

IV(B) - A F R I C A

Machel crash inquiry: false beacon charge denied (ME/8474/ii) An "expert" in aviation safety, Col Desmond Lynch, has refuted allegations made by Mozambique some time after the crash that South Africa had set up a dummy beacon near the site of the crash, Johannesburg radio reported on 23rd January.

Speaking in Maputo on 23rd January, Col Sergio Vieira, Mozambique's former Security Minister, said that the day after the crash he had been told by "senior South African government officials", including Police Commissioner Gen Coetzee, that they had no interest in documents found in the wreckage and that all documents and personal objects would be sent to Mozambique immediately, Maputo radio reported. He also said that he brought back "some things" which he delivered to the Frelimo Political Bureau.