

PRESS RELEASE

December 1, 1972

AFRICAN LIBERATION LEADER TO VISIT MADISON

This fall the United Nations General Assembly, in a major decision which has been almost completely ignored by the American news media, decided by an overwhelming majority to admit, as official observers, representatives of African liberation movements fighting against Portuguese colonial rule. On Saturday, December 9, Madisonians will have a chance to hear at first hand the story of one of these movements, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC). Gil Fernandes, one of the leaders of PAIGC, and its representative to the United Nations, will be speaking at 8 PM, at the University United Methodist Church (corner of Charter and University). His speech is sponsored by several Madison organizations: the Afro-American Community Services Center, the International Club, the Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa, the Movement for Political and Economic Democracy, the Third World Unity Group, and the Wisconsin Student Association.

The PAIGC has been fighting for almost ten years a war for the independence of its country, over which Portugal still refuses to relinquish colonial control. Guinea (Bissau) - Bissau is the name of the capital city - is now over 80% under the control of PAIGC. In these liberated areas the PAIGC is the effective government, engaged not only in protecting the people against Portuguese bombs, but also in agricultural development, education, medical services, and other governmental responsibilities.

Portugal's colonial war in Guinea, as in Angola and Mozambique (the two other Portuguese colonies on the African continent), is sustained by a dictatorship in Portugal, by a 4-year period of compulsory military service for Portuguese men, and, of crucial importance, by the military, economic, and diplomatic support the Portuguese government gets from its NATO allies, including the United States. The United States is also one of that small minority of countries in the United Nations that regularly votes against African resolutions on the Portuguese colonies.

If you want to find out what is going on, come and hear Gil Fernandes, Saturday, December 9, at 8 PM, University United Methodist Church.

For more information call: 241-1137