

Nigeria urges international probe

LAGOS. — Nigerian military leader Gen Ibrahim Babangida called yesterday for an international investigation into the death of President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

Prof Bolaji Akinyemi, Nigeria's Minister of External Affairs, said that Gen Babangida favoured an impartial inquiry because of the circumstances of the airline crash in South African territory that killed Mr Machel and at least 26 others.

"He (Gen Babangida) feels that when a head of state dies in an air crash inside another country, the circum-

stances call for a credible international investigative panel," Prof Akinyemi said.

"It would be in South Africa's own interest to allow it," he added.

Prof Akinyemi said he had already raised the proposal with the United States and Britain through their senior diplomats in Lagos.

A statement from Prof Akinyemi's Ministry called Mr Machel an "indefatigable, illustrious and truly heroic son of Africa". — Sapa-Reuter.

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