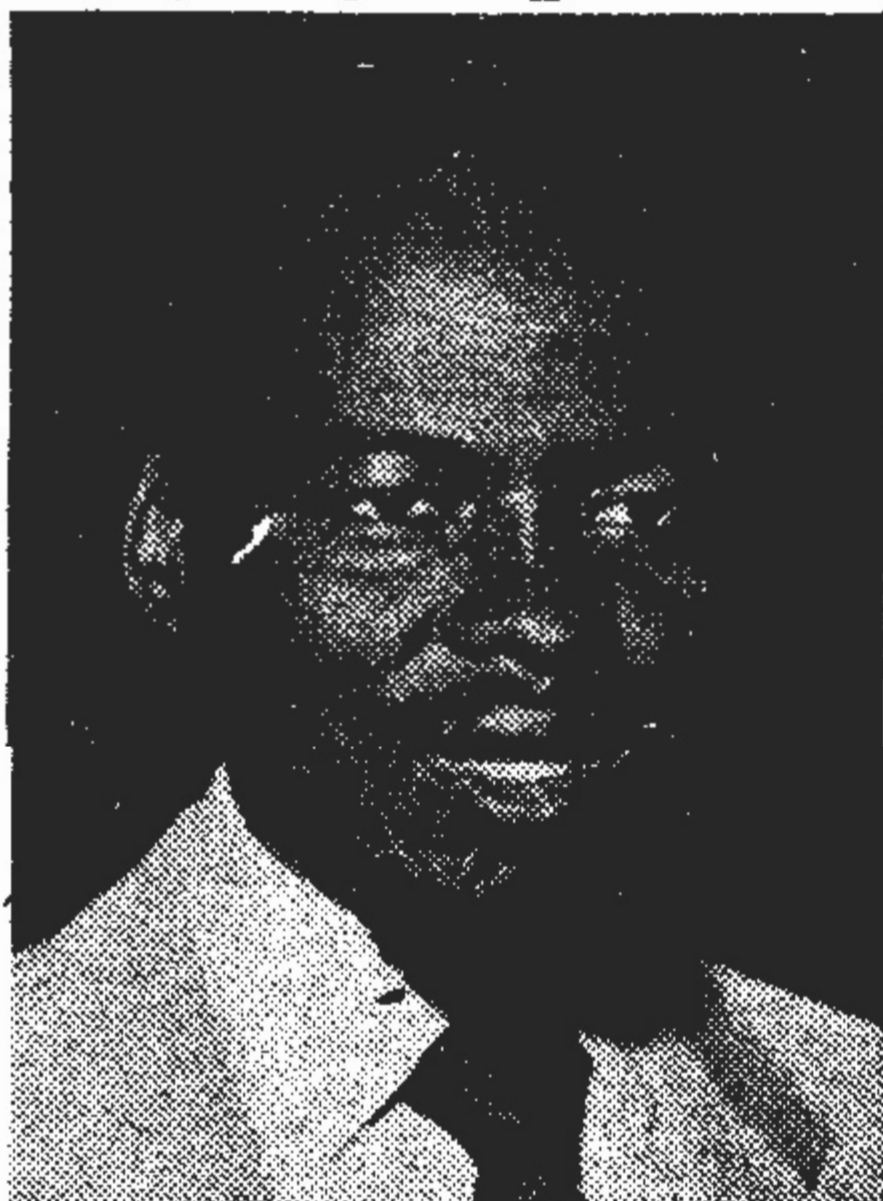


Mozambican President died at crucial time

MOZAMBIQUE'S President Samora Machel, who died last Sunday night in an air crash, was killed at a time when his country was beginning to show its decisive commitment to overcoming under-development.

Just recently, President Machel said the key to the development of Mozambique lay in agricultural



CDE CHISSANO

development, which partly need the injection of foreign investment. To this effect the government in Maputo produced its new Foreign Investment Law.

"Our immediate aim is to meet our people's basic needs, and so agriculture is our priority: Producing food to end hunger; producing raw materials for the food, textile and footwear industry.

"To overcome illiteracy, to advance education, technical and vocational training, and to overcome endemic disease are part of our development effort."

Mozambique has an estimated 15 million hectares of land suitable for farming. About 100 000 ha of this land has irrigation systems that need to be rehabilitated. The avail-

By Davison Maruziva

ability of numerous rivers with their valleys and plains makes it possible to build irrigation systems that could, within the next 10 years, provide more than half a million hectares where crops could be grown.

President Machel also said that the struggle for Mozambique's economic development had been an essential consideration of the 11 years of that country's independence.

"However, our efforts have been frustrated by factors deleterious to our economy: the natural disasters, the international economic crisis and the terrorism waged by armed bandits, promoted, in-



GEN CHIPANDE

spired and guided by South Africa."

President Machel, up to the time of his death believed that only an end to apartheid would allow for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in Southern Africa, whose people will at last be able to devote their energies to development, progress and prosperity.

"The Mozambican people love peace, because they realise that without peace there can be none of the economic progress they so dearly wish.

"In our country, the

fight to rid ourselves of the armed bandits is the priority of every Mozambican citizen. We have been able to neutralise terrorist activity and so ensure security and calm in the various parts of our country."

