establish executive organs to govern "liberated" areas. Amilcar Cabral, leader of the insurgent movement that has been trying since 1963 to forcibly wrest control of the country from Portugal, rejects the notion of a provisional government in exile. He claims that the situation is more comparable to that of an independent state with some parts of its territory occupied by foreign forces.

Cabral asserted repeatedly during 1972 that the struggle in Portuguese Guinea has entered a new phase both politically and militarily. His statements pointed toward the early formation of a government, as well as toward increased rebel military pressure on Portuguese bases in the major urban areas. Neither has occurred so far, although the elections move Cabral closer to his immediate political goal and the rebels do have the capability to rocket major population centers, including the capital.

Formation of a rebel government on Portuguese Guinean territory would have a favorable psychological impact on rebel supporters and strengthen the movement's claim that it alone represents the Guinean people. It would have little effect on the stalemated military situation, however, and it would not force Lisbon to negotiate directly with insurgent leaders.

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