

# Gas, batons after Machel meeting

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Teargas was fired and hundreds of students were baton-charged yesterday at the University of the Witwatersrand after a memorial meeting honouring Mozambique's President Samora Machel.

The meeting, held in the Great Hall, was addressed by UDF president Mrs Albertina Sisulu, Mr Aubrey Mokoena of the Release Mandela Campaign and the Rev Frank Chikane of the UDF.

After the meeting, students singing freedom songs marched towards the entrance of Wits, but were confronted by police who ordered them to disperse.

Professor Mervyn Shear, deputy vice-chancellor in charge of Student Affairs, tried in vain to mediate between students and the police before the baton charge.

At the lunch-time meeting, Mrs Sisulu said the death of Mr Machel was not only a tragic event but a 'setback for the struggle'.

"We did not see Samora as a foreign leader, or head of an African state, but one of our own commandos in our struggle against racism and exploitation," she said.

Mr Chikane said Mr Machel had died under "mysterious and controversial" circumstances.

He said blacks were "getting impatient" for change and called on South Africans and Mozambicans to resist the "aggression from Pretoria".