

**Pik Botha says Switzerland ready to help decode black box** The South African Foreign Minister has said that the Swiss government has agreed to make facilities available to decode a flight recorder from the plane in which President Machel died, according to Johannesburg radio on 14th November. The decoding could take place in Switzerland, he said, adding that the Swiss were willing to provide technicians to assist with the decoding. On 13th November, the South African agency reported that Pik Botha had denied that South Africa had interfered with Machel's plane in any way. He said that the investigation currently under way would settle the issue conclusively. He denied the version of events given by Soviet Civil Aviation Minister Vasin (see the Soviet section of SWB 8416 for details of Vasin's briefing in Moscow). Capital Radio, Umtata, reported on 13th November that Canada, Britain and the USA had refused a request from South Africa to assist with the decoding of the flight recorder on the grounds that they do not have the necessary capability. In a telephone interview with Johannesburg television on 14th November Botha said that he hoped that the decoding issue would be cleared up in a matter of days and that "we can't hold back forever the contents of those recorders".

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