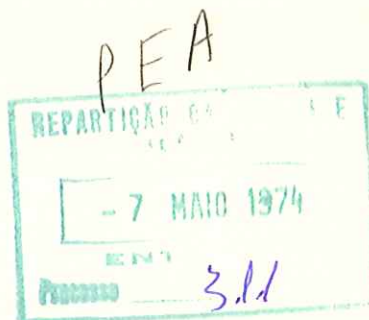




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Declarações deste  
Ministro dos Negó-  
cios Estrangeiros  
relativas a Portu-  
gal.



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2,10  
29-4-74

Senhor Ministro dos Negócios Estrangeiros

Excelência:

Em aditamento ao meu telegrama nº. 39, tenho a honra de adiante transcrever (tal como foi publicado no boletim noticioso deste Ministério dos Negócios Estrangeiros) o texto completo da parte relativa a Portugal das declarações prestadas pelo Ministro norueguês dos Negócios Estrangeiros perante os membros da Associação dos cidadãos noruegueses amigos da O.N.U.:

"The UN has played a central and decisive role in the process of decolonization.

Norway has consistently supported the policy of extending full membership rights in the UN to the new independent states. We have also, throughout the years and under different governments, supported the UN's efforts to bring the colonial system to an end. In accordance with the principles and the fundamental human rights embodied in the UN Charter we have advocated that the



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populations in the colonial areas should be given the right of self-determination. This basic point of view will also decide our attitude in respect of the colonial problems still outstanding in Africa, which are primarily connected with those of Portugal's continuing colonial policy. The situation here is that the Government of Portugal, despite repeated appeals from a vast majority of the UN member states, has not been willing to grant the population of the Portuguese colonies their rights of self-determination. Portugal has also rejected repeated requests by the international community, issued in the form of UN resolutions, to enter into negotiations with the representatives of the various liberation movements. To criticize Portugal's colonial policy is not to interfere in Portugal's internal affairs. As a member state of the UN, Portugal has undertaken to respect the obligations which the UN Charter imposes upon its signatory states. This is therefore a matter which concerns us all. The unceasing colonial warfare taking place in Africa is ruinous to the relations between the African States and Europe as well as the entire Western world, and a growing concern is steadily making itself felt throughout the Western world with regard to the conti-



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uation of this policy.

The right to self-determination of the colonial peoples is, as just mentioned, a fundamental principle of the UN Charter, which we ourselves adhere to. There is broad agreement within the UN as well as among the other NATO countries, that Portugal, as a first and indispensable step, must recognize this principle. By contrast there are undoubtedly many difficult considerations which must be weighed against one another, and we have not adopted an irrevocable stand in this particular respect. On the contrary we have been actively engaged in discussing the various options open to us both in the UN and with the other NATO countries.

In Norway's view it has been - and is - important to endeavour to influence the Portuguese government to alter its policy and to enter into negotiations with the liberation movements. We have voted in favour of the resolutions in the UN and, after voting to that effect, it seemed logical to support the liberation movements in southern Africa. We felt ourselves unable to vote year after year for resolutions supporting the liberation movements and simply to leave it at that. This is what lies behind our support to the liberation movements in





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southern Africa. This support is given on the conditions drawn up by Parliament - namely, that the aid shall primarily be in the nature of humanitarian relief. One of the reasons why I have gone into the principles underlying our attitude to Portugal's colonial policy is a letter that the Government has recently received from the Norwegian Association of Exporters of Dried and Salted Codfish. This letter expresses disapproval and protests in the strongest terms against the policy Norway pursues in regard to Portugal. I do intend to polemicize against the points of view expressed in this letter. Many complicated considerations have to be balanced in the present case. My desire has been to try to clarify the basic issues and the premises for the line Norway has followed in respect of Portugal's colonial policy. I can certainly assure you that Norway's policy in this matter has not been casually arrived at, either by this Government or by any of its predecessors".

A BEM DA NAÇÃO

*Martin de Faria e Sá*