

# **SUPPORT**

**United Nations Membership**

**for the**

**REPUBLIC OF  
GUINEA-BISSAU**

# **STOP**

**A U.S. Veto in  
The Security Council**

# **NOW**

**Write, Wire Secretary of State  
Kissinger Calling for U.S. Support  
of REPUBLIC of GUINEA BISSAU  
Membership In The United Nations**



**AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA**

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ACTION NEEDED NOW TO SUPPORT UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP  
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU

Soon another crucial step in the struggle of the people of Guinea-Bissau for freedom will be taken in the United Nations Security Council. The new African Republic of Guinea-Bissau, now recognized by more than 80 nations will be applying for membership in the United Nations.

An application needs approval by a simple majority in the fifteen-member Security Council for it to be passed on to the General Assembly for consideration by all the member states. But one negative vote by one of the permanent members of the Security Council, the United States among them, brings rejection of the membership application.

The position of the United States on membership for the Republic of Guinea-Bissau has not been officially decided, but State Department representatives have recently indicated that the U.S. may be prepared to veto the application, or to rely on sufficient abstentions in the Security Council to prevent endorsement by a majority.

The United States has not yet given diplomatic recognition to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, which proclaimed its independence from Portuguese colonial rule on September 24, 1973. The U.S. rationale for not recognizing the Republic of Guinea-Bissau has been dubiously legalistic. Though the Republic of Guinea-Bissau effectively meets U.S. criteria, there has been no U.S. move toward recognition.

But the application for United Nations membership does not involve any specific United States' criteria for recognition. It is clear that in the General Assembly the new republic would receive the two-thirds majority vote necessary for membership. The issue at stake is whether the U.S., through a negative vote in the Security Council, will block from membership a country which clearly already has the international support necessary to be voted in by the General Assembly. A U.S. veto would mean that the General Assembly would not have the opportunity to vote at all.

A U.S. veto, however masked in legalisms, would constitute a direct affront to the Organization of African Unity, which has accepted Guinea-Bissau into membership and which has now elected Luis Cabral, President of the Council of State of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, a new Vice President of the Organization for the coming year. A U.S. veto would say in effect "what is legitimate for all of Africa is not legitimate for the United States".

While claiming to support "self-determination" for the Portuguese colonies in Africa the U.S. has given Portugal various kinds of military, economic and diplomatic support and has never condemned Portugal's colonial wars in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, nor taken any actions to force its ally to end the wars. The bankruptcy of these policies has been demonstrated by the victories of the liberation movements in Africa and the disintegration of the Portuguese colonial forces, culminating in the coup in Portugal on April 25. Instead of measures to end discredited policies of the past, a U.S. veto against the Republic of Guinea-Bissau would serve only to perpetuate U.S. obstruction of African freedom from colonial rule.



## THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau was proclaimed on September 24, 1973 by a National Assembly with representatives elected from all over the country. This was a culmination in the war for independence waged by the P.A.I.G.C. (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde) since 1963 against the Portuguese colonial rulers. While the Portuguese forces still occupy urban areas, military bases scattered around the country, and the Cape Verde Islands offshore, the effective control of three-quarters of Guinea-Bissau by the liberation forces and the strong support of the local population has been documented by many observers, including a United Nations mission in 1972.

The new government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau regards the remaining Portuguese forces as foreign troops occupying their country. On the international scene, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau has been recognized by 86 nations. Last year the country became a full member of the Organization of African Unity, comprising 42 independent African states. The new republic has been admitted to several international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Red Cross, and the International Postal Union. In May, Guinea-Bissau became a member of the World Health Organization by a 96 to 1 vote, the United States casting the single negative vote. Early this year a Permanent Observer Mission of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau for the United Nations was opened in New York.

Among the significant expressions of support in the United States for recognition of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau was a resolution passed last year at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association. Representative Charles Diggs, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa has issued a statement calling for recognition of Guinea-Bissau.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Your support is needed now for a positive U.S. vote in the United Nations Security Council on the application for membership of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

There are two key people to reach via letters and telegrams:

Mr. Henry Kissinger  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Senator J.W. Fulbright  
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations  
Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Please send your personal communication now. Communications from national organizations and community groups have added impact. Please act today.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCE MATERIAL CONTACT:

American Committee on Africa  
164 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10016 (212) 532-3700



A recent letter from the Department of State, excerpted below, indicates that the United States is apparently still not prepared to extend recognition to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 2, 1974

Mr. George M. Houser  
Executive Director  
American Committee on Africa  
164 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Houser:

"...When Ambassador Ross offered his estimate of the number of people controlled by the PAIGC, he was speaking of those estimated to be under its total administrative and political control. We believed that the major part of the countryside of Portuguese Guinea was under Portuguese control. This did not mean, however, that the PAIGC was unable to enter or move through much of that area nor that they did not have some support in those areas. It was the Portuguese, though, who exercised administrative control...."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Paul O'Neill, Jr.".

W. Paul O'Neill, Jr.  
Director  
Southern African Affairs

## Independence of Guinea-Bissau Welcomed by General Assembly

The United Nations General Assembly, in a resolution adopted on 2 November by 93 votes to 7, with 30 abstentions, welcomed "the recent accession to independence of the people of Guinea-Bissau thereby creating the sovereign State of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau".

The Assembly's action followed a request, made on 12 October by 56 States Members of the United Nations, for inclusion in the agenda of the Assembly's current session of an item entitled "Illegal occupation by Portuguese military forces of certain sectors of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and acts of aggression committed by them against the people of the Republic. The 56-nation proposal was made following the receipt by the Assembly's Fourth Committee of a cabled message dated 27 September from Mr. Aristides Pereira, Secretary-General of the Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde (PAIGC) which read as follows:

"First Popular National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau met 23 and 24 September in Boé liberated areas in east-

ern part of country. Aristides Pereira, Secretary-General of PAIGC delivered inaugural address. Assembly, expressing will of people, proclaimed State of Guinea-Bissau 24 September at 8:55 GMT. State of Guinea-Bissau was given a Constitution, and Assembly elected 15-member Council of State under presidency of our comrade, Luis Cabral, Assistant Secretary-General of our party. On proposal of Council of State, Assembly approved appointment of first executive body of Guinea-Bissau, a Council of Commissioners of State consisting of eight commissioners and eight deputy commissioners. Comrade Francisco Mendes (Chico Té), member of Permanent Secretariat of Executive Committee of PAIGC is presiding officer of Council in his capacity as Chief Commissioner.

"In this new situation, position of Portuguese colonialists as foreign aggressors against our people has been confirmed."