

# Guardian Viewpoint

## *A stunning loss*

The Guardian joins progressive forces throughout the world in expressing deep sorrow at the death of Mozambican President Samora Machel. It is a stunning loss for Mozambique, for the Southern African revolution and for all people engaged in the struggle for justice.

While the cause of the fatal plane crash has not yet been established, in the context of Pretoria's war against Mozambique, "South Africa stands in the dock until proved otherwise," as Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda put it.

We believe the movement here will best honor Machel's memory by continuing to fight for the causes to which he dedicated his life—the liberation of Southern Africa and the ending of all systems of exploitation. This tragedy punctuates the particular urgency of tightly link-

ing the anti-apartheid and Central America solidarity movements to the issue of the growing contra wars against the African frontline states.

As Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has stressed, there is "one policy," emanating from Washington, that guides the thugs who blow up bridges and factories, kill and maim civilians and destroy food supplies in Nicaragua, Angola and—most destructively—in Mozambique. Defense of the frontline states is key to dismantling apartheid and to protecting the right of all independent states to construct a new society.

Samora Machel was a uniquely gifted popular hero, and his death will be keenly felt for a long time to come. We add our tears, anger and resolve to those of the beleaguered, struggling people of Mozambique.



*Machel with Frelimo combatants.*