



SAMORA

WHY HE DIED



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INTRODUCTION

Samora Moises Machel, founder of the Mozambican nation, now rests beside his Comrade Eduardo Mondlane, founder of Frelimo, in Maputo's monument to the Mozambican heroes.

Samora died, along with 33 of his delegation, when his presidential plane returning from a summit in Zambia crashed into a hillside in the Eastern Transvaal on the night of 19 October 1986.

The South African government was quick to ascribe the crash to purely accidental causes, but the events described in this book may lead the reader to other conclusions.

For Samora Machel's death was not an isolated incident. It took place in the context of an undeclared war waged by the South African apartheid regime, not merely against Mozambique, but against all the independent countries of the region.

Samora fell at a point of high tension in the region, after open South African threats of direct military intervention in Mozambique, and following threats against his life by South African Defence Minister General Magnus Malan.

This book is not a considered reflection on the death of President Samora. It is a compilation from the daily telex service of the Mozambique News Agency (AIM). It begins with an article reprinted from the October issue of the AIM monthly bulletin and then goes on to the telexes from early October, carrying the story through to Samora's funeral and shortly afterwards.

We opted for this format so that readers could accompany the unfolding of events as we accompanied them. We have scarcely altered our original telexes - we have removed spelling and grammatical errors and eliminated repetitions. Some telex material, which was only distributed in Portuguese, we have translated into English. Otherwise everything is in the raw form in which it was received by AIM's clients on the day indicated by the dateline.

We have accompanied the text with photographs, originally sent as wirephotos by the AIM Picture Department.

We hope that, in this way, readers may experience some of the tension, grief, tragedy and anger that we felt as we worked through those extraordinary weeks in October 1986.

There are two interlinked stories here: one is the mourning of a nation and its friends at the passing of a great leader, and the other is the investigation into the circumstances of President Samora's suspicious crash.

We offer this as a homage to the memory of Samora Machel. It is part of our contribution to a better understanding of the struggle for the liberation of Southern Africa.

The work presented here is essentially collective, although some of the photographs and articles are signed.

The Mozambique News Agency (AIM)
Maputo, 11 November 1986

This first article is reprinted from the AIM Information Bulletin No. 123 of October 1986.

SUMMIT IN MALAWI

President Samora Machel has threatened to close Mozambique's border to traffic from Malawi bound for South Africa if the government of Malawian President Kamuzu Banda does not put an end to its support for armed bandits in Mozambique. The threat was made after a two-hour meeting in Blantyre on 11 September between Presidents Samora, Banda and Kaunda of Zambia and Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe.

Speaking at a press conference after his return home, President Samora said that if Malawi continued to give support to the armed bandits, Mozambique "will close its borders to traffic to and from Zimbabwe and South Africa". Every day an average of 70 trucks cross Tete province carrying Malawian trade through Zimbabwe to and from South Africa's ports.

The Mozambican leader added that "we will place missiles along the border with Malawi" if support to the bandits is not ended.

The three Frontline leaders had gone to speak to Dr Banda "in the name of all the Frontline States," the President said.

President Samora noted that it was no longer a case of attacks against Mozambique but against the whole of southern Africa, since Mozambique's ports and railways are strategic for the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

Mozambique could give Dr Banda "concrete evidence of Malawi's involvement with the South African militarists in the destruction of the Mozambican state," the President continued.

The meeting of Frontline leaders held in Luanda in August was where they had drawn up their strategy for "the total liberation of southern Africa".

President Samora said that he and the other two Frontline leaders had gone to Malawi to persuade that country to use Mozambican ports again. Mozambique's northern ports of Nacala and Beira are the natural ports for Malawi. That was why the decision had been taken in Angola to go to Malawi and explain which were the most economic routes for Malawi to use, the President noted.

This was the first direct accusation by President Samora that Malawi is involved in destabilisation in Mozambique by giving support to the armed bandits. Previously, the President and other senior officials accused the South Africans of using Malawian territory to infiltrate bandits into Mozambique.

The provinces bordering Malawi, particularly Tete and Zambezia, are among the worst-hit by the terror tactics of the South African controlled armed bandits.

On 26 September a 16-member Malawian delegation travelled to Maputo to give a formal reply to the Mozambican charges. The delegation was led by John Tembo, a member of the Central Executive Committee of the Malawi Congress Party.

At the start of a meeting with a delegation headed by President Samora Machel, Mr Tembo thanked the Mozambican leader for agreeing to receive his delegation at short notice. He stressed that the message he had brought from Dr Banda "is being conveyed in a spirit of brotherhood, good neighbourliness

and genuine desire to reinforce the longstanding economic, social and cultural ties that have existed between us".

Mr Tembo announced that Dr Banda "has agreed to the creation of a high-level joint security commission". This would consist of politicians, army and police commanders and senior officials. He said the Malawian component of this commission was being formed "and will be mandated to hold regular and frequent meetings with its Mozambican counterpart".

The Malawian delegation had been instructed to "deliver the formal response to the folder that your excellency left at the historic four-nation summit in Blantyre," Mr Tembo continued.

"The folder," he said, "contained documentary support, evidence of the allegations that Malawi supports and abets the Mozambique bandits."

It was decided that Malawi's reply to President Samora's accusations would constitute the agenda for the first meeting of the joint security commission.

However, a military spokesman in Maputo said that following the Blantyre summit, there was "a huge infiltration of bandits from Malawi into our border areas". The infiltration took place particularly in Zambezia and Tete, two of the three provinces bordering Malawi.

The military spokesman said that these latest raids have caused thousands of Mozambicans to flee their homes and seek refuge inside Malawi.



THREATS

Maputo, 2 Oct (AIM) South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha has threatened to use food and transport as weapons against the neighbouring states if the US Senate overrides President Ronald Reagan's veto of the Sanctions Bill passed by Congress.

According to the South African Broadcasting Corporation monitored in Maputo today, Mr Botha said that if the presidential veto was overruled, then South Africa would prohibit purchases of grain from the United States and would cut supplies of grain to other southern African countries.

The apartheid Foreign Minister said that he had informed a number of US Senators of this decision in telephone calls.

He said that he had made it clear that if the Sanctions Bill were finally passed, then no American grain would be transported on South African railways to the independent states of the region. He claimed that this meant that states dependent on South Africa's transport network would no longer be able to buy grain from the United States.

He threatened the Senators with "catastrophic consequences for more than 60 million people" if the Sanctions Bill went ahead.

(more)

Threats 2 Maputo

This is a desperate attempt by Mr Botha to head off the pressure for sanctions in the US Congress. The Minister is assuming that many Senators do not know the truth about food and transport in southern Africa.

In fact the only country entirely dependent on South African transport is Lesotho, which is entirely surrounded by South African territory.

For every other southern African state routes to the sea via Mozambican or Tanzanian ports are feasible, although in some cases (notably Botswana) switching to Mozambican ports would be inconvenient.

Zimbabwe currently possesses a massive grain surplus, and could supply the needs of food deficit countries in the region such as Mozambique, if problems of finance could be overcome.

Food deficit countries do not have the hard currency to buy Zimbabwe's grain surplus: it will need aid donors to spend their money in Zimbabwe rather than in Europe or America if the problem is to be resolved.

Mr Botha's figure of 60 million people seems to be plucked from the air. The most serious food shortages in the region are in Mozambique, affecting an

estimated 3.9 million people. Botha's threats can have no conceivable effect on relief aid for Mozambique, since all imported grains (from the USA or anywhere else) land at Mozambican ports, or travel down the Beira Corridor from Zimbabwe.



INFILTRATION

Maputo, 3 Oct (AIM) Aggression against Mozambique is being massively stepped up through Malawi. According to a military source contacted today by the Mozambique News Agency (AIM), in September there was "a huge infiltration of bandits from Malawi into our frontier zones".

This operation was directed particularly against the provinces of Tete and Zambezia, two of the three Mozambican provinces that border on Malawi.

The military spokesman said that these latest raids by the South African backed MNR bandits have caused thousands of Mozambicans to flee their homes and seek refuge inside Malawi.

It appears that aggression via the MNR has been escalated following the summit meeting of 11 September in Blantyre between Presidents Samora Machel of Mozambique, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Kamuzu Banda of Malawi and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

At the Blantyre meeting the leaders of Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, in the name of all the Frontline States, presented evidence of Malawi's involvement in the destabilisation of Mozambique, and told Banda that the Frontline was prepared to take measures to end this situation.

On his return to Maputo, President Samora threatened to close the Mozambique-Malawi border and install missiles along it.

After the Blantyre meeting, President Banda recognised publicly that there were indeed bandit bases inside Malawi.



EXPLOSION

Maputo, 6 Oct (AIM) A South African Military vehicle detonated a land mine this morning in the Kangwane bantustan, in the south-eastern Transvaal, injuring all its six occupants, reports South Africa's Capital Radio monitored in Maputo.

The government's Bureau of Information, the only legal source of information under the stringent emergency regulations, refused to give details on the condition of the injured troops.

However, the Bureau said that the six were flown by a military plane to a military hospital in Pretoria.



MALAN

Maputo, 7 Oct (AIM) South African Defence Minister General Magnus Malan has insinuated that Mozambique was responsible for yesterday's land mine explosion in the Kangwane bantustan in which six South African soldiers were injured.

In a statement made in Cape Town this morning, General Malan declared that the Nkomati non-aggression accord between South Africa and Mozambique and land mines "cannot exist side by side".

"If President Machel chooses land mines, South Africa will react accordingly," he threatened.

The Mozambique News Agency (AIM) was informed of these threats in a telephone call from a South African source who translated General Malan's words from the original Afrikaans into English.

Speaking about the US Senate's decision to impose sanctions against Pretoria, General Malan said "South Africa can no longer afford to be caught in the grip between the two superpowers, namely an economic war from America on the one hand and a revolutionary war from the Soviet Union on the other".

Mozambique had to realise this, he said, and if President Samora Machel "allows a Moscow-inspired revolutionary war against South Africa, he must also be prepared to take the responsibility".

"If he chooses terrorism and revolution, he will clash head on with South Africa," warned the General.

(more)

Malan 2 Maputo

After this sabre rattling, General Malan claimed that "South Africa still stands for peace and conciliation," and suggested that the region should be declared "a neutral zone, with no military access for the United States and Russia".

General Malan also complained of an alleged Mozambican "propaganda campaign against South Africa". Without giving any examples, he stated that "propaganda from within Mozambique has still got a lot of subversive messages against South Africa".

He alleged that "against this background it is not uncommon that terrorist activities still take place across the border from within Mozambique". General Malan did not provide a shred of evidence for this vague assertion, nor for the specific claim on Mozambican involvement in yesterday's land mine blast.

South African violations of the Nkomati Accord are now well documented, and it is clear that the apartheid regime never had the slightest intention of honouring the agreement. But no serious observer has ever suggested that Mozambique has been in breach of the Accord.

The latest violations are taking place now in the parts of Mozambique bordering Malawi. According to sources in Zambezia province, South Africa is pushing a large number of its MNR bandits out of Malawi into Zambezia. This follows President Samora's public attacks on South Africa's use of Malawi in its destabilisation campaign.



