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LourencoMarques_1964-01-13-54AF

United States. Department of State.

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Boston University
FROM: LOURENCO MARQUES
ACTION: SECSTATE 114
DATE: JANUARY 13, 3 P.M.

LOURENCO MARQUES MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL TOLD CONGEN STREET CLEANERS PROTEST MEETING REPORTED IN PRESS JANUARY 9 WAS IN FACT WELL-ORGANIZED STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES. HE ADMITTED PRESENT DAILY RATE OF 31 CENTS TOO LOW BUT SAID FINANCIAL CONDITIONS CITY GOVERNMENT MADE ANY INCREASE DIFFICULT FEAR TRIGGERING DEMAND OTHER MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES. GOVERNMENT REACTION UNUSUALLY MILD; SO FAR AS KNOWN, NO ARRESTS MADE. STRIKERS ASSURED THEIR DEMANDS WOULD BE CONSIDERED. SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY STREET CLEANERS FROM MONDLANE'S (PRESIDENT FRELIMO) TRIBE IN MANJACAZE AREA.

COMMENT: IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT "SOMEONE" IS ORGANIZING AFRICAN LABOR INTO EFFECTIVE PRESSURE GROUPS. UNFORTUNATELY INTIMIDATION APPEARS PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE WITH "QUIET KILLINGS" BEING PRACTICED BY BOTH PORTUGUESE AND AFRICAN NATIONALISTS.

GP-4.