

# TRUTH WILL OUT

AS THE probe into the crash that killed President Samora Machel continues, there is evidence that an attempt to restart peace negotiations between Frelimo and the Renamo rebels, who now apparently control large areas of Mozambique, may also have crashed with the ill-fated aircraft.

According to diplomatic sources in Pretoria, one of the dead passengers, Professor Aquino de Braganca, a close confidante of Mr Machel, was due in South Africa soon to explore the possibility of Pretoria resuming its role of mediator in attempts to get Frelimo and Renamo to the negotiating table.

This reported initiative suggests that in spite of the battering the Nkomati Accord has suffered, and accusations that South Africa is still aiding Renamo, the situation in Mozambique is so desperate that Frelimo might be willing to look at the possibility of forming a government of national unity.

The path of negotiation to resolve internal conflicts is, as we have said before, the only one that offers any hope of Mozam-

bique, Angola, South West Africa, and for that matter South Africa itself, progressing towards lasting national and regional stability.

What the attitude of Mr Machel's successor will be remains to be seen. But for the time being at least, the appropriate conduct for South Africa has been well put by Chief Buthelezi: 'Let us now be the kind of neighbour which grieving Mozambique requires in its hour of destiny.'

This brand of cool statesmanship is in sharp contrast to the tearful hysteria of President Kaunda, with his totally unfounded accusations of South African involvement in the plane crash, and the irresponsible and inflammatory reports carried by Zimbabwe's government-controlled media.

So far Pretoria has behaved with impeccable correctness and sympathy, and the open inquiry into the crash should put the whole matter beyond doubt — at least for those who value truth above reckless propaganda.