MALAN/REACTIONS

Maputo, 8 Oct (AIM) The threat made against Mozambique yesterday by South African Defence Minister General Magnus Malan "is an attempt by Pretoria to evade its responsibility for the non-implementation of the Nkomati non-aggression accord," an official Mozambican source told AIM this morning.

Malan accused Mozambique of involvement in Monday's land mine blast in the Kangwane bantustan in which six South African soldiers were injured. He threatened that South Africa would "react accordingly".

AIM's source pointed out that South Africa "has never given any satisfactory explanation for the revelations contained in the Gorongosa documents". The documents, published last year, showed "that South Africa has never honoured the Nkomati Accord".

The documents referred to were discovered when a joint Mozambican and Zimbabwean force overran the main base of the MNR bandits, known as "Casa Banana", in the central district of Gorongosa.

The documents, including minutes of meetings between MNR leaders and South African generals, revealed that Pretoria had not only violated the 1984 non-aggression agreement, but that the South African military had never had any intention of honouring the accord in the first place.

(more)

Malan/Reactions 2 Maputo

Also reacting to Malan's threats, the Director of the Centre for African Studies at Maputo's Eduardo Mondlane University, Aquino de Braganca, told AIM

that "General Malan is incapable of solving the problems caused by the crisis inside South Africa and naturally wants to export the problems to us".

Professor de Braganca, who is studying the South African military establishment, said that "those in power in South Africa push the theory that subversion is external to South Africa, and they forget that practically the whole world, including many South African establishment figures and businessmen, understand perfectly that the causes of subversion are internal".

He described claims that Mozambique was to blame for violence inside South Africa as "ridiculous", and attributed General Malan's outburst to the need "to satisfy his own white electorate".

Contacted by AIM about Malan's threats, the US ambassador in Maputo, Peter Jon de Vos, said "obviously the United States' government rejects any threats against any Frontline State".

He added that "solutions to the problems of the region should be found through negotiations. Steps should be taken to reduce violence rather than encourage it."

A spokesman for the British embassy told AIM that he found General Malan's words "very disturbing".



MILLER

Johannesburg, 8 Oct (AIM) South Africa's Deputy Foreign Minister, Ron Miller, has joined in the campaign of threats against Mozambique following Monday's land mine explosion in the Kangwane bantustan.

According to today's issue of the Johannesburg Star, Mr Miller declared "Mozambique has to decide its priorities - the peaceful benefits of the Nkomati Accord or confrontation with South Africa".

He added that "if Mozambique chooses the path of peace and rejects the ANC, South Africa will continue to honour the Nkomati Accord".

The Nkomati Accord is the non-aggression agreement signed between the two countries in March 1984. Contrary to Mr Miller's statement, in fact South Africa has never honoured the agreement, but has instead continued to arm and supply the bandits of the "Mozambique National Resistance" (MNR).

"The Mozambican government has always known the South African government takes a very serious view of any neighbouring country allowing its territory to be used as a base for attacks on South Africa, particularly by the ANC," Mr Miller said.

"A security agreement such as the Nkomati Accord is not a guarantee or mechanism for providing such territories with immunity from South Africa's reaction," he added, clearly implying that South Africa is prepared to launch direct military aggression against Mozambique.

(more)

Miller 2 Johannesburg

"If Mozambique is allowing its territory to be used by the ANC, it will have to run the risk of strong reaction from South Africa in an attempt to defend itself from the ANC," continued Mr Miller.

These remarks follow threats against Mozambique made yesterday by Defence Minister Magnus Malan.

Neither General Malan nor Mr Miller could provide any evidence for the allegations of Mozambican involvement in the Kangwane land mine incident.

Kangwane is in the south-eastern Transvaal, close to both the Mozambique and the Swaziland borders.



MINERS

Maputo, 9 Oct (AIM) The South African apartheid regime yesterday implemented further economic sanctions against Mozambique, announcing that no more Mozambicans would be recruited to work in the mining industry.

The decision was made public in a note signed by no less than four government ministers - Foreign Minister Roelof Botha, Minister of Manpower Piet du Plessis, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs D. W. Steyn and Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha.

The note said that the South African authorities have informed the Mozambican government that "no further recruitment of workers from Mozambique will be allowed as from today as a result of the activities of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party who are responsible for the continuing deteriorating security situation on the common border".

The statement repeats the claim that there has been Mozambican involvement in "recent incidents", a reference to the land mine explosion on Monday in the Kangwane bantustan in the south-eastern Transvaal.

The government has asked South African mining companies "to cease with immediate effect to recruit and employ any further Mozambican workers and to actively endeavour to employ South African workers".

(more)

Miners 2 Maputo

Mozambicans currently on the mines with valid work permits "will be allowed to complete their period of service, after which they will have to return to Mozambique and will not be allowed to re-enter South Africa".

The Chamber of Mines, the body that groups all South Africa's mining companies, was less than enthusiastic about the government decision. In a press release yesterday evening, the chamber regretted the measure, but added that it could not "evaluate the security considerations on which the decision was based".

The Chamber "earnestly hopes that negotiations between the South African and Mozambican governments will lead to an early return to normality".

There are about 55,000 Mozambicans currently working on the South African mines. Prior to Mozambican independence in 1975 there were many more than this.

From 1908 until 1976 there were always more than 80,000 Mozambicans in the South African mines, and in 1975 there were 118,000.

Faced with an independent Mozambique, South Africa took measures to damage the country's economy, and one was a sharp reduction in the number of Mozambicans recruited for the mines. Numbers were cut by 60 per cent in two years, so that in 1977 there were just over 41,000 Mozambican miners.

(more)

Miners 3 Maputo

A further sanction that South Africa took against Mozambique was to alter unilaterally the way in which miners were paid.

Under an agreement signed with the Portuguese colonial authorities in 1928, part of the miners' wages was paid in gold at a fixed rate (29.75 rands an ounce). When the free market price diverged from this official price, South Africa continued to pay the official rate. In the last years of colonialism the free market price of gold soared, and thus Portugal made windfall profits on the deal.

The gold covered the balance of payments deficit between Mozambique and the colonial metropolis. It amounted to a major subsidy paid to Portugal by South Africa. The system continued for the first couple of years after independence, and then, in April 1978, South Africa unilaterally scrapped the fixed gold price.

This dealt a major blow to the Mozambican economy. It caused a loss to Mozambique between 1978 and 1983 of 2.6 thousand million dollars.

The port of Maputo provides another clear example of South African sanctions against Mozambique. Ever since independence South Africa has been reducing its use of Maputo port, even though it is the nearest and cheapest outlet to the sea for much of South Africa's mineral wealth.

In 1973, the last full year of Portuguese rule, Maputo handled 6.8 million tonnes of South African imports and exports. By 1979 the figure was down to 4.3 million tonnes, and in 1985 the port handled only 950,000 tonnes of South African traffic.

(more)

miners 4 Maputo

This diversion of traffic was selective - it was the high value, high tariff cargo that was moved. Thus the shipment of chrome through Maputo was more than halved in the two years 1980-82, while the shipment of steel was ended altogether in 1982.

Only the shipments of coal, a particularly low tariff cargo, were increased, and by last year coal constituted the bulk of South Africa's use of Maputo port.

Much of this was deliberate action by the South African railway authorities who refused to provide shippers with wagons for Maputo, and would only release the necessary rolling stock if the freight were going to South African ports such as Durban or Richards Bay.

Thus the current threat to end migrant labour from Mozambique altogether is just a continuation of a policy of damaging the Mozambican economy which South Africa has been following for over ten years.

Economic sanctions have been accompanied with outright war through the use of the bandits of the "Mozambique National Resistance" (MNR), many of whose targets have been chosen by Pretoria so as to weaken still further the Mozambican economy, and to hinder the project of SADCC (Southern African Development Coordination Conference) to break the region's dependence on South Africa.



ACCUSATION

Maputo, 9 Oct (AIM) The South African apartheid authorities have once again accused Mozambique of harbouring guerrillas of the African National Congress (ANC), and of abetting "Moscow-inspired revolution" against the country, reports the official South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), monitored today in Maputo.

Citing an unnamed military spokesman, the SABC claimed that ANC guerrillas have "regrouped" in Mozambique, and have "many times this year" entered South Africa's Transvaal province from Mozambique.

As usual no evidence is presented for these claims, which seemed to be based on the simple geographical fact that the Kangwane bantustan, where a land mine explosion injured six South African soldiers on Monday, is close to the Mozambican border.

SABC's military source also said that Joe Slovo, chairman of the South African Communist Party and chief of staff of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), has been seen in Mozambique on several occasions with high-ranking government officials.

This piece of information is hardly new or surprising. To know of Mr Slovo's presence in Mozambique this year, the SABC need only read the dispatches of the Mozambican News Agency (AIM) on the funeral in March of the late general secretary of the South African Communist Party, Moses Mabhida. Mr Slovo was one of the speakers at the funeral, along with Mozambican President Samora Machel and ANC President Oliver Tambo. The ceremony was held in public in Maputo's Languene Cemetery. There was nothing secretive or conspiratorial about this.

(more)

Accusation 2 Maputo

The spokesman also accused Mozambique of being connected with an obscure Portuguese "terrorist organisation" known as FP-25 ("People's Forces of 25 April"). Allegations of a Mozambican connection with this group have been made in several right wing Portuguese newspapers, but have never been substantiated.

These accusations are part of a well-orchestrated campaign that started on Tuesday with insinuations by Defence Minister General Magnus Malan that Mozambique was linked to the Kangwane land mine incident.

Similar claims were made by Deputy Foreign Minister Ron Miller, with the veiled threat that South Africa would launch fresh military raids against Mozambique.

Yesterday afternoon the apartheid authorities announced an end to the recruitment of Mozambicans to work in the South African mines, allegedly because of ANC activities from Mozambican soil.



NUM

Johannesburg, 9 Oct (AIM) South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has condemned the announcement by the Pretoria authorities ending the recruitment of Mozambicans for the South African mines.

An NUM spokesman yesterday declared "this action is purely part of an attempt to defend apartheid in the wake of concerted international pressure against the regime, and is not a solution to the South African question and peace in the sub-continent".

The spokesman added that Mozambique and South Africa's other neighbours were part of one and the same political-economic region. He said that the government's actions indicated despair, and could be "disruptive for the mining industry".

The spokesman did not rule out the possibility of a strike on the mines in solidarity with the Mozambican workers.



LAND MINES

Maputo, 9 Oct (AIM) The South African Bureau of Information, which gives the official version of news under the current state of emergency, today reported that two land mines have been discovered in the north-eastern Transvaal, near the border with Zimbabwe.

According to South Africa's Capital Radio, monitored in Maputo, the Bureau said that the first mine was found last night by a farm worker about 300 metres from the Limpopo River which forms the boundary between South Africa and Zimbabwe.

After the discovery of the mine, the radio reported, the area was searched and another one was found about 150 metres from the same border.

