

Machel wanted Vieira out

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Despite the strong friendship bonds that existed between the late Mozambique President **Samora Machel** and the then Minister of Security, **Sérgio Vieira**, information available now suggests the late President had plans to replace him by **Fernando Honwana**, one of his most trusted aids who died with Machel in the air crash in October, 19, 1986.

Machel considered Vieira a man with a degree of «**political inability**» which along with other traits of his character had turned the former Minister of Security into one of the most hated officials in the regime.

Machel was known to have had worries with the decrease in efficiency of the state political police **SNASP** (which fell under the Ministry of Security) (more on the subject in pg. 9).

Fernando Honwana, was considered to be a moderate and he had vast experience in state security matters. He was the de facto head of **SNASP's Counter-Intelligence Department** (known as **D-13**), despite his official title of Presidential Adviser.

D-13, which includes in its staff several Mozambican journalists, and operates in close liaison with another Department known as **DLCB (anti-Bandit Struggle Department** — literal translation). This agency gathers and processes intelligence concerning the activities of **Renamo**.

The place left vacant by **Fernando Honwana** is now being filled by his deputy in **D-13**, **José Carlos Estelra**. He is physically handicapped since a car accident a few years ago.