



NERVE GAS AT CASSINGA? According to France's *Le Nouvel Observateur* there is evidence that the South African troops who attacked a Namibian refugee camp at Cassinga, Angola, on May 4 used bombs containing a paralyzing nerve gas.

Angolan and Cuban troops who were the first to arrive at the scene are said to have been intrigued by the strange positions of some of the victims. Later, in checking the cause of death, it was found that many of the deceased, including SWAPO guerrillas assigned to guard the camp, had been killed by a singleshoot in the neck, seemingly without resistance. Survivors then testified that these victims were in a state of paralysis when shot by South African troops.

Angola, which has not yet made any official charges, is reportedly still collecting evidence with the help of Soviet and Cuban experts.

TUNISIAN UNIONISTS ON TRIAL: The trial of Habib Achour and half the national leadership of the Tunisian Trade Union Federation (UGTT) began in Tunis on September 14. Some 75 defense lawyers walked out almost immediately in protest of a ruling against their request for time to read a 5,000-page inquiry report they received the day before the trial.

The UGTT called a general strike last January in protest of government policies, and its leadership is blamed for the violence and destruction that followed in riots associated with the strike. The union claims the government provoked many of the incidents.

MINING CONDITIONS DISCUSSED: The prime minister of Lesotho, Dr. Leabua Jonathan, has initiated talks with the governments of Mozambique, Botswana, and Swaziland about the conditions for workers from all four countries who accept contract

work in the mines of South Africa. It is expected the four governments will make joint presentations to the South African Chamber of Mines calling for improved wages and working and living conditions for their nationals.

CLASSROOMS DOUBLE IN GUINEA

BISSAU: Spending a third of its budget on education, Guinea Bissau has succeeded in placing more than 11% of its population in some 600 primary and secondary schools. The 100,000 students currently enrolled are more than double the number registered in 1974, the year before independence.

Special training courses have enabled over 3,000 citizens to become teachers, even though many have only rudimentary skills and need further education.

At the level of secondary schools nearly three-fourths of the teachers are still foreigners, mostly from Portugal. By 1981, however, a new teachers college will be under construction so that secondary school teachers also can be trained in Bissau.

BOTSWANA STUDENT UNREST: Botswana police fired tear gas into a crowd of demonstrating students on the university campus near the capital of Gaborone last week in a successful effort to keep the protesters from marching into the city.

The students were angry at a government decision to prosecute a platoon commander for the killing of a British tourist and two South Africans. The three were slain after being taken into custody by a unit of the Botswana defense force in the tense eastern border area.

The tough measures against the university protesters, a correspondent reports, may be part of a general crackdown on left-wing activity. The government recently impounded passports of a group preparing to fly to Cuba for the youth festival there.