

# Probe into Machel air crash not over

QUELIMANE — Mozambican President Cde Joaquim Chissano has said that it is still not possible to explain the air crash in which his predecessor Cde Samora Machel died last October.

Cde Chissano was speaking

to about 30 000 people at a rally in this central province town. The disaster was still being investigated.

"Yesterday we were under the dynamic leadership of Samora Machel," he said. "Today we feel his loss deeply. He died in a disaster that we still cannot completely explain."

Cde Chissano said the dis-

aster was still being investigated. "What we know up to now is that the crash was no accident. There is something more still to be uncovered in the investigation.

"The plane was not shot down," he continued. "The pilots were all right. The weather was not bad. The plane was not faulty. Why did the plane leave its normal flight path? This is what remains to be discovered."

Cde Chissano added that there were many questions about the crash that were still unanswered.

Cde Machel died on October 19 when the presidential Tupolev crashed at Mbusuzi just inside South Africa. The results made public by the tripartite commission of inquiry in January showed that the plane was lured off its correct route by a VOR (very high frequency omnidirectional radio).

The common hypothesis in Maputo is that this VOR was a decoy beacon deliberately set up to lure the plane to disaster. — Ziana-AIM.