

SOVIETS RELEASE NEW MACHEL CRASH EVIDENCE

MOSCOW. MOZAMBIKAN President Samora Machel's plane deviated from its course and crashed in South African territory because of "the deliberate influence of a powerful ground transmitter deployed outside Maputo airport", according to an independent Soviet analysis of the evidence collected by a tripartite commission.

The commission comprising Mozambique, South Africa and the Soviet Union, found traces of an abandoned army camp at the site where the Soviet TU-134 plane carrying President Machel from Lusaka to Maputo airport went off-course and crashed on October 19.

Mr Ivan Vasin, Soviet Deputy Aviation Minister cited this conclusion in "Izvestia" newspaper on Saturday and asserted that the totality of circumstances left no doubt that the crash was an act of subversion.

Although representatives from Mozambique, South Africa and the Soviet Union jointly discussed and agreed on the evidence, South Africa withdrew from the

commission on January 16 when a factual report was being signed and decided unilaterally to leave the final report to a court which opened hearings in Johannesburg on January 20.

The Soviets then carried out an analysis of the evidence independently.

In his interview to Izvestia Cde Vasin said the evidence showed that the plane's engines, systems, units, instruments onboard piloting, navigational and radio equipment were in perfect order.