

Aquino's luck runs out

AQUINO de Bragança had a lucky escape four years ago when a bomb blast killed his colleague Ruth First at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo.

He was less lucky this week aboard the flight that crashed in Komatipoort, killing President Samora Machel and 34 others.

Bragança had no leading, official position in the either Frelimo or the Mozambiquan state. Yet to those who knew him, it was not surprising that de Bragança should have been aboard plane.

Throughout the 1960s and the early 1970s he was deeply involved in the struggle against Portuguese colonialism. He employed his considerable intellectual talents along a variety of fronts: as an organiser of CONCP, the alliance of liberation movements in the Portuguese colonies; in his inexhaustible efforts, principally as an editor of *Afrique Asie*, to get the liberation movements' own story into the press; and in his keen analyses of colonialism's changing strategy and tactics.

One product of these years was the

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three-volume African Liberation Reader. First published in Portuguese in 1974 under the more appropriate title: *Quem è Inimigo?* (Who is the enemy?), a history of African liberation movements in all their diversity, in their own words.

With the independence of Mozambique in 1975 Bragança came home to start a new endeavour: the creation of the Centro de Estudos Africanos (Center for African Studies) at the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, along with Ruth First as Director of Research.

Bragança operated on the premise, developed through his years of work during the war against Portuguese colonialism, that the liberation of Mozambique was inextricably tied to the liberation of southern Africa.

His personal reflections and writings on the regional struggle, particularly in relation to Angola and Unita — the topic of last week's summit meeting in Zambia — made him a valued advisor to Frelimo and Machel.