Giving its usual daily report about the continuing mass upheavals in the country, the Bureau said that the house of a police officer was set alight in Soweto, near Johannesburg, and a police vehicle was stoned in the black township of Kwazakhele, near Port Elizabeth.

The Bureau also reported that one person was shot and killed by security forces. The radio mentioned neither the time nor the place of the incident.



AIM COMMENTARY/EXPULSIONS

Maputo, 9 Oct (AIM) The South African government's decision to expel 61,000 Mozambican miners at the end of the current contracts they hold with South African mining companies makes no economic sense for South Africa.

The measure can only be understood in the context of the undeclared war which South Africa has been waging for many years against Mozambique.

When the Pretoria regime began to threaten the expulsion of Mozambican migrants, the mining companies were the first to protest. Now that the government appears serious about implementing the threat, the South African Chamber of Mines has felt moved to issue a statement of regret.

There are good reasons for this. The Mozambican miners are the most qualified of the black miners in South Africa. Thousands of them occupy important positions, requiring a great deal of experience.

A mine labour force cannot be trained overnight. Any error made in delicate work underground can have the most tragic consequences. So no mine company actually wants to see its most experienced workers leave.

Pretoria's decision must therefore be viewed in the light of the campaign of destabilisation that it persistently wages against Mozambique.
(more)

expulsions 2 Maputo

Some may argue that South Africa is retaliating against Mozambique for the recent United States Congress decision to apply economic sanctions against apartheid. This cannot seriously be considered: if South Africa wanted to retaliate against the US Congress, then logically it should expel those US citizens who are currently living in South Africa.

Pretoria is not retaliating - it is just stepping up its aggression. We are witnessing a significant increase in the economic sanctions that South Africa has been applying to Mozambique for many years. These sanctions have gone hand in hand with military destabilisation, with direct attacks by the South African armed forces, and with aggression via the MNR bandit gangs.

Not only has South Africa violated the Nkomati non-aggression accord that it signed with Mozambique, but Pretoria never even intended to honour the agreement. That is very clear from the documents captured from the MNR in Gorongosa last year.

The apartheid regime has been using every means within its power to destroy the young Mozambican state. It has been trying to prevent the building of a nation in Mozambique. It has been trying to wreck all chances of constructing a united and anti-racist Mozambican society.

The decision to expel Mozambican miners is the latest stage in this warmongering, expansionist and tragically irresponsible politics.
(more)

Expulsions 3 Maputo

It is irresponsible, because by attacking the region Pretoria, while not achieving its goals, is certainly reducing southern Africa's ability to become an important pole of development - and one from which a future South Africa would itself stand to benefit greatly.

By taking decisions such as the expulsion of trained and experienced migrant mineworkers, Pretoria is destabilising South Africa itself. The apartheid rulers are contributing towards the destruction of their own country in acts of political short-sightedness and ideological frenzy.

The expulsion of miners, acts of war or threat of such acts against other countries in the region, the occupation of territory beyond South Africa's own borders - in all of this, Pretoria is avoiding the main question.

The problems of South Africa do not originate in Mozambique, Zimbabwe or any country outside South Africa itself. The problems are rooted in the system of apartheid which the South African people have shown they will not tolerate any longer, regardless of the human and material costs involved in removing from the South African nation the spectre and madness of institutionalised racism.



COMMENT/ANC

Maputo, 9 Oct (AIM) The South African Intelligence Service (NIS) has joined the escalating wave of threats against Mozambique with a statement today that the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa had "rebuilt" its military structure in Mozambique.

An NIS spokesman quoted today by the South African government radio, SABC, said that one proof of this was the fact that Joe Slovo, a leader of the ANC's armed wing, had been seen in Maputo.

It is public knowledge that Joe Slovo was in Maputo in March to attend the funeral of the South African Communist leader Moses Mabhida. Pictures of the mourners at the funeral, who included ANC President Oliver Tambo as well as Joe Slovo, were published in the newspapers and shown on television.

If the presence of Joe Slovo in Maputo and his contact with Mozambicans are to be regarded as military acts, then the same should be the case with the

recent meeting between Oliver Tambo and British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe. To be coherent, South Africa should also threaten to attack parts of the British Isles.

In fact what we are seeing has nothing to do with the presence of Joe Slovo in Mozambique or the growing international recognition of the ANC.
(more)

Comment 2 Maputo

Pretoria is once again attempting to present the ANC and the struggle against apartheid as coming from outside South Africa.

But no matter how much Pretoria shouts that the problems come from outside, no matter what disinformation campaigns are spread to show involvement by the countries of the region in military support for the ANC, the stark reality remains that the struggle against apartheid is an internal phenomenon in South Africa. The international community has a role to play, but the main actors are the South African people themselves.

If the South African government wants to eliminate the real bases of the ANC, then it will have to murder millions upon millions of South Africans. They are the real ANC bases.

But there is a second objective behind the ferocious campaign that Pretoria has launched against Mozambique this week.

Pretoria is looking for further pretexts to step up its attacks on Mozambique. It was not enough that it failed to implement the Nkomati Accord. Sending bandits and weapons to continue the destabilisation process was not enough. The massive infiltration by South Africa of bandits through Malawi was not enough. In the midst of all this, Mozambique has succeeded in completing a good part of the elections, despite South African propaganda to the effect that it would be impossible for Mozambique to hold elections. In the midst of all this, Mozambique and the other Frontline States have succeeded in winning important support to strengthen the capacity of its ports and railways. In the midst of all this, the difficulties for Mozambicans have increased, but they have not succumbed. Pretoria wants to go further in its efforts to dominate Mozambique.

But why? Why is Pretoria still trying to dominate Mozambique?

Apartheid's days are numbered and Pretoria knows this. The West knows it. The whole world knows it. Only an ideology approaching madness could have given those in charge of the apartheid machine the macabre idea that, with the end of their privilege in sight, it would be best to destroy Mozambique. There is no other explanation. Pretoria does not even seem to have any strategy. All that remains for them is to bring down the barbarity of apartheid in an orgy of destruction.

In this difficult time for the peoples of southern Africa, the West has the chance to choose between apartheid and the people, between the past and the future.



ANC STATEMENT

Maputo, 9 Oct (AIM) The African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) has denied that units of its armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, are operating from Mozambique.

In a statement signed by the ANC secretary general, Alfred Nzo, and sent to AIM from the ANC's office in Lusaka, the ANC said it "vehemently condemns the intensified counter-offensive of the Pretoria regime against the People's Republic of Mozambique that was announced by the apartheid minister of war, Magnus Malan".

"It is clear that through these new measures of aggression and destabilisation the Pretoria regime hopes to overthrow the government of Mozambique and install its own puppets in power."

The statement added that "the fabrications of the Pretoria regime about units of Umkhonto we Sizwe operating from Mozambique is only a

thinly-disguised excuse by a regime which has itself never ceased its support for the MNR bandits".

(more)

ANC statement 2 Maputo

"This new situation emphasises the urgent need for the international community to impose comprehensive sanctions against the aggressive and criminal Pretoria regime which has now declared all-out war against an innocent African state. Once more, we call on the Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime," said the statement.

The ANC's secretary general added that the ANC "salutes COSATU and the National Union of Mineworkers on their decision to act in defence of the Mozambican workers and people. We call on the entire democratic movement of our country and all our people to unite behind these positions in the interest of all the peoples of our region."

"We take this opportunity to reaffirm our solidarity with Frelimo, the government and people of Mozambique. Conscious that there can be no peace and security in southern Africa until the apartheid system is destroyed we will intensify our offensive until the Pretoria regime is overthrown," the statement added.



EXPULSIONS/REACTIONS

Johannesburg, 10 Oct (AIM) White South African farmers are unhappy about the Pretoria government's decision to expel Mozambican workers from South Africa.

According to today's issue of the Johannesburg Star, representatives of the Lowveld Agricultural Manpower Committee travelled to Pretoria yesterday for discussions with the Minister of Manpower, Piet du Plessis.

Most Mozambican agricultural workers in South Africa are on farms on the lowveld of the eastern Transvaal. Some have crossed the border illegally, while others are legally registered migrants.

The Star quoted lowveld farmers as saying that "a total ban on Mozambican labour will do more harm than good".

One farmer remarked "surely it's the illegal immigrant who must be responsible for acts of terror and not those who for many years have legally worked on our farms".

The reaction of the farmers is surprising in that they are Afrikaans-speaking in the main, and are generally extremely right-wing in their political views.

They are very sensitive to such matters as land mine explosions on rural roads - the government's pretext for the expulsion of Mozambican workers. Several white farmers and members of their families have been killed or injured in such explosions in the Transvaal over the past two years. Despite this, they do not accept the government line that the problem can be solved by punishing Mozambican workers.

The main trade union organisation in South Africa, COSATU (Congress of South African Trade Unions), has declared its solidarity with the Mozambican workers, as has the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

Both the United States and the British governments have expressed opposition to the South African move. A US State Department spokesman urged Pretoria "to reconsider a decision that will prove costly for both countries".



INFILTRATORS

Maputo, 10 Oct (AIM) A group of South African commandos has infiltrated into Maputo city, Mozambique's Security Minister, Sergio Vieira, warned this afternoon.

Meeting with members of the people's vigilance groups, one of the

country's voluntary security bodies, in Maputo, Colonel Vieira said that "we must neutralise this group before it carries out the crimes that it plans".

He urged increased watchfulness, and said that anything unusual in workplaces, residential areas or even on the buses should be reported.

The Minister took the occasion to warn the members of the vigilance groups that their position gave them no right to push to the front of queues.

He also denounced the arbitrary use of flogging, and pointed out that only duly constituted courts have the power to impose corporal punishment. There have been many complaints that individual members of the security forces have taken the law into their own hands.

The Minister demanded that the vigilance groups should defend the law and not violate it.



EXPULSIONS/LOSSES

Maputo, 11 Oct (AIM) The cost to Mozambique of the South African government's decision to expel Mozambican miners at the end of their contracts will be about 50 million dollars a year, according to an official Mozambican source contacted by AIM.

This is the quantity of foreign exchange that the country receives in the form of miners' remittances. This represents about a third of the total foreign exchange earnings of Mozambique.

Last year's foreign exchange earnings totalled about 180 million dollars. Of this sum, 57.5 million dollars originated in South Africa, either as miners' remittances or as rail and port dues paid on South African traffic.

The new South African measure is in fact just one more in the long list of sanctions that South Africa has been applying against Mozambique ever since independence in 1975. Thus the number of Mozambicans working on the South African mines was cut drastically.

There were 118,000 Mozambican miners in 1975, but this figure had fallen to 41,000 by 1977. Since then the number of Mozambican citizens on the mines has fluctuated between 40,000 and 60,000.

(more)

Expulsions/losses 2 Maputo

In addition, in 1978 South Africa unilaterally suspended the "gold clause" in the 1928 agreement on migrant labour that had been signed with the Portuguese colonial authorities.

This allowed for the part of the miners' wages transferred to Mozambique to be paid in gold at a fixed price. Portugal (and Mozambique in the first two years of independence) could reap windfall profits by later selling the gold at the free market price.

