

**Machel crash inquiry (ME/8471/ii)** The first witness to address the six-man inquiry sitting in the Rand Supreme Court building on 20th January was Mr Renier van Zyl, Director of Aviation Safety in the Department of Civil Aviation, who recounted the aircraft's last moments as set out in the factual report agreed to and signed by South Africa, Mozambique and the Soviet Union on 16th January, the South African agency reported. The commission had been told by Mr Cedric Puckrin, the lawyer representing the inquiry, that Mozambican and Soviet delegates were not represented, despite being "repeatedly informed" that the board was sitting, the agency said. A communique issued by the Frelimo Political Bureau following a meeting held to examine the report on the crash was carried by Maputo radio the same day. It stated that the Political Bureau had instructed the Mozambique side not to take part in the work of the South African commission, since it had proposed that the work of the trilateral international commission of inquiry should continue until the "completion of the investigation of the facts" with a view to obtaining the "whole truth".

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