

Machel: As South Africans saw him

MOZAMBICAN President Samora Machel's death was met with shock by black political organisations, trade unions and prominent leaders this week.

● World Alliance of Reformed Churches president Dr Allan Boesak said: "I am numb with shock. It is a great tragedy - not just for Mozambique, but for the whole region."

● The United Democratic Front expressed its "deep shock at the tragic and untimely death of Machel and other senior Mozambican officials... at a time when the heroic people of Mozambique needed Machel's leadership and wisdom more than ever before".

"We know Mozambicans have tremendous courage and resilience. We are confident that a thousand more Machels will emerge to take up from where our fallen comrades have left off."

● In a message of con-

lence to the Frelimo Politburo and Mozambique's people, the Azanian People's Organisation said: "There is no doubt in our minds that this is but a part of the well-orchestrated imperialist campaign to reverse the gains achieved by the socialist forces."

● Media Workers' Association of SA general-secretary Tyrone August said Machel's tragic death "deprived the world of one of its greatest working class leaders".

"He dedicated his life to the cause of freedom and justice - not only in Mozambique, but also in the rest of Africa. His country strongly supported the struggle of SA's oppressed people."

● The Cusa/Azactu Federation called for an international investigation into Machel's death "without hindering access to experts". The federation said: "We ex-

tend our support to the struggling masses of Mozambique who continue to struggle against forces that destroy what they have built."

● The Congress of SA Trade Unions said it was stunned by the death of "one of the greatest African leaders of our time".

Cosatu said Machel's death was a heavy blow to all those locked in the fight against apartheid and exploitation in Southern Africa.

● Release Mandela Campaign spokesman Aubrey Mokoena said: "The RMC is outraged by the dramatic suddenness with which Comrade Machel and other Frelimo officials met their death."

● KwaNdebele Chief Minister SS Skosana said Machel's death had come as a great shock to the people of KwaNdebele.

Machel: As the world saw him

WORLD leaders this week expressed shock and suspicion at President Samora Machel's death and called for an international investigation into the crash in SA.

● Zambia: President Kenneth Kaunda accused the SA government of being responsible for the plane crash and called for an independent international investigation. Kaunda told the official opening of the International Free Trade Unions Federation in Lusaka: "South Africa stands in the dock until proved otherwise. I accuse them openly."

● Indonesia: Foreign Ministers from non-communist south-east Asian nations and the European Community said they were "shocked and dismayed" by Machel's death. The Ministers from the 12-member EC and the six members of the Association of South East Asian

Nations meeting in Indonesia extended "their deep sympathy to the families of those who died and the people of Mozambique."

● New Zealand: Prime Minister David Lange said Machel had died at an unfortunate time for Southern Africa. Machel was a determined, pragmatic leader who would be mourned throughout Southern Africa, Lange said. "His death comes at an unfortunate time - when, with other leaders, he was seeking to resist South Africa's attempts to destabilise the region."

● Nigeria: The government called for an international investigation into the plane crash. A government statement said it "was lamentable that the life of this illustrious and courageous son of Africa should terminate so soon after the threat by South Africa to hit at the legitimate government in Mozam-

bique and other countries because of their support for economic sanctions against the racists."

● Malawi: The Malawi parliament, led by life President Kamuzu Banda, observed a two-minute silence. Banda, speaking before the opening of parliament, said: "With Machel's death, Africa has lost one of its leaders."

● Ghana: Leader Jerry Rawlings said Machel's death was a great loss to Africa's "revolutionary cause".

● Tanzania: President Ali Hassan Mwinyi said Machel's death was a "great blow to the liberation struggle in Southern Africa."

Tanzania decreed a period of national mourning from Tuesday until Machel's burial.

● Kenya, Djibouti, and Madagascar sent messages of condolences to Mozambican leaders.