South Africa also implemented a deliberate boycott of the port of Maputo. South African traffic through the port declined from 6.8 million tonnes in 1973 to 0.9 million tonnes in 1985.

These measures were all designed to deprive Mozambique of foreign exchange, thus making it more difficult for the country to import goods or to pay its foreign creditors.

The latest measures are timed by Pretoria to coincide with Mozambique's negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the attempts that the country is making to mobilise concessionary finance for development projects and for balance of payments support.

Given the history of South African sanctions against Mozambique, the government has not been taken by surprise by the latest moves. AIM's source said that the government has already drawn up a programme of measures to find work for returning miners.

This programme involves the rehabilitation of certain industries, an increased supply of agricultural tools, guaranteed supplies of basic goods for returning migrants, and the supply of the necessary raw materials and other factors of production to keep essential consumer goods industries functioning.

This programme will certainly need external financing if it is to be implemented.



AGGRESSION/COMMUNIQUE

Maputo, 11 Oct (AIM) The Mozambican government today accused the South African armed forces of preparing "a direct attack against the city of Maputo," with the aim of "overthrowing the government of the People's Republic of Mozambique".

"The raids being prepared involve the use of the air force and of disguised commando groups infiltrated into our country," states the government communique, distributed in Maputo early this afternoon.

"This information has been provided to the Mozambican government by South African citizens who are opposed to the policies of the warmongers," explains the communique, adding that some of these South African informants "are linked to South African economic sectors".

The presence of one commando group that has already been infiltrated into Maputo was announced yesterday by Security Minister Sergio Vieira.

Dealing with the land mine explosion in the Kangwane bantustan last Monday, in which six South African soldiers were allegedly injured, the Mozambican government declares that the entire incident was staged by "the South African militarists".

"This fabricated incident, played up and manipulated by the regime's propaganda, is forming the pretext for launching direct aggression against our country," declares the communique.

The militarists now want to intervene directly against Mozambique, continues the document: "Hence the farcical situation of presenting themselves as victims, and of cooking up excuses for retaliation against Mozambique. They go so far as to make our country responsible for the sanctions decreed by the US Congress, sanctions which their own actions provoked."

(more)

Aggression/communique 2 Maputo

"The accused wants to become the accuser," adds the statement. "The men in the dock want to judge the judges."

"With these ridiculous pretexts the South African warmongers are preparing direct attacks on our country by the South African armed forces with the ultimate aim of overthrowing the Mozambican government and installing a puppet regime in Maputo at the service of apartheid," warns the communique.

It points out that Mozambique "in accordance with the principles of its policy of peace and out of respect for the international undertakings it has given, has always respected scrupulously the letter and the spirit of the Nkomati Accord," the non-aggression agreement signed between the two countries in March 1984.

The communique states that it is South African militarists who want "the total destruction of the Nkomati Accord". The Mozambican government accuses these forces of trying "to neutralise those political sectors of the South African government who are in favour of negotiated solutions in the region".

The government points to increased infiltration of MNR bandits into Mozambique from South Africa in recent months. It says that South African planes have flown fresh arms supplies to bandit gangs in the central province of Manica "for attacks against the Beira Corridor," and refers also to land and helicopter-borne infiltration of bandits into the southern provinces of Maputo and Gaza.

There has also been "massive infiltration of bandits into the provinces of Tete and Zambezia from Malawian soil". This use of Malawi is being organised by South Africa, the government accuses.

(more)

Aggression/communique 3 Maputo

The statement adds that the flight of Mozambican refugees into the South African province of the Transvaal has been provoked by the destabilisation arising out of bandit activity. The "extreme vulnerability" of these displaced people leads to their use as "super-exploited labour," and to their being press-ganged "into the bandit ranks".

The government adds that some of the camps for Mozambicans in the Transvaal "have been turned into bandit training centres".

The communique recalls that the South African military inherited the MNR from the Smith regime in Rhodesia, and transformed the bandits into "the main instrument for the destabilisation of our country".

The Mozambican government accuses the military of responsibility for massive loss of life and destruction of property in Mozambique. The total losses to the Mozambican economy are estimated at 5.5 billion US dollars.

"The hands of the South African militarists are soaked with the blood of over 100,000 Mozambicans who have been the direct victims of the war of aggression waged against our people," the government declares.

"These same warmongering, militarist, adventurist forces were opposed to the Nkomati Accord. It was they who decided that it would not be respected by the South African armed forces, and organised its systematic violation," it continues.

(more)

Aggression/communique 4 Maputo

The government recalls that "high ranking military and civilian figures in the Pretoria regime personally direct bandit operations and travel to bandit bases inside Mozambique, as shown by the Gorongosa documents".

This refers to the diaries and notebooks captured in August 1985 when a joint Mozambican/Zimbabwean force overran the MNR's Casa Banana headquarters in the central district of Gorongosa.

The government accuses these figures of transmitting to the bandits "precise orders emanating from the top South African military hierarchy for the destruction of economic targets," as well as for massacres and "the generalised practice of acts of terror".

After the capture of Casa Banana, says the communique, "the South African militarists transferred the bandits' operational centre to Malawi". This was done "with the complicity of the Malawian authorities who thus agreed to participate in the crimes against our people".

The Frontline States confronted Malawi with the evidence of its involvement in South African aggression, "and the Malawian government was forced to recognise the existence of bandit bases on its territory," continues the document.

The unmasking of South African operations out of Malawi "is an important and unexpected setback for the South African warmongers".

(more)

Aggression/communique 5 Maputo

A further defeat for these circles, adds the communique, is the decision of the US Congress to apply sanctions against Pretoria. The South African militarists "underestimated the democratic and progressive forces in the United States".

Successive reverses "are leading the South African militarists into desperate actions," warns the government. They are now "frantically trying to disguise Malawi's responsibility in the aggression against Mozambique, and to find alternatives for the operational centres they established in Malawi".

The communique concludes with a call for active participation by the people in the security measures now being taken.

"The armed forces, the people's militias, the vigilance groups, and our entire people, should be on permanent alert as from now," it urges

The government says that it is confident that the international community will help "strengthen Mozambique's defensive capacity".



FRONTLINE

Maputo, 11 Oct (AIM) The leaders of the six southern African Frontline States will meet in Maputo tomorrow for a one day summit to discuss the current situation in the region.

A communique issued by the Mozambican Foreign Ministry today says that the summit forms part of the "regular consultations" among the leaderships of the six countries.

Expected to join Mozambican President Samora Machel tomorrow are Presidents Jose Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola, Quett Masire of Botswana, Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, and Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe.



SUMMIT

Maputo, 12 Oct (AIM) A summit meeting of the leaders of the southern African Frontline States began in Maputo this afternoon. Present at the meeting are Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, Quett Masire of Botswana, Samora Machel of Mozambique, Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

The President of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, Oliver Tambo, arrived on the same plane as President Kaunda.

The delegations have a strong military and security component. The Zimbabwean delegation includes Defence Minister Ernest Kadungure, Security Minister Emmerson Munangagwa, and the heads of the army and the air force, Lt-Gen Rex Nhongo and Air Marshal Josiah Tungamirai.

The Zambian Defence and Interior Ministers are present, namely Malimba Maseke and C. Chibanda, as is Brigadier Ian Khama of Botswana and the Angolan Defence Minister Col. Pedro Maria Tonha (Pedale).

The Mozambican delegation includes Security Minister Sergio Vieira and the head of the air force Maj-Gen Antonio Hama Thai.

(more)

Summit 2 Maputo

The summit follows a week of mounting threats by South Africa against Mozambique, including an order to expel Mozambican migrant workers in South Africa at the end of their current contracts.

Yesterday the Mozambican government issued a communique warning that direct attack against Maputo by the South African armed forces was in preparation.

The communique described last Monday's land mine incident in the Kangwane bantustan in which six South African soldiers were injured as a deliberate fabrication designed to provide the South African military with an excuse to destroy the Nkomati non-aggression accord and launch direct aggression against Mozambique.

The South African threats came in the wake of last month's ultimatum by the Frontline States to Malawi that if the Malawian authorities did not cease their support for South Africa's surrogates in Mozambique, the MNR bandits, then they would face the prospect of a border closure. Malawi is completely surrounded by the territory of three Frontline States - Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania.

Yesterday's government communique also focused heavily on the role of Malawi, noting that the unmasking of South Africa's Malawi-based operations had been a heavy and unexpected blow to "South African warmongering circles".

Also in Maputo is a Zairean delegation led by the country's Prime Minister, Kengo Wa Dondo. At the end of the summit, the Frontline leaders are scheduled to hold a separate meeting with the Zaireans.



SUMMIT/OPENING

Maputo, 12 Oct (AIM) President Samora Machel said today that the Frontline States had decided to meet in Maputo "in order to draw up perspectives for our struggle, for the defence and consolidation of our independence, and to define our relationships with the countries that want to destroy us".

President Samora was speaking this afternoon at the opening of the Frontline summit of heads of state and government. He described today's summit as "special" and thanked the other Frontline leaders for their prompt and positive response to Mozambique's request for a meeting.

"We meet at a difficult moment," said the Mozambican President, adding that the Frontline States had a "historic responsibility" for the future of all southern Africa.

President Samora was speaking just a day after the Mozambican government had accused South Africa of organising "massive incursions" of MNR bandits into Mozambique from Malawian territory, and of preparing direct aggression against the city of Maputo.

Also speaking at the opening, the Frontline Chairman, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, said that the six leaders were meeting to examine the significance of the recent South African threats against Mozambique.

Last week, South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan threatened military action against Mozambique in response to the land mine blast on Monday in the Kangwane bantustan. The Mozambican government has described the incident as fabricated.

President Kaunda noted that despite South Africa's own well-documented violations of the Nkomati non-aggression accord, the Pretoria regime was now accusing Mozambique of breaching the agreement.

The Zambian leader said that, with the exception of South Africa's friends on the extreme right in Europe and in the USA, "there is nobody in the world who is not convinced that Mozambique has honoured the Nkomati Accord".
(more)

Summit/opening 2 Maputo

President Kaunda said that South Africa was reacting to the growing international campaign against apartheid which had recently resulted in the US Congress decision to impose a series of tough economic sanctions against Pretoria.

This, he said, was the root of the threats against Mozambique. He also revealed that the Frontline leaders would analyse South Africa's failure to honour the Lusaka Understanding signed with Angola in February 1984. This Understanding dealt with the withdrawal of South African forces from Angolan territory.

Turning to the reports that Jonas Savimbi, leader of South Africa's Angolan surrogates, the counter-revolutionary organisation UNITA, had been invited to visit France, President Kaunda recalled that previous stories that Savimbi would visit Holland had proved false. He hoped that the French authorities would not receive Savimbi.

If the visit did take place, however, the Frontline States should take "the measures necessary to defend Angola," he said.

President Kaunda restated the Frontline position that Savimbi's January visit to the United States had constituted interference by the White House in the internal affairs of Angola.



SUMMIT/DECLARATION

Maputo, 12 Oct (AIM) The six southern African Frontline States tonight called on the peoples and governments of the world "to block South Africa's race towards generalised war".

