

B. AFRICA**Machel Crash Survivor Says RSA Tried to Recruit Him to MNR**

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Text of dispatch:

The South African authorities tried to persuade at least one of the survivors of the plane crash that killed President Samora Machel to abandon his work for the Mozambican Government and join the bandits of the MNR.

Vasco Langa, a protocol officer in the Mozambican Foreign Ministry, says that he was interrogated in hospital in the eastern Transvaal town of Nelspruit every day from 20th-24th October and that his tormentors tried to blackmail him into the MNR, suggesting that this would speed up his medical treatment. Langa returned to Maputo on 30th October and is currently in Moscow completing his recovery from the injuries he sustained in the crash. Before leaving Maputo he spoke at length to Mozambican leaders about his experiences in South Africa, both at the site of the crash and in hospital and the tape recording of this was made available to AIM today.

Langa was put on his own in a ward and was submitted to lengthy and often insulting interrogation. "They asked me why I was travelling with Samora", Mr Langa said. His first response was to lie, telling the interrogators that he was a Mozambican student in Zambia who had asked for a lift back to Maputo on the presidential plane. "But they already had our passenger lists and they saw my name", he continued. "They said Langa, you'd better tell the truth because we already have all the data on you and your job. You'd better say how long you've been travelling with Samora. I told them that I had only started [a] few days ago and that I was still new to the profession."

Langa recalled that the interrogators "began to ask about President Samora's tastes, about what he liked to do, what he thought about South Africa. I told them that I couldn't reply because I had only been working with the President a short time." They then "asked me questions about the last meeting the President had held with the Zimbabweans and what had been discussed there. They asked what I thought about it. I said I didn't know anything about the matter."

His interrogators then tried to persuade Langa to join the MNR. "They said don't you know that Renamo (the Portuguese acronym for the MNR) is advancing? Don't you know they're capturing important positions?" Langa told them that he didn't know anything about such matters; but the interrogators insisted. "Langa, we can see you're badly injured, they told me. We promise you that in two weeks we will operate on you and put you into intensive care. You'll get better. We're going to take you to Pretoria," they said. "In Pretoria you have to study and we want you to join the group that is working to liberate Mozambique. Don't you see? If you had gone to Mozambique, you would already have died."

This conversation seems to have taken place on the morning of 20th October, shortly after Langa had entered hospital. Later that day, Mozambique's Deputy Health Minister, Dr Fernando Vaz, visited the wounded and Mr Langa told him of the conversation. Mr Langa said that when his brother, who has been living in South Africa for seven years, came to visit him in hospital, after recognising him from pictures published in the South African press, they were prevented from speaking in their mother tongue, shangaan, until the arrival of a shangaan-speaking South African policeman, who listened to the conversation between the two brothers.