

IV(B) - A F R I C A

S African account of Machel plane crash (ME/8472/ii) In a commentary on the inquiry into the crash in which President Machel was killed, Johannesburg radio reported that some four minutes before the crash, the plane's captain said to the crew, "there is no Maputo, electric power is off, chaps". The navigator said shortly before the crash, "there's nowhere to go, no non-directional beacons". An investigation into the crash, a report on which was signed by representatives of the Soviet, South African and Mozambican teams, indicated that there was nothing wrong with the aircraft and no sign of sabotage. The radio said that "the crash had clearly been caused by a misunderstanding between air traffic control at Maputo and the Soviet crew".