

# Machel's Death Sets Off a Riot in Zimbabwe

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Special to The New York Times

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Oct. 21 — Hundreds of youths rioted here today in response to charges that South Africa was behind the death of President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

They assaulted South African commercial establishments, stoned the United States Embassy and randomly attacked white pedestrians and motorists.

The demonstrators chanted war songs and carried such signs as "Blood for blood" and "Time for action: castrate Botha," referring to President P. W. Botha of South Africa.

The South African Government, in a move to quell charges that it was involved in the crash Sunday night in South Africa of President Machel's jet, has invited international aviation experts and Mozambicans to take part in an inquiry into the incident. South African newspapers have said the plane strayed over South African territory in bad weather as it carried President Machel home from an African summit meeting in Zambia.

The Zimbabwean youths, whose numbers swelled to more than 1,000 at the peak of the protest, set fire to a South African Airways office in the city center and stoned a building housing the South African trade mission.

In addition to breaking windows at the American Embassy and the building housing the High Commission of Malawi, they set fire to the offices of Air Malawi. The Malawi Government has been accused of supporting rebels seeking to topple the Mozambican Government.

White pedestrians and motorists may have been most surprised by the attacks on them in a country that prides itself on good race relations after a war to end white domination. The demonstrators randomly struck at whites on the city streets, smashing their windshields, pulling them out of their cars and beating them.

An American Embassy spokesman

said that Michael Williams, described as a part-time correspondent for several American news organizations, was knocked off his bicycle and beaten repeatedly while a policeman watched from 20 feet away. Mr. Williams was not seriously hurt, according to the spokesman.

The protest was viewed here as one of the most violent since this country gained its independence in 1980. The reaction to President Machel's death seemed in some way to highlight the strong personal bond between Mr. Machel and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. Mozambique was the base for Mr. Mugabe's guerrilla army in the battle to end white Rhodesian rule in the 1970's.

Mr. Mugabe, who returned today from a four-day private visit to London, has yet to make a public statement on

the death of Mr. Machel, who was a key figure among African leaders opposed to apartheid.

The anger of the protesters, many of them students from the University of Zimbabwe, may have been fueled by reports in the Government-owned press over the last three days. In a front-page article under the headline "Pretoria 'Wants to Assassinate Machel,'" The Sunday Mail newspaper quoted unnamed "observers" as having said the assassination of Mr. Machel "appears to be on the line of the South African generals."

The article referred to a reported comment by Defense Minister Magnus Malan of South Africa this month that if Mr. Machel chose "terrorism and revolution, then South Africa would act accordingly."

"The fact that the Presidential air-

craft exceeded its destination and then crashed inside South Africa cannot be treated simply as coincidence," the newspaper said in an editorial, adding, "The most likely cause of the crash remains a direct South African attack on the presidential plane."

A spokesman for the American Embassy said that protesters broke 12 windows at the embassy and that three employees had minor injuries from flying glass and rocks.

The spokesman asserted that although police in full riot gear were stationed at the embassy well before the youths arrived they allowed the demonstrators to attack the building for about 10 minutes before moving in with tear gas. He said the embassy would send a formal letter of protest to the Zimbabwean Government.