

Ruth First - SA gets the blame

Citizen
19/8/82

MAPUTO. — The banned African National Congress has blamed South Africa for the killing here on Tuesday of Miss Ruth First, a leading member of the ANC.

The ANC, in a statement released on Wednesday, accused South Africa of resorting to naked terrorism in an attempt to destroy the organisation, and vowed to avenge the killing of the anti-apartheid campaigner.

The statement said

Miss First's death would act as an inspiration in the ANC's fight to overthrow the SA Government. Miss First (59), who fled from South Africa and was living in Mozambique, died when a parcel bomb exploded in her office at the Eduardo Mandhlane University Centre for African Studies, where she was director of research.

Three people injured in the explosion are still in hospital.

Miss First was married to Mr Joe Sovlo, a

hardline Marxist regarded as the ANC's leading ideologist.

Some sources at the centre said the parcel bomb which killed Miss First came from the United States, but others said it was posted in Mozambique.

Mr Aquino de Braganca, the centre's director and a close adviser to Mozambique President Samora Machel, had received an envelope identical to that sent to Miss First,

the sources said. He opened it without incident only seconds before the explosion in which he was also injured.

The Mozambique news agency AIM quoted centre sources as saying they believed the bomb arrived last week and was intended for a UN conference on social science, then in session.

The conference was attended by exiled South African academics and representatives from Africa, Europe and the United States. — Sapa-Reuters.