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## Shock over Machel's death

The Nigerian government reacted with shock to the news of the death of Mozambique President Samora Machel. In a statement in Lagos last Monday, the government noted that the tragic incident happened so soon after the Pretoria regime had threatened to hit at legitimate governments of the Frontline States on account of their support for economic sanctions against South Africa.

A week earlier, Nigeria's foreign minister, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi had appealed to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to restrain the apartheid regime from further hostile acts against Mozambique and other southern African nations.

The government said that the loss of President Samora Machel at this stage of the African liberation struggle would leave a vacuum that will be difficult to fill. It called for an international inquiry into the circumstances of his death.