

**Machel crash inquiry adjourns to consider evidence** On 26th January the six-member board of inquiry adjourned to consider five days of technical evidence, and it could be up to two months before their report becomes public, the South African agency reported. In his closing address Cedric Puckrin, counsel for the board of inquiry, said the crash had probably been caused by "the descent of the plane in bad weather conditions to below the minimum safe altitude without following the prescribed procedures for an instrument approach"; he dismissed allegations that the plane was lured to its destruction by a false beacon. The search and rescue teams, Puckrin added, had taken "some time" to reach the crash site because of the nature of the terrain and the location; Frank Borman, a member of the board, commented that "three-and-a-half hours is an inordinate time to get there, especially when a head of state has been killed".

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