

# Leader's humble origins

**Herald Reporter**  
**PRESIDENT Samora Moises Machel** of Mozambique and nationalist leader, was born in the then Lourenco Marques (now Maputo) in October 1933 of a poor family.

He trained as a male nurse before he was sent to Algeria by Frelimo for military training in 1963. He later organised a training camp programme in Tanzania.

In May 1970 he was elected President of Frelimo and later President of Mozambique in June 1975 when Mozambique became independent.

During his career, Cde Machel received several awards and medals from different countries.

He received the Joliot-Curie Gold Medal of the World Peace Council in 1977, the Lenin Peace Prize in 1977, Order of Suhbaatar (Mongolia) in 1978, Order of Friendship in 1980, the Grand Sash, Order of Infante Henrique in 1981 and finally Hero of the People's Republic of Mozambique which he received in 1982.

President Machel was educated at Gaza Primary School and the Catholic Mission of St Paul at Mocimboa.

He trained as a male

nurse at Miguel Hospital where he worked as a nurse and later as medical assistant until he left the country in 1963 to join Frelimo.

After attending an instructors' course in Algeria, Cde Machel became the head of the first Frelimo training camp in Tanzania.

In 1964, Cde Machel led a 200-strong guerilla group on a raid inside Mozambique which marked the beginning of the war for liberation in Mozambique.

Cde Machel's devotion to the cause, his efficiency and military abilities impressed the founder-member of Frelimo, Cde Eduardo Mondlane, and the Frelimo hierarchy.

With Frelimo's success increasing, Cde Machel was named commander-in-chief of the guerilla army in 1968. He had been appointed secretary for defence in 1966.

As President of an independent Mozambique, Cde Machel in July this year appointed Mozambique's first Prime Minister since its independence, a move designed to free the President's own hands to concentrate on the war against the South African-backed MNR bandits.



**PRESIDENT Machel** being welcomed by the late Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi at the New Delhi Non-Aligned summit in 1983.