In a declaration issued this evening at the end of a one-day summit in Maputo, and read out by Zambian Foreign Minister Luke Mwananshiku, the Frontline heads of state and government noted that "South Africa has already

embarked on the road of fascism and of war against the peoples of southern Africa".

It accused South Africa of "grossly and systematically" violating the agreements that it signed in 1984 with Angola and Mozambique, the Lusaka Understanding and the Nkomati non-aggression accord.

It said that South Africa had organised terrorist gangs to attack the Frontline States, Angola and Mozambique in particular, and condemned the "support and collaboration" that such groups of bandits enjoy from "certain Western countries". They also denounced the attempts to present bandits as "political entities".

Turning to the recent anti-Mozambican statements made by South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan and other leading figures in the apartheid regime, the declaration states that "Pretoria has unleashed an incessant and hysterical campaign of accusations and threats against Mozambique".

(more)

Summit/declaration 2 Maputo

"South African forces are concentrated along the borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and commando units have been infiltrated to carry out acts of terrorism in Mozambique," the Frontline leaders accused.

The Frontline also attacked the role played by Malawi. South Africa, the declaration states, is using Malawian territory for attacks into Mozambique, and "thus drags Malawi into a conflict that is damaging to the interests of its own people, to the peoples of southern Africa and to peace in the region".

At the end of September, continues the declaration, the Malawian government, at the same time as proposing negotiations with Mozambique, "organised, facilitated and set up the conditions for many bandit gangs to occupy frontier zones in the provinces of Tete, Sofala and Zambezia".

The Frontline leaders denounced "the complicity of the Malawian government with the Pretoria authorities in the terrorist campaign against Mozambique".

They called on the international community, and the industrialised world in particular, to help strengthen the defensive capacity of the Frontline States "so that they may confront Pretoria's aggression".

(more)

Summit/declaration 3 Maputo

They also called for support "for the reconstruction of economies devastated by economic reprisals and military aggression".

The leaders called on the "peoples and governments of the world to take all necessary measures against South Africa and to safeguard peace in the region".

They restated their conviction that "apartheid is a crime against humanity, condemned unanimously by all civilised men and women, regardless of their political and ideological beliefs," and declared "unwavering" solidarity with the peoples of South Africa and Namibia.

At the closing press conference tonight, the Frontline chairman, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, announced that during the day he, President Samora Machel and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos had also held discussions with a delegation from Zaire led by that country's Prime Minister, Kengo Wa Dondo.



KAUNDA/MALAWI

Maputo, 12 Oct (AIM) President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia accused Malawi of having launched an invasion against Mozambique. He was speaking on Sunday after a long summit meeting of the leaders of southern Africa's six Frontline States.

Asked by the Mozambique News Agency (AIM) whether Zambia would stand by Mozambique's warning that it could close its border with Malawi, President Kaunda said "Mozambique has to be thanked for having been so patient with its neighbour Malawi."

"Mozambique has been extremely patient, so patient that it came to ask us, its colleagues in the Frontline States, to lead a delegation to go to see President Banda. This was only a few weeks ago when we thought we could explain what was involved to President Banda."

On 11 September a meeting took place in Blantyre between Presidents Samora Machel, Kenneth Kaunda and Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe with Malawi's Life President Kamuzu Banda.

Dr Kaunda said the three Frontline leaders had talked to President Banda "very faithfully" and recalled that there followed the decision to establish a high powered joint security and defence commission between Mozambique and Malawi.

(more)

Kaunda 2 Maputo

"What has surprised all of us is that after a high powered (Malawian) delegation came to see President Samora Machel an attack should have been launched from its own territory supported by bandits and supported by South Africa.

"We couldn't understand this at all. So we have left everything in the hands of our host (Mozambique). We have tried the language of peace. It has led us nowhere. We regret this," he added.

Mozambican officials said recently that South Africa had unleashed a major attack from Malawian territory involving MNR bandits and affecting mainly the northern provinces of Zambezia and Tete.

A final communique from today's summit launched a bitter attack on Malawi.

On the same question, President Samora Machel said that Mozambique regards the people of Malawi separately from their government. "We don't confuse the two. The people of Malawi want peace, and the people of Mozambique also want peace."

On his return from the Blantyre meeting in September he threatened also to place missiles along the border with Malawi. "The missiles are in place," he said today. But he added: "we haven't put them in firing position yet".

He recalled Malawi's decision to abandon the OAU meeting in Ghana in October 1965 after the OAU had criticised Malawi for its collaboration with the Portuguese colonial authorities in Mozambique, notably by continued Malawian use of Mozambican ports.

(more)

Kaunda 3 Maputo

Malawi, said the President, declared at the time that it could not live without Mozambican ports.

After Mozambique's independence in 1975, the Malawian government began a slow drift towards more dependence on South Africa's ports and railways because of its increasing participation in the South African sponsored destabilisation war against Mozambique which isolated Malawi from Mozambique's northern port of Nacala, the cheapest and closest outlet for Malawian exports.

There was a moment of laughter at today's press conference when a Soviet reporter asked President Samora what he would do in case South Africa attacked Maputo directly with its armed forces. "We will ask the Soviet Union for weapons," he answered.



THREATS/REACTIONS

Johannesburg, 13 Oct (AIM) Leading anti-apartheid activist Albertina Sisulu, co-president of the United Democratic Front and wife of jailed ANC leader Walter Sisulu, has accused South Africa of stage-managing the land mine explosion used as a pretext for the current wave of threats against Mozambique.

Speaking to AIM, Mrs Sisulu said of the threats and accusations made by Defence Minister General Magnus Malan: "This is a well-orchestrated ploy by South Africa and is a major characteristic of the South African state - they plant bombs and blame Mozambique and Zimbabwe for it."

"They create and foment violence and then accuse others of starting revolution," she continued. "They create poverty and blame the international community for it. They terrorise the entire sub-continent, then call others terrorist."

She explained the latest threats as the result of the failure of South Africa's "criminal proxies, the MNR" to topple the Mozambican government. "Now the worms themselves have come out of the woodwork to do their dirty work."

Mrs Sisulu called on the people of South Africa "to defend the independence of Mozambique, with bare hands if need be. The independence of Mozambique is inextricably woven with our own liberation."
(more)

Threats/reactions 2 Johannesburg

Prominent South African journalist Zwelakhe Sisulu, editor of the independent fortnightly paper New Nation, told AIM that "Malan's threat is simply a diversionary tactic by his government. The problems of this country are not to be found in Mozambique but right here at home. Because they cannot put out the flames that are burning in this country, for them the next best thing is to try to set Mozambique afire."

Mr Sisulu warned that "any attack on the people of Mozambique will be a direct attack on our struggle and the society we have fought for".

The regime's threats, he added, represent "a desperate effort to push back the tides of liberation and genuine independence that are sweeping our region".

Sidney Mafumadi, the assistant general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), told AIM that South Africa had always threatened the sovereignty of its neighbours to the north.

"We have seen the economic sabotage against our neighbours to ensure that they will be blackmailed into refraining from supporting the South African liberation movement and, in some cases, even to hunt down liberation fighters," he said.



MBEKI

Maputo, 13 Oct (AIM) The Director for Information of the African National Congress (ANC), Thabo Mbeki, has dismissed allegations by the South African government that the ANC uses neighbouring countries to launch attacks against it.

Speaking to Radio Mozambique in Maputo after yesterday's summit of the Frontline leaders, Mr Mbeki made it abundantly clear that the ANC has no military base in any of the neighbouring African countries.

"All the ANC military operations are planned and executed from within South Africa," said Mr Mbeki.

"To conduct a military struggle it requires exactly that the military units must be in South Africa," he added. "We do not have an army of invasion which starts from a neighbouring country and then crosses the border to carry out some operations and possibly retreat to such a neighbouring country."

He said the ANC military units based in South Africa obey broad general guidelines in terms of military operations they carry out.

(more)

Mbeki 2 Maputo

In response to the Pretoria regime's claims that some ANC officials have been frequenting Mozambique, the information director said that this was just Pretoria's ploy to distract attention from its own actions violating the Nkomati Accord.

"The Mozambican government has never hidden that the ANC would be allowed to maintain a diplomatic mission in Maputo," he said.

"Secondly, the Mozambican government continues to maintain its political and moral support for the ANC," he continued.

Mr Mbeki said that the Maputo government has reiterated its opposition to the apartheid system. Visits by the ANC officials to Mozambique or meetings that might take place between the leaders of the ANC and the Mozambican government at the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) or at the United Nations have nothing to do with the Nkomati agreement between South Africa and Mozambique.

"The new intensified programme of aggression and destabilisation announced by Defence Minister Malan is a signal of what is to come in the region, deriving from the desperation of the regime and deriving from a vain hope that it can for instance overthrow the government of Mozambique and not only Mozambique, but other countries of the region," concluded Mr Mbeki.

Thabo Mbeki is also a member of the National Executive Council of the ANC. He is the son of Govan Mbeki, an ANC leader serving a life sentence at Pollsmoor prison in Cape Town along with Nelson Mandela and others.



APPEAL

Maputo, 14 Oct (AIM) The Mozambican trade union movement, the OTM, has appealed to workers throughout the world to step up their solidarity with Mozambican workers in the face of growing South African threats.

In a statement from the organisation's secretariat received by the Mozambique News Agency (AIM), the OTM points to the possibility of an imminent South African attack against Mozambique and accuses the Pretoria regime of trying to strangle the Mozambican economy.

The statement refers particularly to last week's South African decision to cease recruiting Mozambican migrant workers and to expel those already in South Africa at the end of their current contracts. The OTM notes that there are about 61,000 Mozambicans working in the South African mines.

The statement thanks the South African National Union of Miners (NUM) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) for their expressions of solidarity with the Mozambican miners.

It pledges the OTM's continued support to South African workers in their struggle against apartheid.

"South African recruits, finances and infiltrates bandit gangs to destabilise our country and to sow destruction and death," accuses the OTM. The Pretoria regime, it says, wants to export the conflict between itself and the South African people to the neighbouring states.

The OTM calls on Mozambican workers "to organise ourselves in the defence of our country threatened by racist barbarism. In all workplaces let us prepare to defend our economy and our sovereignty."



GOI-GOI/INTERVIEW

Maputo, 14 Oct (AIM) There is no doubt that the aircraft which violate Mozambican airspace in the northern province of Niassa come from Malawi, according to Niassa provincial military commander, Colonel Bernardo Goi-Goi.

Interviewed in the latest issue of the monthly magazine of the Mozambican armed forces, 25 of September, Col. Goi-Goi declared "Malawi shelters the bandits. That's the truth - they have bases there and are received by the government. We have proof that the light planes and even helicopters that violate our airspace come from Malawi."

Resupplying MNR bandit gangs in Niassa was carried out from Malawi, he added.

Malawian support for the bandits was most obvious in the south of the province, in the districts of Mecanhelas, Mandimba and Ngauma.

Colonel Goi-Goi said that the visit of President Samora Machel to Malawi in November 1984 had not improved matters. After the President's visit Malawian support for the MNR continued as before.

