

# MACHEL CRASH PROBE IN SA THIS MONTH

JOHANNESBURG.

THE South African commission of inquiry into the air crash in which President Samora Machel of Mozambique was killed, will begin in the Rand Supreme Court on January 20.

This was announced by the chairman of the five-member commission, Mr Justice Margo, who said in a statement that the

full commission of inquiry would be present to hear evidence on the accident.

A reliable source said on Wednesday that this would be an inquiry to determine what caused the accident and not to make out a case against any of the parties involved.

Legal teams had been appointed for the commission and the South Afri-

can state departments, and the inquiry would be held in open court along normal court procedures.

Mozambique, as the state of registry, and the Soviet Union, as the state of manufacture of the aircraft, had been invited to be represented at the inquiry to call or cross-examine any witnesses or to present any further relevant information, he said.

Investigative teams from the two countries had participated fully in drawing up the factual preliminary report, which was to form the basis of the inquiry.

He said he believed the inquiry might extend into the first weeks of February although all attempts would be made to complete the bulk of the work before the end of the month as a commission member, Colonel Frank Borman, had to be in the United States on January 31.

The commission consists of Mr Justice Margo; a retired British appeal court judge, Sir Richard Eveleigh; an American astronaut, Colonel Frank Borman; a retired chief inspector of air crashes of the department of transport in Britain, Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson; a former commissioner of civil aviation in South Africa, Mr Jock Germishuys, and the chairman of the Airlines Association of South Africa and managing director of Comair, Mr Pieter van Hoven. — Ziana-Sapa.