

## MACHEL'S DEATH 'A BITTER LESSON FOR AFRICA'

MAPUTO.

THE death of Mozambican President Samora Machel in an unexplained air crash inside South Africa on October 19 is "a bitter lesson" for Africa, declared Brigadier Hashim Mbita, secretary of the OAU liberation committee in Maputo yesterday.

Speaking to Mozambican journalists, Brig. Mbita said that in response to President Machel's death "we should mobilise all our resources and make them available to the liberation movements for the

intensification of the struggle".

He praised the late Mozambican leader as a man who "visibly displayed concern for the future of the continent" and who "spared no effort in giving his contribution to the total liberation of Africa".

President Machel had had a "dynamic relationship" with the OAU liberation committee, Brig. Mbita said, and Frelimo's struggle for Mozambican independence, under Cde Machel's leadership had been a great inspiration to the liberation committee.

Brig. Mbita drew attention to the threats made by the South African regime against Cde Machel immediately before his death, and the continued threats against the Frontline States since then.

The South African regime had embarked on a massive campaign of propaganda and disinformation, he said, but it had lost control of the situation inside South Africa itself.

The secretary for international relations of the East Timor liberation movement Freltin, Jose Ramos Horta,

has accused South Africa of being responsible for the death of Cde Samora Machel.

Speaking at a Press conference in Maputo marking the eleventh anniversary of Freltin's declaration of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, immediately before the Indonesian invasion of 1975, Cde Ramos Horta said that the material so far available concerning the plane crash in which Cde Machel lost his life has already proved that South Africa is responsible. — ZIANA-AIM.