Col. Goi-Goi explained that the railway to Malawi, which passes through southern Niassa, was operational but not a hundred percent. The section from the Malawian border to the town of Cuamba functions reasonably, as does the

branch line from Cuamba to the district capital, Lichinga, despite all MNR attempts at sabotage.

However, there are major problems on the stretch from Cuamba to the city of Nampula. This is due not merely to banditry but to the poor state of the line which leads to frequent derailments. Money from Canada, France and the European Economic Community (EEC) for the rehabilitation of this part of the line has now been confirmed.



MALAN

Maputo, 15 Oct (AIM) South Africa's Defence Minister, Gen. Magnus Malan, has again threatened military action against the Frontline States.

According to the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), monitored in Maputo today, Gen Malan repeated the apartheid regime's claim that the South African liberation movement, the African National Congress (ANC), was operating militarily out of the Frontline States.

Speaking to SABC newsmen, the minister said that the Frontline leaders "share the responsibility" for what he described as the ANC's "acts of terror".

The Frontline States "would have to suffer the consequences of ANC attacks launched from their countries," he threatened.

Malan directed his threats in particular against Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, the current chairman of the Frontline States. President Kaunda, he said, "should realise that he could not host the ANC and the South African Communist Party while wanting to be known as someone who advocated peace".
(more)

Malan 2 Maputo

He alleged that an incident in June this year in which South African fighter aircraft had flown menacingly over Lusaka was "a direct message to President Kaunda to choose between peace and confrontation".

He went on to say that South Africa's relations with Zambia and Mozambique would be determined "by their attitude to peace and conflict".

Apparently forgetful of the war in Namibia, the South African occupation of parts of southern Angola, Pretoria's backing for surrogate forces such as UNITA and the MNR, and the repeated South African raids against the neighbouring states, General Malan said that "South Africa has chosen peace".

The Frontline States "will have to make their choice now," he said.



SABOTAGE

Maputo, 15 Oct (AIM) A mine exploded early this morning on the railway linking Maputo to the South African border, a spokesman for the Mozambique railways told the Mozambique News Agency (AIM) today.

In the explosion, seven wagons of a goods train travelling from Maputo to the border town of Ressano Garcia were derailed, and 900 metres of track were damaged.

The sabotage took place in the district of Moamba, some 40 kilometres north-west of Maputo.

Repairs to the line are under way, and the railway authorities are hopeful that it will be back in operation by Friday.

The last time the railway was attacked was on the night of 24 September when a bridge near the South African border was damaged.

The railway spokesman also informed AIM that a second mine had exploded on Monday on the Limpopo railway line in the southern province of Gaza, destroying a bridge.

This is the railway that links Maputo to Zimbabwe. However, it has been closed to international traffic, because of South African attacks, since 1984, and is currently only used by local traffic.

AIM COMMENT/MALAN'S THREATS

Maputo, 15 Oct (AIM) South Africa's Defence Minister, Gen Magnus Malan, today threatened the Frontline States once again, singling out Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda for particular attention.

Malan declared that Zambia should not accept representatives of the African National Congress (ANC) or of the South African Communist Party (SACP) in its capital, and said that the violation of Zambian airspace by South African planes in June had been a "direct warning" to President Kaunda.

An immediate interpretation of this is that South Africa is trying to intimidate Zambia.

On Sunday, at the end of the Frontline summit, the Zambian President declared his solidarity with Mozambique in the face of the invasion orchestrated by South Africa from Malawian territory.

Kaunda let it be understood that Zambia would support any defensive action that Mozambique might take in reaction to this invasion, such as closing the border with Malawi.

Should Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia all close their borders with Malawi then that country would be completely isolated. The Malawian leadership would then have to rethink their entire past of servile collaboration with South Africa.

This collaboration has led to open complicity in South African aggression against Mozambique, and in serious losses to the Zambian and Zimbabwean economies, since these countries both need to use the railways through central Mozambique.

(more)

Malan's threats 2 Maputo

South Africa now wants Zambia to take no action against Malawi's collaboration, so that Malawi can remain an open door for Pretoria and so that Malawi can continue to be a base for the MNR bandits. That is, so that it can continue to serve as a base for attacking the Mozambican railways and ports which would free the landlocked countries of the region from their dependence on the South Africa transport network - a dependence created by military means.

The unmasking of the massive MNR presence in Malawi was a major blow to Pretoria's intentions of continuing to violate the Nkomati non-aggression accord via Malawian territory.

For South Africa, Malawi has replaced the bandit headquarters at Gorongosa that were captured by Mozambican and Zimbabwean forces last year. Joint action by the Frontline States against this situation would run contrary to the hegemonic interests of the apartheid regime.

Pretoria wants to come to the rescue of its friends inside Malawi. It wants to avoid an acute internal crisis in Malawi, which a border closure would probably provoke, because then Pretoria's representatives inside Malawi might be thrown out by Malawian patriots who did not wish to see their economy ruined. Malawian patriots might also wish to escape from the opprobrium that the country has earned through its past of collaboration with the racist minority regimes of the region.

(more)

Malan's threats 3 Maputo

From 1975 onwards Pretoria has tried to divide the Frontline States, but it has never succeeded. We are sure that once again Zambia will not allow itself to be intimidated and will give a further example of regional solidarity against apartheid and for the economic liberation of the countries of SADCC (Southern African Development Coordination Conference).

Malan's threats today were also directed against Mozambique, couched in much the same terms as his bluster of last week. They are part of an attempt to intimidate Mozambique so that the country cannot protect itself effectively from the attacks that South Africa is organising from Malawi.

These threats are accompanied by an unprecedented campaign in the South African press centred on the idea that Maputo is highly unstable and that the Mozambican government is about to collapse.

Some of the international media have picked this up and are beginning to give it credibility.

The aim of this campaign is to prepare South African and Western public opinion for South African military action against Maputo.
(more)

Malan's threats 4 Maputo

Naturally there is concern in the Mozambican capital at these threats and at the continued aggression along the common border with South Africa. But the city remains calm. Its residents are going about their normal day to day business, grappling with the problems of shortages imposed by the war, but also going to the usual concerts and football matches.

This is not the atmosphere of a city under siege. Indeed the security situation around the capital has improved greatly since March. Furthermore the amount of food available in the markets has increased - albeit at very high prices.

Although these changes are far from satisfying the needs of Maputo's citizens, they mark distinct improvements - and it is these that South Africa would like to destroy with a possible direct attack by its armed forces.



ZAMBEZIA/MILITARY

Ile (Mozambique), 16 Oct (Aim) Peasants fleeing from the war zones in the central Mozambican province of Zambezia near the Malawian border continue to speak of massive infiltration of bandit gangs across the frontier, principally into the districts of Milange and Morrumbala.

Eye-witnesses told an Aim reporter in Zambezia that the MNR bandits poured over the Malawian border "heavily armed".

Fierce fighting took place between the bandits and units of the Mozambican Armed Forces (FPLM) when a group of about 350 gunmen tried to seize the town of Namarroi in the north-east of the province on 30 September.

The struggle for control of Namarroi lasted three days. On the afternoon of 2 October, the bandits were obliged to withdraw, leaving behind them 15 dead.

Aim spoke to some people who had fled from this fighting to the Mulumasse river, on the border between Namarroi and the central Zambezia district of Ile. They said that MNR losses in the battle were higher, and that the bandits had managed to bury some of their dead. In their retreat, they had taken with them an unknown, but substantial, number of wounded.

According to the Namarroi district administrator, Severino Mukhutualua, the situation is now "practically under control" and the people who had fled from the area are now returning to their homes. Preparations for the election of the Namarroi district people's assembly are going ahead.

Military sources in Zambezia told Aim that in July and August the FPLM destroyed four bandit camps in Ile district, in operations designed to clear the ground for holding elections in Ile.

On 18 September, FPLM units stationed in Ile killed 12 bandits at Sucune, where the second largest farm of the Mozambican state tea company Emocha is located.

As one of the major productive enterprises in Zambezia, Emocha is high up on the list of targets the South African military have marked down for destruction.



RAILWAY

Johannesburg, 16 Oct (Aim) The railway linking Maputo to South Africa, sabotaged early on Wednesday morning, is now back in operation, according to Mozambique railway sources in Johannesburg.

The repair work took a matter of hours - less time than initially expected - and the line was reopened at 15.00 local time yesterday.

900 metres of track was damaged in the incident, which occurred when a goods train triggered a mine.

The sabotage occurred less than a week after Security Minister Sergio Vieira had warned that a group of commandos had been infiltrated into Maputo province from South Africa.

Currently the Director of the port of Maputo, Ilidio Dinis, is in the South African town of Nelspruit addressing a seminar attended by South African businessmen, exporters and freight agents on the use of the Mozambican port and rail system.



SAMORA: A POSSIBLE TARGET?

By Carlos Cardoso

Maputo, 16 Oct (Aim) President Samora Machel could be one of the chosen targets of the South African military hierarchy if the threatened raids against Maputo by the South African armed forces are carried out.

Observers in Maputo believe that the assassination of the Mozambican leader appears to be in the minds of the South African generals, and there are already certain public indications of this.

In his threat on 7 October, South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan declared that Samora Machel "appears to have lost control of the situation". He added that if the Mozambican leader "chooses terrorism and revolution" then South Africa would "act accordingly".

Malan's threats were directed specifically at Samora Machel rather than against Mozambique or its government in general.

The following day, Deputy Foreign Minister Ron Miller - a politician whose name is linked to the military faction of the apartheid regime - repeated Malan's threats, also pointing an accusing finger at President Samora.

There followed a major campaign in the South African radio, press and television, in which there were two fundamental and interlinked themes - opposition to Samora Machel, and a veiled call for direct South African intervention.

The state radio, the SABC, for instance, broadcast an item from dubious sources trying to implicate Samora Machel in the activities of the Portuguese armed group FP-25, several of whose members are currently on trial in Lisbon accused of terrorism.

This is an attempt to equate Samora with men like Libyan leader Colonel Khaddaffi, who is considered in Western eyes as a "promoter of international terrorism". It is a classic way of building up to an assassination through a propaganda campaign that will win public acceptance of the murder.

The South African pro-government daily The Citizen openly called for intervention on 10 October, suggesting that there were ANC targets in Maputo that could be "taken out".

On Sunday, two articles in the Johannesburg Sunday Times strengthened this reading of the South African threats.

One of these said that Joe Slovo, Chairman of the South African Communist Party, and Chief of Staff of the armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe, has been living permanently in Maputo for two years.

All past south African raids on Maputo have been preceded by campaigns to prepare South African (and Western) public opinion, and these have all been based on the accusation that there are "ANC bases" in Maputo and that Joe Slovo lives in the city.

In fact, Mr Slovo does not live in Maputo, and his visits to the city are quite public. They do not have the sinister, clandestine aura with which the South African media endows the Slovo-Maputo link. Thus in August 1984 Mr Slovo gave a public lecture in Maputo to mark the second anniversary of the death of his wife, the prominent South African academic Ruth First, murdered by a letter bomb sent to her university office by agents of the apartheid regime.

