



SOME LESSONS FOR PRETORIA

A SENIOR Mozambican journalist this week claimed South Africa had plotted in 1985 to kill President Samora Machel.

The SA government has dismissed the charge as "ludicrous and sick propaganda".

Carlos Cardoso, director of the national Mozambican news agency, said Machel disclosed the plot to reporters on October 11.

Cardoso said he told Machel he believed recent statements by SA Defence Minister Magnus Malan showed that "they (South African military chiefs) are going to try to kill you."

Cardoso said Machel said: "They've already tried. In November 1985, they smuggled bazookas into Mozambique to be used to assassinate me."

"I am in their way. I have not sold out to anyone. My hands are clean," he said.

The plot, Cardoso said, was later discovered.

● An SA Defence Force spokesman said yesterday: "I am not prepared to comment on such absurd, ludicrous and sick propaganda."

Meanwhile, the Botswana Department of Information and Broadcasting

'THE PLOT TO KILL SAMORA MACHEL'

by Carlos Cardoso
director of
the Mozambique
news agency, AIM

said in a Radio Botswana broadcast on Friday that Machel's "death under rather mystifying circumstances should not be simply brushed aside".

"No stone should be left unturned in an effort to dis-

cover the real truth behind the plane's crash within the border of South Africa.

"Botswana's people are asking: why did the plane crash deep in South Africa when it was bound for Maputo? Why was communication with the plane reportedly lost 20 minutes before the crash? What was the real cause of the engine failure, if any?"

"We ourselves do not wish to pass hasty judgment, while investigations are underway. But we believe that the suspicions in the people's minds will only be removed by irrefutable facts or hard evidence." - Sapa.