

Pik Botha gives evidence to Machel crash inquiry (ME/8475/ii) Speaking to the board of inquiry on 26th January, Foreign Minister Pik Botha denied acting unlawfully by taking charge of investigations while at the scene of the plane crash, the South African agency reported. In response to reports that he had contravened the civil aviation act by taking charge, he said: "A head of state had died, and I realised it was very serious. Certain aspects of the inviolability of heads of state were involved." Under cross examination by Cedric Puckrin, counsel for the inquiry, about reports that he had said that Machel's aircraft had no ground proximity warning system, when the board had established that it did have this system, Botha said: "My task was to try and alleviate the damaging effects of allegations against South Africa... These were the facts given to me."

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