

# Pretoria 'wants to assassinate Machel'

*X Destab.*  
**MAPUTO.**

**PRESIDENT Samora Machel could be one of the chosen targets of the South African military hierarchy if the threatened raids against Maputo by South African armed forces are carried out.**

As the secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity was on Friday calling on member countries to assist beat the racist regime-backed MNR aggression, there were reports that the bandits were operating under the command of "white soldiers".

The case of Mozambique, said the OAU chief, is a test for the African nations in the commitment "to form a common front against apartheid".

Observers in Maputo believe that the assassination of the Mozambican

leader appears to be in the minds of the South African generals and there are already certain public indications of this.

In his threat on October 7, South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan declared that "Samora Machel appears to have lost control of the situation". He added that if the Mozambican leader "chooses terrorism and revolution, then South Africa would act accordingly".

People fleeing from the district of Mutarara on the border with Malawi say that "white soldiers" were commanding groups of MNR bandits who recently infiltrated this part of the country from Malawian soil.

Eyewitnesses who have escaped from Mutarara refer to these white men as "South Africans".

In a message to the 50 OAU member states, OAU Secretary-General Ide Oumarou accused Pretoria of trying to exploit the situation in war-torn and

drought-stricken Mozambique by "putting more and more pressure and reinforcing its destabilisation manoeuvres" on its neighbour.

"The case of Mozambique is a test for the African nations in their commitment to form a common front against apartheid . . . not in condemning but in accepting to collectively pay the price to put down this abhorred system," he said.

Meanwhile in Blantyre, the Malawi government has again denied allegations being made against it that it is being used as a launch pad by the MNR bandits. In a statement released through the Malawi News Agency, the government said in part:

"The government of Malawi is not aware of any incidents which involved MNR bandits carrying out acts of war or sabotage from Malawi into Mozambique." — Ziana-  
AIM-Reuters.