The Pretoria regime should certainly know all about that visit by Mr Slovo, since in the audience was their trade representative in Maputo, Colin Patterson, who complimented Mr Slovo at the end of his lecture.
(more)

Samora: a possible target? 2 Maputo

But the article, written by a certain Stephen Terblanche, a journalist close to South African military intelligence, went further and cited South African sources claiming that Joe Slovo now operates from a flat in Maputo's Julius Nyerere Avenue, and is "once more" the brains behind ANC "terrorist activity".

Now it just so happens that one person who really does live and work in Julius Nyerere Avenue is President Samora Machel himself.

A quite blatant attempt to link the President with the ANC, implying that both would be legitimate targets for a South African attack was made by The Citizen on 16 October, which claimed that ANC "permanents" in Maputo, plus President Samora Machel, had left the capital to take "refuge" on Inhaca island in the Bay of Maputo.

The sinister overtones of this article are only outpaced by its palpable absurdity.

Mr Terblanche wrote a second Sunday Times article claiming that the MNR is winning the war. His sources were Pretoria's military intelligence.

Unnamed South African analysts are quoted by Mr Terblanche as giving the MNR bandits an excellent chance of occupying seats in the Mozambican government in the short to medium term or of gaining total military victory.

The rest of the South African establishment press was similar in tone. Since the imposition of the state of emergency the last vestiges of liberalism seem to have disappeared from South Africa's main papers.

The dominant theme was that the Mozambican government is about to fall, a tune sung once more by Malan this Wednesday when he declared to the SABC that "Mozambique is on the brink of collapse".

The logical extension is that for this to happen all that is needed is for South Africa to intervene directly or to step up still further its support for the MNR. That was the message in the South African media. As Aim correspondent in Johannesburg put it: "The South African press created this weekend a certain feeling that the Mozambican government is falling".

But in Maputo the reality of life is continuing normally. That is, its people are, as usual, battling with the day to day difficulties provoked by war. The city has just celebrated Mozambique's 3-0 win over Colombia in the world hockey championship (B rank). The cinemas are crowded as ever, while those with access to television watch a very popular Brazilian serial, there is no siege atmosphere.

The war is "up there, in the north". Maputo's residents have an offhand attitude because the military situation around the city has improved substantially since March when the MNR suffered heavy losses in the outer Maputo suburbs and lost their taste for raiding the Maputo periphery.

The only noticeable breach in the capital's calm was caused by government announcements on Friday and Saturday that a group of commandos from South Africa had already infiltrated the capital.

The Pretoria government had infiltrated some 2,000 bandits into Maputo province in 1984, precisely in order to destabilise the capital, provoking the psychological climate that would lead to the fall of the government. Despite regular sabotage on the city's electricity supply in early 1985, and frequent hit and run raids on the western periphery, Maputo did not panic.

"South Africa's Maputo operation launched in 1984 failed," a government source told AIM. "Now they want to involve their own armed forces directly."
(more)

Target 3 Maputo

Threats such as those coming out of Pretoria over the past ten days have, in the past, presaged South African air or commando raids.

Perhaps more worrying than this is the possibility that, confronted with the present capacity of the ANC and the mass movement inside South Africa, military chiefs such as Malan, van der Westhuizen and Viloen have imposed their line on the rest of the government and are determined to remove the man they consider a major obstacle to the goal of a southern Africa under South African hegemony - President Samora Machel.

That the South African generals never accepted the Nkomati Accord is now public knowledge - the MNR documents captured in 1985 made that very clear. But the uneasy balance between the pro-Nkomati politicians and anti-Nkomati generals in the regime was based on a false premise, fed by wishful thinking in the Western media - namely that Samora Machel's pragmatism did not reflect the Mozambican leader's strong feeling of independence and sovereignty, but merely proved that he was on the way to becoming a client of the West.

So, after Nkomati, and particularly at the time of President Samora's visit to the USA last year, the Western and South African press talked incessantly about Mozambique "turning to the West". The Mozambican President was supposed to be looking for a "boss" somewhere in London or Washington. That was the period when the West, and even the South African politicians, were praising Samora.

But Pretoria's hegemonic project, which men such as Foreign Minister Roelof Botha wished to pursue through negotiations, has gone up in smoke. Samora Machel turned out not to be "pro-Western", but pro-Mozambican and rejected "political accommodation" with the bandits that Pretoria and certain Western governments were trying (and still try) to impose.

Likewise he rejected any alliance with apartheid and refused to denationalise health, education or land - basic popular gains of the Mozambican revolution.

The politicians therefore lost out - they were unable to deliver President Samora Machel on a silver platter. Political power now lies clearly with the generals who direct the process of war and destabilisation. The process has become a vicious circle. The generals need destabilisation. It is the guarantee of their internal power. Without it, they would be unemployed. The wars against neighbouring states and the political situation inside South Africa therefore react and reinforce each other.

Today Malan and his colleagues seem involved in an operation designed to get rid not only of an obstacle called called Samora Machel but also of the embarrassingly sovereign and independent Mozambican state - a state that refuses to do what it's told, but whose decisions, right or wrong, are taken in Maputo and nowhere else.

There is one worrying precedent for the sort of situation we see. When the Portuguese colonial rulers of Mozambique felt control slipping out of their grasp they tried to regain the initiative by organising the assassination of the first President of FRELIMO, Dr Eduardo Mondlane, in February 1969. Those who murdered him believed that by eliminating the top leader they could also eliminate the roots of anti-colonial resistance. Forces of the same nature, equally lacking in imagination, equally soaked in crime, seem today prepared to follow their example and murder the Mozambican President.



CONTRADICTIONS

Maputo, 17 Oct (Aim) Accusations of Malawian involvement in South Africa's war of aggression against Mozambique are causing serious contradictions among the Malawian leadership, the Maputo daily Noticias reports today.

"Reports from Blantyre indicate that frequent meetings are being held in the Sanjika Palace for discussions on Malawi's relations with its neighbours and on a successor for the head of state, now over 80," Noticias reports.

The paper says that "politicians and military men are part of a group of people who are manifestly opposed to the line followed by the regime in its

relations with its neighbours. They think that if the authorities continue in this way, they could endanger the country's security."

In a telephone conversation, Noticias says, an unnamed source in Blantyre noted that "it appears that they (politicians and military men) are not very interested in engaging openly in a war since, despite the links with the South Africans and the Israelis, the country does not have the defence capacity to confront any retaliatory action by any one of its neighbours".

The same source said that there were deep divisions between the army on the one hand and the police and security on the other. "The latter are completely controlled by South Africans and Israelis, while the former were trained in Europe," the source added.

(more)

Contradictions 2 Maputo

The paper also quotes "a foreigner who frequently visits Malawi" as saying that the movement of South African citizens through the airport at Blantyre "has been very great recently".

The same source told Noticias that Portuguese citizens "known for their close links" with Jorge Jardim have arrived in Malawi. Jorge Jardim, who now is dead, was a prominent figure in colonial Mozambique and was also Malawi's honorary consul in the Portuguese colony.

"The contradictions within the ruling class in Malawi sharpened after the denunciation of Malawi's involvement in South Africa's plans to destabilise and sabotage the countries of southern Africa, particularly Mozambique," Noticias says.

It adds that there are forces in Malawi in favour of "a drastic reduction of Pretoria's interference in the internal affairs of Malawi".



SLOVO

Johannesburg, 17 Oct (Aim) A South African paper, the Weekly Mail, today carried, across four columns of its front page, a photo of the most wanted man in South Africa, Communist Party chairman Joe Slovo, chatting peacefully with the South African trade representative in Maputo, Colin Patterson.

The accompanying story bore the headline "The day a South African envoy met Joe Slovo - oops. A tete a tete with public enemy number one".

The picture was taken on 24 August 1984, after Mr Slovo had just given a public lecture in Maputo in memory of his wife, Ruth First, murdered two years earlier by a letter bomb sent to her university office by agents of the South African apartheid regime.

Mr Patterson was in the audience, and at the end of the meeting he was one of several people who complimented Mr Slovo.

As the two men talked, the chief photographer of the Mozambican weekly magazine Tempo took pictures of the encounter.

The meeting was not "unreported" as Agence France Press said today, in its report on the Weekly Mail story. In fact AIM reported the lecture and meeting between Mr Slovo and Mr Patterson at the time, and anyone who wishes to check this will find it on page 15 on the AIM information bulletin issue no 98 for August 1984.

Nobody thought much of the incident at the time. Mr Slovo's presence in Maputo was quite public, as have been his subsequent visits. They are not the clandestine, sinister affairs that the South African military would like white public opinion in South Africa to believe.

The recent accusations made by Defence Minister General Magnus Malan against Mozambique, in which Mr Slovo's name features prominently, led some of the South African media to take an interest in the 1984 encounter.



MUTARARA/SOUTH AFRICANS

Tete (Mozambique), 17 Oct (Aim) People fleeing from the district of Mutarara on the border with Malawi state that "white soldiers" are commanding groups of

MNR bandits who recently infiltrated this part of the country from Malawian soil.

Mutarara is the easternmost district of the north-west province of Tete. It is a narrow strip of land sandwiched between the Malawian border and the Zambezi river.

According to a reporter on the daily newspaper Noticias, Mr Noe Dimande, currently in Tete City, eye witnesses who have escaped from Mutarara refer to these white men as "South Africans".

In contact with Maputo today, Mr Dimande said that a large number of people had made their way from Mutarara to Tete city, and that people fleeing from other zones invaded by bandits are concentrating along the shores of Lake Cahora Bassa in the west of the province.

In the area of Maravia, in north-central Tete, many peasants have abandoned their homes and are hiding in the bush from MNR gangs.



MINERS

Johannesburg, 17 Oct (aim) After a week of negotiations with the Pretoria government, the South African Chamber of Mines has obtained permission for 750 mineworkers recruited in Mozambique to enter South Africa.

On 8 October the South African regime had declared that it was prohibiting any further recruitment of Mozambican migrant labour.

The authorisation that the Chamber of Mines has now won is on the basis that the 750 workers had already been recruited before the 8 October announcement. It is therefore a special case, and does not constitute a significant shift in the government's position.

However, all indications are that the chamber of mines will continue to put pressure on the government to allow Mozambicans to continue working on the mines.

The Chairman of the Chamber of Mines, Peter Gush, declared "for the best part of the past hundred years Mozambique has been one of the most important sources of labour for South Africa's gold mines. It is a matter of great regret that this relationship between our mining industry and the people of Mozambique has been threatened".

Mr Gush paid tribute to the work done by Mozambican migrants, recognising that they have created much of the country's wealth. "I believe all South Africans should be aware of the very great debt we owe to the hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans who helped sustain our industry in difficult times," he said.

But government spokesmen have continued to link recruitment of miners to security matters. This echoes the original government statement which gave alleged activities of the ANC in Mozambique as the reason for ending recruitment of Mozambican workers.

Speaking to a meeting of Transvaal farmers, the General Director of the Department of Manpower, Piet van der Merwe, said "if the security matters can be cleared up and negotiations take place, that could alter the present situation".



