

Pretoria accused of murder mission

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Johannesburg - Mozambique claims to have captured a South African military intelligence officer who says he was sent in to the country to take part in an attempt to assassinate President Samora Machel, Michael Hornsby writes.

The South African, identified as Pieter Benjamin Schoeman, was shown on Mozambique television. He told an interviewer that he had been given several missions, one of which was "the assassination of the President of Mozambique during the fourth congress of Frelimo". The ruling Frelimo Party congress ended last Saturday.

His other tasks had included collecting information about The Cabora Bassa dam, the Post and Telecommunications Office and the Polana Hotel in Maputo, which housed many of the foreign guests at the congress.

The South African Defence Force maintained yesterday that no trace of a Pieter Schoeman existed in army records.