

Machel Gdn. foe shot ²²/₄ dead in ⁻/₈₃ Pretoria

From our Correspondent
in Johannesburg and
Joseph Hanlon in Maputo

The secretary-general of the Mozambique National Resistance was shot dead in Pretoria, police confirmed yesterday. Mr Orlando Cristina, a white Portuguese national, was killed on Sunday and the Government in Maputo was last night making urgent inquiries into the death.

The MNR guerrilla movement has shaken the Marxist Government of Mozambique's President, Samora Machel.

Mozambique and friendly black African states accuse the South African Government of training and equipping the MNR as part of a regional campaign of destabilisation aimed at keeping its black neighbours economically dependent. South Africa denies the claim.

The Mozambicans claim the MNR was formed in 1976 by the then Rhodesian Government in an attempt to disrupt Mozambique which was the base for the guerrilla army of Robert Mugabe, now Zimbabwe's Prime Minister.

The South African secret service was also involved in its birth, says Mozambique. According to Maputo officials, Cristina was one of the MNR's three top men with Jorge Jardim, a Portuguese businessman in pre-independence Mozambique and Evo Fernandez, a former secret agent in the pre-revolutionary Portuguese secret police, Pide.

The Mozambicans say Cristina played a crucial role in recruiting black Mozambicans for the rebels, whose goal was to replace socialism with a pro-business regime favouring close ties with South Africa.

Officials in Maputo say Cristina fled to Rhodesia just before Mozambique's independence, taking with him the files on Mr Jardim's alleged private armies forming the basis of the MNR.

Cristina spent four years in Rhodesia, until the eve of independence, when he went to South Africa. Officials in Maputo report that Cristina spent much of his time in South Africa and cite reports of his being directly involved in planning sabotage attacks on Mozambican power lines, roads, railways, and ports.