

MAPUTO, 21 JAN (AIM) Mozambique's transport Minister, LT-GEN Armando Guebuza, said today that it is crucial to discover whether the VOR (Veryhigh frequency Omnidirectional Radio) that led president Samora Machel's plane fatally astray last October was a genuine radio signal or a decoy.

Gen Guebuza is also the chairman of the Mozambican National Commission of Inquiry into the plane crash.

He was speaking to AIM this evening in the wake of yesterday's FRELIMO party Political Bureau Communique announcing that Mozambique would not participate in the hearing organised by the South Africans into the events surrounding the crash, and which is currently taking place in Johannesburg.

"The investigation of the facts by the international Commission of Inquiry is by no means concluded", Gen Guebuza told AIM.

The international commission is a tripartite body composed of experts from Mozambique as the owner of the plane, the Soviet Union as the country of manufacture, and South Africa as the site of the crash.

"The facts already discovered demand that the investigation continues", said the Minister.

"The factual report (prepared by the tripartite commission) already contains the information that President Samora Machel's plane was following signals from a Vor which was not that of Maputo. It was this Vor that was the origin of the fatal turn of the plane away from its normal route, continued gen Guebuza.

"It is therefore important to know what Vor this was, where it was located, and whether it was genuine or a decoy", he said.

The Minister stressed that "from this fact arise others that preceded the crash, and that will be difficult to explain if this is not properly investigated and clarified."

Gen Guebuza added that "The investigation of this aspect should be carried out by the tripartite international commission".

(AIM)

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#### 86187E COMMUNIQUE

MAPUTO, 20 JAN (AIM) The FRELIMO party Political Bureau this evening issued a communique concerning the investigation into the causes of the plane crash in which President Samora Machel lost his life.

The following is the full text of the communique:

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the FRELIMO Party met on 20 January 1987 to analyse the factual report on the crash of the Presidential aircraft on 19 October 1986, and to pronounce upon the South African invitation for the People's Republic of Mozambique, as a directly

interested party, to participate in the South African Commission of inquiry appointed by that country's transport Minister.

Having analysed the factual report the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the FRELIMO party has decided:

1. To praise the work done by the National Commission of Inquiry and mandate it to continue with its work:

2. In the interest of discovering the whole truth and only the truth, the Political Bureau of the FRELIMO party has instructed the National Commission of Inquiry to propose to the South Africans that the work of the international Commission of Inquiry, composed of Mozambique, the Soviet Union and South Africa, should continue until the completion of the investigation of the facts.

3. For this reason the Political Bureau has instructed the Mozambican side not to participate in the proceedings of the South African Commission whose working sessions are scheduled to begin on 20 January 1987.

A luta continua (the struggle continues)

Maputo, 20 January 1987

(AIM)

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