

Anti-Frelimo leader worked with CIO in Rhodesia

Citizen

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From TIM CLARKE

DURBAN. — Mr Orlando Cristina, who was mysteriously killed near Pretoria last week, was one of the original founders of the Fico movement in Mozambique.

Mr Cristina was one of two leaders of the movement (Fico virtually means "To Stay") which was formed to combat the Frelimo communist movement in Mozambique.

In 1975 when the Portuguese Government decided to hand over Mozambique to Frelimo, Mr Cristina addressed a massive rally near the Vasco da Gama Square in Maputo (then Lourenco Marques) and denounced the Portuguese Government.

He told an emotional crowd, most of them Fico supporters, that the Portuguese Government had the "blood on their hands of thousands of Portuguese soldiers who had lost their lives" in the terrorist war against Frelimo.

In particular he denounced the role of Dr Mario Soares, the then Portuguese Foreign Minister, saying Dr Soares was a "sellout".

Dr Soares could become the new socialist

Prime Minister of Portugal during the present general elections.

Mr Cristina was also responsible for the numerous clandestine broadcasts which attacked metropolitan Lisbon for handing over Mozambique to Frelimo.

When the Frelimo government was installed in Maputo, Mr Cristina worked closely with Rhodesian Intelligence (the Central Intelligence Organisation). During his stay in Zimbabwe he had direct access to the former officer commanding the Zimbabwe armed forces, General Peter Walls and also had several meetings with the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, Mr Ian Smith.

When Mr Cristina fled to Zimbabwe he took with him a number of Mozambique secret police, known as Pide.

Contrary to recent Press reports in South Africa Mr Cristina was highly regarded by the CIO. He was a close friend of the head of the CIO, Mr Ken Flowers.

Mr Cristina was given the task of locating Bishop Abel Muzorewa in Mozambique when it was obvious that the Smith regime could no longer survive in Zimbabwe.

Bishop Muzorewa was living in exile in Mozambique and Mr Cristina managed to persuade him to return to Zimbabwe to try and lead a moderate party comprising both Blacks and Whites because the Whites in that country feared the return of the present Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, with his Marxist ideas.

Bishop Muzorewa became the first Black Prime Minister of Zimbabwe in internal elections which were not recognised by Britain and other major Western powers.

Bishop Muzorewa was eventually defeated in the

election which swept Mr Mugabe to power.

The death of Mr Cristina has come as a shock to many former Zimbabwean intelligence officers now living in South Africa.

At one stage Mr Cristina was asked to lead the dreaded Flechas unit in Mozambique, which was greatly feared by Frelimo.

The leader of the unit at one time was General Antonio de Melos, who it was later feared was murdered by Frelimo although this had never been proved by Mozambique courts.

Mr Cristina was also a close friend of General Constans de Azzira, who prosecuted the war against Frelimo relentlessly in Mozambique but was eventually sacked by metropolitan Lisbon.