1964-02-28

LourencoMarques_1964-02-28-43AF

United States. Department of State.

http://hdl.handle.net/2144/13697

Boston University
Street cleaners Lourenco Marques staged 24-hour strike February 14 reportedly protesting Sunday work.

Now learn from reliable native source that many such workers "recruited" from countryside by one local administrator (administrador) who promised monthly wage 245 escudos (about $8.58) plus additional 50 escudos ($1.75) to be deposited each month their credit with local administrator. Strike resulted when some recruits found monthly deposit being deducted from 245 monthly wage, leaving them with net monthly wage 195 escudos. All cleaners struck, some in sympathy, and resumed work after city hall instructed Institute de Trabalho make investigation. Workers awaiting outcome.

Source states street cleaners are "recruited" from villages by local chiefs on instructions administradors. Workers sent Lourenco Marques work one year for city government and dare not protest because fear arrest, imprisonment. According source for railroad here (caminhos de ferro) still recruited at low pay for six month period with same fear protest. Source states all these workers completely intimidated.

Comment: Foregoing reveals Portuguese government still practicing forced labor tactics despite public statements contrary.