Demonstrations in Harare over Machel's Death: S African, Malawian Premises Attacked

(a) Harare home service in English 1000 gmt 21 Oct 86

Text of report:

Students from the University of Zimbabwe have demonstrated to show their disgust about the death of the Mozambican President, Comrade Samora Machel. Police were called in to quell the demonstration, which erupted into violence. The demonstration started at the university campus this morning. The students marched down Second Street carrying placards some of which read: Blood for blood - call up now. When they reached the Malawian embassy the demonstrators broke the embassy windows, burned the Malawian flag as well as the portrait of the Malawian President, Kamuzu Banda. The students also burned the offices of the South African Airways in Union Avenue.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Co-operative Development, Comrade Maurice Nyagumbo, is appealing to everyone to stay calm until further directives from the government. Comrade Nyagumbo said people should not take the law into their hands. He was responding to this morning's incidents of violence.

(b) SAPA in English 0721 gmt 21 Oct 86

Text of dispatch datelined Harare, 21st October:

The Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, arrived back in Harare today to deal with the crisis resulting from the death of President Samora Machel of Mozambique. Mr Mugabe last night cut short a private visit to Britain following the aircraft crash which killed his closest ally.

Mozambique was recently reported to have asked for reinforcement of the large Zimbabwe force defending strategic areas of central Mozambique, and the Renamo rebels yesterday threatened to step up their current offensive in the light of President Machel's death.

Zimbabwe's state-controlled news media today give prominence to suggestions that President Machel was deliberately assassinated. "The most likely cause of the crash

remains a direct South African attack on the presidential plane", said an editorial in the main national daily newspaper, the 'Herald'. "But even in the unlikely event of Pretoria having no hand in the tragedy, President Machel is a casualty of apartheid as surely as if his plane had been hit by South African missiles, shells or bullets."

"The Mozambican leader ... [agency ellipsis] had become an increasingly sharp and painful thorn in South Africa's side", said the 'Herald', drawing attention to the recent threat by the South African Minister of Defence, Magnus Malan, to "act accordingly" if the African National Congress launched attacks from Mozambique. The 'Herald' headlined a report from Copenhagen in which an ANC spokesman accused South Africa of killing the president.

The 'Herald' drew attention to the "unique" relationship between President Machel and Mr Mugabe, and the crucial role the Mozambican leader played in bringing latter to power during the 1972-80 Rhodesian war. President Machel gave Mr Mugabe's ZANLA guerrillas bases along his 700 km border, closed Rhodesia's trade routes to the ports of Beira and Maputo, and refused to recognise Bishop Abel Muzotewa's 1978 compromise settlement with Mr Ian Smith. "Without this assistance the independence of this country would have been a different story", said the 'Herald'. "The tragedy in which Comrade Machel and some members of his government perished comes after persistent reports that the Mozambique leader and been singled out by the South Africans for assassination", it added. "President Machel's death is bound to increase tension and nothing would please Pretoria more than the excuse to step up cross-border hostilities."

The Zimbabwean State President, the Rev Canaan Banana, noted in the message of sympathy that President Machel had died at a time he was "resisting the forces of imperialism". A period of offical mourning is expected to be announced here today and flags are already flying at half-mast.