

Technical aid for Portuguese colonies

UNITED NATIONS. - Portugal will send technicians to its former African colonies although it must reduce financial aid, according to the Minister for Inter-territorial Co-ordination, Dr Antonio de Almeida Santos.

Dr Almeida Santos made the statement as part of his effort to get international aid for the colonial territories immediately.

If the world's community failed to aid the territories during the next few years, the potential for development of even the richer territories might be lost, he told a news conference.

"Mozambique, for example, is very rich," he said. "If Frelimo is aided until 1976, it will not need any more help, but it is at this moment that it needs help. Aid given next year will be too late."

Frelimo was the liberation movement which sustained the 13-year-old colonial war against the previous Portuguese government and now controls the provisional government.

During his 20-year residence in Mozambique he had often defended Frelimo members being prosecuted by the previous Portuguese government, Dr Almeida Santos said.

Asked how Portugal, which itself appealed to the U.N. General Assembly to be classified as a developing country, could afford to send technicians overseas, Portuguese ambassador Jose Veiga Simao said: "We are so close with our African brothers that we are willing to make some sacrifice." - Reuter