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DEATH OF PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL : OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

The following is the full text of the statement read to the Mozambican nation on the evening of 20 October by Frelimo Party Political Bureau member Marcelino dos Santos, in the name of the Political Bureau, the Standing Committee of the People's Assembly (the Mozambican parliament), and the Council of Ministers (the cabinet).

Mozambican men and women,

It is with profound emotion and sorrow that the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Committee of the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique communicate to the entire Mozambican people, from the Rovuma to Maputo, the tragic death of the President of the Frelimo Party, and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Marshal Samora Moisés Machel.

This terrible event has plunged the Mozambican nation into mourning. It is an irreplaceable loss for our country, for our region, for Africa, and for all of humanity.

President Samora Moisés Machel, father of the nation and founder of our People's Republic of Mozambique, is the symbol of the unity of the Mozambican people, of heroism and of grandeur. He was the best son of our people. His death occurred when the Presidential aircraft, travelling from Mbala, Zambia, when approaching Maputo airport crashed, under circumstances that are not yet clarified, in South African territory, about five miles northwest of Namaacha.

President Samora Machel was returning from one more mission seeking the establishment of peace in Southern Africa and the development of regional cooperation. It was one more mission in support of freedom, justice, equality, peace and progress, causes to which he dedicated his courage as a fighter and his talent as a statesman. President Samora Moises was carrying out his task in the certainty that only through the elimination of armed banditry in Southern Africa would the peoples of the region be able to dedicate their efforts and energies to progress, development and social well-being.

The life of President Samora Moisés Machel is an example to all Mozambicans for its courage, coherence, dignity and total dedication to the cause of the Mozambican people, which was always his inspiration.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Committee of the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique understand the full gravity of the loss of their leader, and feel the immense sorrow of all Mozambicans, whether living in the country or abroad. This loss has occurred in a particularly difficult moment in our history and our lives, when the most reactionary of forces are ranged against our country in attempts to destroy our independence and the gains of the Mozambican revolution.

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This is the second time that, under tragic circumstances, the Mozambican people have lost their top leader, the man who guaranteed their most just longings and aspirations. When we were fighting for the liberation of our country, colonialism and its agents assassinated President Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, in the hope that through this criminal act they could impede the development of the struggle for independence. In that moment of sorrow we were able to unite courageously around Frelimo, redouble our determination and continue the struggle.

The Mozambican people have a heroic tradition of always knowing how to resist the greatest tragedies that fall upon them. They have the heroic tradition of knowing how to transform their suffering and sorrow into new and greater energies and capacities in order to overcome adversity and map out new paths that may allow them to win the future of peace and prosperity to which they so greatly aspire.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Committee of the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique have complete trust in the patriotism of the Mozambican people. Let all of us, Mozambican men and women, transform this tragic death into a powerful catalyst of national unity. Let us redouble still further our commitment to destroy the banditry that assails our country and to ensure that all the manoeuvres under way to destroy our country result in failure.

Today, more than ever, our national independence requires the unity of all Mozambicans. Let us unite around our national flag, around the leadership of the party and the state, in safeguarding the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Mozambique, in sharpening our vigilance, in fighting without quarter against everything that may divide us, in the intransigent affirmation of our patriotism, in the defence of the revolution.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Committee of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique present their feelings of deepest sorrow and profound condolences to the widow of our beloved President, Comrade Graça Machel, to his children, his brothers and all the bereaved family. We are experiencing this great sorrow with them with the same intensity. With them we will together build the future of the Mozambican motherland.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Committee of the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique decree, in homage to the memory of President Samora Moisés Machel, Hero of the Republic, a period of sixty days of national mourning. During this period the national flag should be flown at half mast. As from today and until the holding of the funeral no recreational, sporting or cultural activities shall take place. Official information on the funeral arrangements will be given in due course.

A LUTA CONTINUA
(The struggle continues)

Maputo, 20 October 1986.

(unofficial translation by AIM)

COMMUNIQUE ON VICTIMS

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique inform, with deep sorrow, that in the tragic event in which the President of the Frelimo Party and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Marshal Samora Moisés Machel, was a victim, the following members of the Presidential delegation also lost their lives :

Luís Maria de Alcantara Santos	-	Minister of Transport and Communications
José Carlos Lobo	-	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Aquino de Bragança	-	Director for the Centre for African Studies
Fernando Honwana	-	Personal Assistant to His Excellency the President of the Republic
Alberto Cangela de Mendonça	-	National Chief of Protocol
Muradali Mamadhussen	-	Private Secretary to His Excellency the President of the Republic
João Tomas Navesse	-	Assistant Director in the Directorate for Juridical and Consular Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ivete Amos	-	Secretary to His Excellency the President of the Republic
Oswaldo de Sousa	-	Interpreter for English of His Excellency the President of the Republic
Bernardino Chiche	-	Interpreter for French of His Excellency the President of the Republic
Gulamo Khan	-	Press Attache in the Presidency of the Republic
Daniel Maquinasse	-	Official Photographer of His Excellency the President of the Republic
Parente Manjate	-	Employee of the Presidency
Naçir Charamandane	-	Employee of the Presidency
Adão Gore Nhoca	-	Employee of the Presidency
Eduardo Viegas	-	Employee of the Presidency
Albino Falteira	-	Employee of the Presidency
Alberto Chauque	-	Employee of the Presidency
José Quivanhane	-	Employee of the Presidency
Azarías Inguane	-	Photographer with Notícias newspaper
Fernando Nhaquila	-	Flight Engineer
Orlanda Garrine	-	Stewardess
Ermeralda Luisa	-	Stewardess
Sofia Arone	-	Stewardess
Ilda Carão	-	Stewardess

At the same time, the following internationalist workers perished :

Henriques Bettencourt	-	Personal Physician to His Excellency the President of the Republic
Ulisses La Rosa Mesa	-	Personal Physician to His Excellency the President of the Republic
Yuri Novodran	-	Captain of the aircraft
Igor Kartamychev	-	Co-pilot
Oleg Koudrianov	-	Flight Engineer
Anatoli Choupilov	-	Flight Engineer

Travelling with the Presidential delegation were Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of the Republic of Zambia and of the Republic of Zaire, Cox C. Sikumba and Tokwalu Batale Okulakama respectively, both accredited in the People's Republic of Mozambique, and who also perished in the disaster.

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The following members of the Presidential delegation, some of whom are in serious condition, survived the tragic event : Eusebio Guido Martinho, Carlos Jambo, Fernando Manuel João, Almeida Pedro, Manuel Jairoso, Daniel Cuna, Jossefa Machango, Vasco Langa, João Rendicão, Vladimir Novoselov.

The death of senior party and state leaders and officials constitutes an irreparable loss. The personality of these comrades, their dedication to the national liberation struggle, their contribution to efforts at national reconstruction of the country, and their militant engagement in the cause of their country and the revolution have made them well-known, valued and respected by all of us.

The wisdom, the experience, the youth and the generous commitment to the ideals of national liberation, of development of the country and of national defence constitute a living and enduring example that these comrades have left for ever in our memory. The sacrifice of their lives in the service of the people and the state of Mozambique is a continuation of the noble tradition of the heroes of our struggle.

The physical loss of these comrades in the struggle is felt with deep consternation by all the Mozambican people.

We also painfully feel the loss of the internationalist workers who, side by side with our people, struggled to bring about the common ideals of peace and prosperity.

On the death of the distinguished Ambassadors, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique offer their most profound condolences.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique share the deep sorrow of the bereaved families, to whom they offer most profound condolences.

A LUTA CONTINUA
(The struggle continues)

Maputo, 20 October 1986

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