

Thatcher praises efforts for peace

LONDON. — Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday sent a message of condolence to the government of Mozambique over the death of President Samora Machel and the Foreign Office praised his ceaseless efforts to bring peace to Southern Africa.

The Prime Minister's 10 Downing St office said Mrs Thatcher considered Machel a good friend and regarded his death in a plane crash in South Africa as a great loss. The text of the message was not released.

The Foreign Office said: "President Machel was not only the architect of his country's independence, he also made a crucial contribution to the Lancaster House Agreement on Rhodesia, and strove ceaselessly to bring peace to his own country and to the whole region of Southern Africa."

A Foreign Office statement expressed sympathy to the families of the crash victims and to the people of Mozambique.

Princess Anne visited Mozambique last year and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, who is currently with Queen Elizabeth II in Hong Kong, met Mr Machel in Maputo in July.

The Foreign Office said no decision had been made yet on British representation at the funeral.

— Sapa-AP.

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