

# We salute Mozambique's Fallen

On the anniversary of the fatal plane crash that killed President Samora Machel and 33 others we honoured the memory of some of Mozambique's finest sons and daughters, as well as of the Cuban and Soviet internationalists who died with them on the night of the 19th of October 1986.

Among the victims were Luis Alcantara Santos, Minister of Transport and Communications; Jose Carlos Lobo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Aquino de Braganca, director of the Centre of African Studies at Eduardo Mondlane University; Lt. Col. Fernando Honwana; and Alberto de Mendonca, chief of protocol.

**Luis Maria de Alcantara Santos**, born on 26 July 1928, was Minister of Transport and Communications. He was a civil engineer by training, and worked for many years as an engineer in the ports and harbours of Mozambique. He was highly regarded technically, and belonged to various professional associations at a high level. He taught marine hydraulics at university level, and had published professional papers on the subject.

During the transition to independence in 1974-1975, he was Minister of Public Works in the joint Frelimo-Portuguese government, under the prime minister-ship of Joaquim Chissano. Alcantara Santos became national director of Ports and Railways after independence in 1975, at a time when large numbers of trained Portuguese personnel were fleeing back to Portugal.

He was involved in the setting up of Mozambique's small merchant navy, and in the establishment of professional training schools for railways, ports, and shipping.

Alcantara Santos was a party member and in his spare time, the vice-president of Mozambique's Olympic committee.

He was president of SADCC's committee of transport ministers; and as such, he played an important role in the development of the Beira Corridor.

Jose Carlos Lobo was born on 14 September 1942 in Quelimane, and went to the Catholic mission school in Quelimane City. In 1963 he entered the secondary school there, but within a year he and a group of secondary school students fled the country secretly to join FRELIMO. After doing military training at Kongwa in Tanzania, he was sent to the Mozambique Institute in Dar es Salaam, where he was appointed dean.

In 1973 he graduated in economics and geology from a university in the United

States.

On returning from his studies abroad, he became headmaster of the FRELIMO secondary school, first in Bagamoyo, just north of Dar es Salaam, and later, after independence, in Ribawe in Mozambique. Although a dedicated and successful teacher, Jose Carlos Lobo also worked as a diplomat, being appointed head of the International Organizations desk in the Mozambican foreign ministry in 1975.

Jose Carlos Lobo was the first Mozambican ever to reach the rank of ambassador. He was permanent representative at the United Nations for many years, until in 1983, because of his geological training, he was appointed Mozambique's first Minister of Natural Resources.

One year later, he returned to professional diplomacy as one of Mozambique's two Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the post he held at the time of his death.

Jose Carlos Lobo was decorated for his role in the liberation struggle, and left a widow and two young children.

Aquino de Braganca was born in Goa,

India, then a Portuguese colony, on the 6th of April 1928, into a family of customs officials. He studied chemical engineering in Goa, and at the age of 22 left India to come to Africa. He settled for a time in Maputo, then Lourenco Marques, where the racialism which he experienced left a profound mark on his political outlook.

Aquino de Braganca left Mozambique to pursue further studies at the University of Grenoble in France, where he met other nationalists from Vietnam and Mozambique, including, for the first time, Marcelino dos Santos. Both of them were active in the anti-colonial student movement of the fifties and early sixties in Paris.

Aquino de Braganca worked as a newspaper editor in Morocco, where he also held the post of private secretary to the nationalist leader Mahdy ben Barca.

In 1962 he moved to Algeria, and played an important part in the founding of the magazine Revolution Africaine and the newspaper El Moujahid. It was in Algiers that he met such African revolutionaries as Amilcar Cabral, Agostinho Neto, Nelson Mandela,

Eduardo Mondlane, and Samora Machel himself, as they passed through. Aquino de Braganca played a crucial role in obtaining military and logistical support for the liberation movements in Africa in those early days.

He was sent to Lisbon within a few days of the Portuguese coup on 25 April 1974, and his assessment of the internal political situation in Portugal at that time was influential in the negotiations which led up to the Lusaka Accords, in which the Portuguese agreed to hand over power to FRELIMO.

After independence he was named director of the Centre of African Studies at Eduardo Mondlane University, and organised research projects on Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, while continuing to serve as a member of high-level diplomatic and political delegations.

Lt. Col. Fernando Honwana was born in Moamba, in Maputo Province, on 24 November 1951, and attended primary school there. He went to the then Salazar Grammar School in Maputo, and then to Waterford School in Swaziland. An excellent student, he

then went on to study for a degree in political science and sociology at the University of York, in the north of England.

In 1974, he was a member of the Mozambican team in the negotiations which led up to the Lusaka Accords, the agreement which led to Mozambican independence.

After doing a military training course in the German Democratic Republic, he returned to Mozambique to work in the first security directorate after independence.

Fernando Honwana performed complicated and delicate missions for his country in the security service, and participated in the Lancaster House negotiations which led to the independence of Zimbabwe. He left a widow and two children.

Many others died alongside President Samora Machel.

Alberto Mendonca, chief of protocol, born in 1941, the son of a peasant family, former prisoner of the Portuguese secret police in 1966, when he received such ill treatment that he never fully recovered his health.



Muradhali Mamadhussen, personal secretary to the president, born in 1950, trained as a lawyer in Lisbon, and an anti-fascist militant in Portugal; Muradhali Mamadhussen worked in the provincial government of Cabo Delgado, and was a former journalist and editor of Tempo magazine;

Ivete Amos, personal party secretary to the president, born in 1959, educated at the Centre of African Studies, responsible for the organization of the president's documentation;

Oswaldo de Sousa, English interpreter to the president, trained at the Institute of Languages in Maputo;

Bernadino Chiche, brilliant linguist, the president's French interpreter, also trained in Mozambique;

Major Daniel Maquinasse, official photographer to the president, born in 1946, and a Frelimo fighter since 1968, after deserting from the Portuguese army, into which he had been forcibly recruited. Daniel Maquinasse was Frelimo's war photographer, taking pictures of bombardments, river crossings, ambushes and battles; as well as pictures of life behind the lines, of hospitals, peasants working in their fields, schools, and health posts. He photographed the negotiations with the Portuguese in Lusaka; he photographed the independence celebrations, and the results of Rhodesian aggression against Mozambique after 1976.

Eduardo Mavilha, born of peasant stock in Niassa province in 1958; Captain Parente Manjate, aide-de-camp, also of peasant origins, born in 1957 in Gaza; Alberto Chauque, personal bodyguard to the president, born in 1957 in Magude;

Albino Falteiro, born in 1946, in Inhambane;

Jose Quivanhane, from Bilene, born in 1941, of peasant origin, personal valet of the president;

Azarias Inguane, born in 1959, in Gaza province, a journalist;

Orlando Chumai, member of the crew of the presidential aircraft; Joao Navesse; Gulamo Khan, journalist; Esmeralda Luisa; Alferes Nhaquila; Adao Gore Nhica; Nacir Matano; Sofia Arone; Maria Ilda Carrau.

Two Cuban internationalists, members of the medical team, died in the plane crash; they were Henriques Bettencourt and Ulisses la Rosa Mesa.

Four Soviet crew members also died; they were Yuri Novodram; Igor Kartamyshev; Oleg Kudrianov; and Anatolii Shulopov.