Most of the work that he was pursuing up until the time of his death was the brief of the Fourth Congress of Frelimo (Frente de Libertacao de Mocambique).

The congress approved several policy documents with the need to support



CDE DOS SANTOS

agriculture outside the state farms as their common theme. But there was also a call for the reorganisation of the state farming sector through provision of more seeds, machinery and consumer goods.

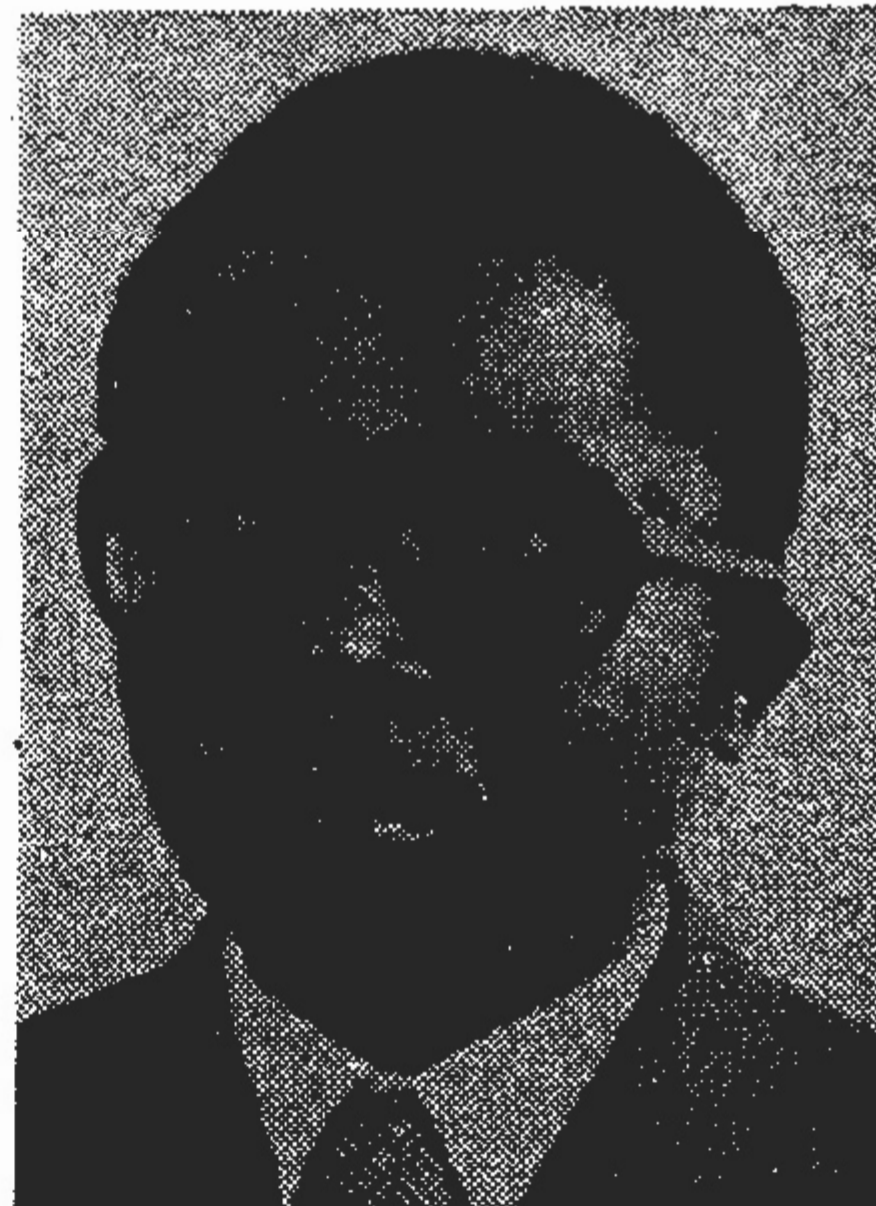
This departure came at a time when Frelimo looked to its traditional origins — the peasant roots, where its base dur-

ing the war against the Portuguese lay. The Fourth Congress effectively therefore recognised the peasants as the principal force of the revolution in Mozambique.

But in just the last four weeks, the MNR bandits overran a number of important towns especially in northern Mozambican provinces of Nassa and Tete.

President Machel has always been critical of some of his people in Mozambique, saying that some of them had become corrupted.

And while the Frelimo party's central committee will run the affairs of the state for the time being, and until a clear successor is elected, there are at least five promising



LT-GEN GUEBUZA

candidates for presidency of Mozambique. These are Cde Marcelino dos Santos; Foreign Affairs Minister, Cde Joaquim Chissano; Prime Min-

ister Mario da Graça Machungo; Defence Minister, General Joaquim Alberto Chipande; and Lieut-General Armando Emilio Guebuza, Minister in the Presidency.

All the five are part of the 11-member Frelimo politburo, and are all in the top 10 bracket of the 130-member central committee of Frelimo.

Cde Marcelino dos Santos is the number two man in the Frelimo hierarchical structure, while Cde Chissano ranks fourth. The announce-



CDE MACHUNGO

ments of President Machel were made by both Cde dos Santos and Cde Machungo.

However, it is both Cde Chissano and Cde Machungo, who are considered most likely to continue the honest pragmatism of President Machel. Both are said to have been much closer to the President. Both are not given to wild rhetoric.