

'Enormous implications for Southern Africa'

Tributes pour in for Maputo leader

WORLD leaders and organisations last night reacted to the death of President Samora Machel who died in a plane crash over South Africa on Sunday night.

Washington. — The United States expressed profound regret over the death of the Mozambican leader. The State Department said that Secretary of State Mr George Shultz had great respect for him. One official said his death would have enormous implications for Southern Africa.

Lisbon. — Portugal's leaders were unanimous in expressing their sorrow over the death of President Machel, who led the struggle against Portuguese colonial rule.

"President Machel was a symbol of courage and political realism and his efforts for peace in Southern Africa should act as an example for others," Prime Minister Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva said.

Harare. — Zimbabwe Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe, a close friend of Mr Machel, broke off a trip to London when he heard of the crash. Deputy Prime Minister Mr Simon Muzenda in a message of condolence said: "Our deepest condolences on the tragic loss of this gallant fighter for the emancipation of the people of Mozambique and indeed, of the entire African continent."

Kinshasa. — Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, one of the last people to see Mr Machel alive, decreed an official mourning throughout his country. President Mobutu had just returned from a summit meeting with leaders of the Frontline States in Zambia which Mr Machel attended. Zaire's Ambassador to Mozambique, Mr Tokwa Wulu (40) was among those killed in the crash with Mr Machel, sources close to the Foreign Ministry said.

Nairobi. — Kenya declared official mourning from today until Mr Machel is buried. President Daniel Arap Moi, speaking at a Kenyatta Day ceremony, asked a crowd of thousands of observe a minute of silence.

Dar Es Salaam. — A Foreign Ministry official said Tanzania would not comment until Mozambique announced Mr Machel's death. The late President fought the Portuguese rulers of Mozambique from bases in Southern Tanzania in the early 1970s and was a close friend of former head of state Mr Julius Nyerere.

The Pan Africanist Condenced, one of the exiled Opposition groups, fighting the South African Government, yesterday expressed deep shock and blamed South Africa for Mr Machel's death.

Ouagadougou. — Burkina Faso decreed three days of mourning in honour of Mr Machel. The ruling National Revolutionary Council described Mr Machel's death as a "great loss for Africa and peace and freedom-loving peoples for whose cause he devoted himself entirely."

Gaborone. — Botswana leaders sent condolences to Mozambique state-owned Radio Botswana, in a special programme honouring the late President, questioned the circumstances of his death. It said: "We feel particularly grieved and dumbfounded that such an important leader of Africa should have died under such intriguing circumstances."

Bamako. — Mali decreed seven days of mourning following the death of President Machel described as a "hero" by President Moussa Traore. In a message of condolences to the Mozambican Government he praised Mr Machel's contribution to Southern Africa's struggle against the Pretoria government.

Cairo. — A statement from President Hosni Mubarak's office distributed by the Middle East News Agency said: "Egypt received with deep regret the news of the death of Samora Machel, president of the sisterly republic of Mozambique."

"He was a son of the African continent and one of its great leaders who devoted his life to the freedom and union of Africa, and steadfastly resisted the apartheid regime in South Africa."

A three-day nationwide period of mourning was declared.

London. — Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal said the death of Mr Machel was the fault of South Africa, regardless of the circumstances of the plane crash. "There will be widespread recognition that whatever the circumstances of the plane crash in which he died, Samora Machel and his colleagues were casualties of the South African Government's policies of destabilisation of Frontline States."

Lusaka. — Zambia's official news agency Ziana also implicated the South African Government and the rebel Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) movement in the crash.

The agency said the plane was "believed to have been shot by the MNR movement inside South Africa on the border with Mozambique".

Harare. — President Canaan Banana sent a message of condolence to the Mozambican Government.

The President said although he would be greatly missed, his spirit would live in the hearts and minds of all who knew and loved him.

"We are greatly saddened by this tragic loss of a dear brother and comrade-in-arms, whose death is a great loss to his wife and family, to the fraternal people of Mozambique, their government and also to all the peoples of Zimbabwe, Southern Africa and the entire continent of Africa as a whole, as well as to all progressive peoples the world over."

Describing the deceased President as a brave revolutionary and champion of peace and justice whose wise leadership would be missed, Pres Banana said it was "the solemn duty of us all to pick up his spear" and continue the struggle against the forces of reaction until the achievement of his vision of a Southern Africa free of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid and all other forms of exploitation and racism.

Stockholm. — Sweden, one of Mozambique's biggest aid donors, described the death of Mr Machel as a blow to the struggle for ending apartheid in South Africa. Foreign Minister Mr Sten Andersson called Mr Machel "one of the driving forces of the frontline states and their fight for a peaceful phase-out of apartheid".

Oslo. — Norwegian Prime Minister Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland said Mr Machel's death was a painful loss for the whole of Southern Africa and for those fighting for a peaceful end to apartheid.

Brussels. — Mr Jacques Delors, President of the European Community Commission, sent his condolences to the Mozambican government. "The Commission joins Mozambique in mourning and renders homage to the memory of a man who did so much for his country's independence," Mr Delors said.

Rome. — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said President Machel's death robbed the world of a freedom fighter and a great political leader. He called Mr Machel "a heroic fighter for the freedom of his country and of the whole of Africa and a political leader of very great stature and international prestige".

Dublin. — Sinn Fein, political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, expressed its condolences to Mozambique.

A statement from Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said: "As a veteran of Frelimo and the national liberation struggle, President Machel always defended the interests of the oppressed and the Mozambican revolution".

Algiers. — Africa has lost one of its "revolutionary sons" with the death of Mozambican President Samora Machel, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid said yesterday.

Mr Machel "resisted with courage and determination the aggressive and destabilising designs of the regime in Pretoria and the armed bands it supports," Mr Chadli said.

His memory would "continue to serve as a source of inspiration and example to Mozambique,

the Frontline States and African peoples in their common struggle," he added.

New York. — The UN General Assembly yesterday delayed the start of its annual Cambodia debate to pay homage to the memory of President Machel.