MILITIA

Maputo, 18 Oct (Aim) Members of Maputo's people's militias marched through the centre of the city today to demonstrate their willingness to fight off any South African aggression against the Mozambican capital.

From different starting points, the uniformed marchers, both men and women, converged on Praça dos Trabalhadores (Workers' Square) beside the port of Maputo for a meeting addressed by the Frelimo Party City Secretary for Defence, Aurelio Manhica.

In a message read out to the meeting, the militias declared "we have come here to reaffirm that we will never surrender. We will defend at all costs our socialist country."

The message stressed the need for providing more weapons to the militias, and promised that "we shall improve our training and combat readiness".

Mr Manhica said that refresher courses would be organised for militia members, and that they would be supplied with new weapons "more appropriate for the defence of the city".

He said that the Frelimo Party's Maputo Committee was working together with the military and security forces to reorganise the capital's defences.

Today's march comes a week after the Mozambican government warned that the South African military was preparing air and commando raids against Maputo.

The People's Militia are one of the country's voluntary security bodies. In rural areas in particular they are often in the front line against South African backed MNR bandits.



FRONT LINE/MOBUTU

Mbala (Zambia), 19 Oct (Aim) Three leaders of the Frontline States are meeting today at Kasaba Bay in northern Zambia with President Mobutu Sese Seko.

The meeting is designed to discuss questions of cooperation and stability in southern Africa.

President Samora Machel left Maputo this morning, and joined up with the two other Frontline Presidents attending the meeting, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola.

Kasaba Bay is a tourist resort on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. The meeting here follows the Frontline summit of 12 October at the end of which the leaders of Mozambique, Angola and Zambia met with the Prime Minister of Zaire, Kengo wa Dondo.

Over the past eight weeks, the Frontline states have been involved in intense diplomatic contacts, designed to coordinate an appropriate response to the South African destabilisation of the region, and to ensure alternative routes to the sea for the landlocked countries of southern Africa.

There are indications that the Angolan counter-revolutionary movement UNITA is receiving aid through Zaire. The 15 million dollars worth of aid pledged to UNITA earlier this year by US President Ronald Reagan may be finding its way to UNITA with the help of elements in Zaire.

Before the signing of a security agreement between the two countries in 1978, Zaire openly supported puppet movements in Angola.

UNITA has kept the Benguela railway, the shortest outlet to the sea for much of Zaire, closed: it is twice the distance for Zairean traffic to go to the South African port of East London than along the Benguela railway to Lobito. 80 per cent of Zaire's exports, particularly copper and cobalt, travel the 3,500 kilometres to East London, as do most of the country's imports.



CRASH

Maputo, 20 Oct (Aim) The Mozambican authorities are investigating the crash of an aircraft last night in South Africa near the Mozambican border.

At 8.44 local time this morning (6.44 GMT) Radio Mozambique broadcast a message from Marcelino dos Santos, a member of the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party, and Secretary of the Mozambican parliament, the People's Assembly, announcing that President Samora Machel had not returned to Maputo from Lusaka as scheduled last night.

The Mozambican leader had attended a summit meeting in Zambia with two other Frontline leaders, Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, and the leader of Zaire, President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Marcelino dos Santos said that the plane had been expected to return at 21.30 last night. When it did not arrive "all measures were taken to locate the plane", said Mr dos Santos.

The search went on overnight and into this morning," he continued.



Maputo, Oct 20 (AIM) People in the streets of the Mozambican capital anxiously await news over the radio about the fate of President Samora Machel. (Photo: Alfredo Mueche/AIM).

Mr dos Santos revealed that at 6.50 the Mozambican government was informed by the South African authorities that a plane travelling from Lusaka had crashed in South Africa territory in the province of Natal.

He said that the Frelimo Party Political Bureau, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers are meeting to analyse the situation.

Mr dos Santos called on all citizens "to remain calm" and "to keep vigilant in order to neutralise any enemy action to provoke instability and criminal behaviour".

Radio Mozambique is now playing solemn classical music.



SAMORA/DEATH

Maputo, 20 Oct (Aim) The following is the full text of the statement read to the nation this evening by Frelimo Party Political Bureau member, Marcelino dos Santos, in the name of the Political Bureau, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers.

Mozambican men and women,

It is with profound emotion and sorrow that the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique communicate to the entire Mozambican people, from Rovuma to Maputo, the tragic death of the President of the Frelimo party, and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Marshal Samora Moises Machel.

This terrible event has plunged the Mozambican nation into mourning. It is an irreplaceable loss for our country, for our region, for Africa and for humanity.

Each Mozambican feels this tragedy as a terrible moment of suffering in his or her life.

President Samora Moises Machel, father of the nation and founder of our People's Republic of Mozambique, is the symbol of the unity of the Mozambican people, of heroism and of grandeur. He was the best son of our people.

His death occurred when the presidential aircraft, travelling from Mbala, Zambia, on its approach to Maputo airport, crashed under circumstances that are not yet clarified at Mbuzini, in South African territory, about five kilometres north-west of Namaacha.

(more)

Samora/death 2 Maputo

President Samora Moises Machel was returning from one more mission seeking the establishment of peace in southern Africa and the development of regional cooperation. It was one more mission in support of freedom, justice, equality, peace and progress, causes to which he dedicated his courage as a fighter and his talent as a statesman. President Samora Moises Machel was carrying out this task in the certainty that only through the elimination of armed banditry in southern Africa would the peoples of the region be able to dedicate their efforts and energies to progress, development and social well-being.

The life of President Samora Moises Machel is an example to all Mozambicans by its courage, coherence, dignity and total dedication to the cause of the Mozambican people, who were always his inspiration.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique understand the full gravity of the loss of their leader, and feel the immense sorrow of all Mozambicans at home and abroad.

This loss has occurred in a particularly difficult moment in our history and our lives, when the most reactionary of forces are ranged against our country in attempts to destroy our independence and the gains of the Mozambican revolution.

(more)

Samora/death 3 Maputo

This is the second time that, under tragic circumstances, the Mozambican people have lost their leader, the guarantor of their most just longings and aspirations.

When we were fighting for the liberation of our country, colonialism and its agents assassinated President Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, in the hope that through this criminal act they could impede the development of the struggle for independence. In that moment of sorrow, we were able to unite courageously around FRELIMO, redouble our determination and continue the struggle.

The Mozambican people have a heroic tradition of always knowing how to resist the greatest tragedies that fall upon them. They have the heroic tradition of knowing how to transform their suffering and sorrow into new and greater energies and capacities in order to overcome adversity and map out new paths that may allow them to win the future of peace and prosperity to which they so greatly aspire.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique have complete trust in the patriotism of the Mozambican people. Let all of us, Mozambican men and women, transform this tragic death into a powerful catalyst of national unity. Let us redouble still further our commitment to destroy the banditry that assails our country and to ensure that all the manoeuvres under way to destroy our country result in failure.

Today, more than ever, our national independence requires the unity of all Mozambicans. Let us unite around our national flag, and around the leadership of the Party and the state, in safeguarding the territorial integrity of the

People's Republic of Mozambique, in sharpening our vigilance, in fighting without quarter against everything that may divide us, in the intransigent affirmation of our patriotism, in the defence of the revolution.

(more)

Samora/death 4 Maputo

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique present their feelings of deepest sorrow and profound condolences to the widow of our beloved President, comrade Graca Machel, to his children, his brothers and all the bereaved family. With them we are experiencing with the same intensity this great sorrow. With them we will together build the future of the Mozambican motherland.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique decree, in homage to the memory of President Samora Moises Machel, hero of the Republic, a period of sixty days of national mourning. During this period the national flag shall be flown at half mast.

From today until the holding of the funeral no recreational, sporting or cultural activities shall take place.

Official information of the funeral arrangements will be given in due course.

A Luta Continua

(The struggle continues)



Maputo, Oct 21 (AIM) Groups of silent people in the streets of Maputo read in this morning's newspaper about the death of Samora Machel. (Photo: Alfredo Mueche/AIM).

SAMORA/BIOGRAPHY

Maputo, 20 Oct (Aim) Samora Moises Machel was born into a peasant family in the village of Chilembene in the Limpopo valley in southern Mozambique's Gaza province on 29 September 1933.

Despite the barriers raised by Portuguese colonialism to prevent Mozambicans receiving education, Samora Machel completed a nursing course. This was one of the highest professional qualifications that black Mozambicans could then reach. While working at what is now Maputo central hospital, he continued his secondary education at night school.

When, under the leadership of Dr Eduardo Mondlane, the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) was formed, on June 25 1962, Samora Machel left the country and made his way to Dar es Salaam, where he joined the Front. In 1963 he was among the first groups of FRELIMO guerrillas that went to Algeria for military training.

Samora Machel took an active part in launching the independence war on 25 September 1964, drawing up plans, selecting guerrillas, and organising their entry into the country.

In 1965 he led the opening of the front in the eastern sector of the northern province of Niassa, and later organised the major political and military training centre of Nachingwea, in southern Tanzania. He also fought in Tete and Cabo Delgado provinces, often commanding operations at great risk to his life.

(more)

Biography 2 Maputo

After the assassination of Filipe Samuel Magaia, the secretary of the FRELIMO defence department, in 1966, the FRELIMO Central Committee appointed Samora Machel to the post. At this time he also became a member of the Central Committee.

When the Portuguese colonialists murdered Eduardo Mondlane with a parcel bomb in Dar es Salaam on 3 February 1969, Samora Machel was appointed to the three-man council of the presidency, a provisional leadership body. In 1970 the Central Committee appointed him President of FRELIMO.

As President, Samora Machel conducted the process of negotiations with the new authorities in Lisbon after the overthrow of fascism in Portugal on 25 April 1974. This culminated in the Lusaka Accords, signed by President Samora on 7 September 1974, which laid down the mechanisms of the transfer of power to FRELIMO on behalf of the Mozambican people.

During the ensuing period of transitional government, which included both FRELIMO and Portuguese ministers, President Samora remained outside the country organising the movement for the assumption of full power.

He returned to the country in a triumphal journey from the northern border, the Rovuma River, to Maputo in June 1975. On 25 June 1975 he proclaimed the country's independence and the foundation of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

In March 1976, President Samora announced the closure of the border with the British colony of Southern Rhodesia, and the full application of United Nations sanctions against the illegal Smith regime.

(more)

Biography 3 Maputo

In February 1977 the Mozambique Liberation Front held its third congress and decided to constitute itself afresh as the Frelimo Party, a Marxist-Leninist vanguard party of the worker-peasant alliance.

President Samora played a key role in organising Mozambique's support for the Zimbabwean liberation movement, and the defence of the country against repeated Rhodesian aggression. He was deeply involved in the political process that led to the Lancaster House Conference in London and thence to the independence of Zimbabwe.

In 1980 when ranks were introduced into the Mozambican army, President

Samora was distinguished with the country's highest military title, that of Marshal of the Republic.

The Fourth Congress of the Frelimo Party, held in 1983, re-elected Samora Machel as President of the Party. In 1984 he was decorated with the country's highest civilian award, the title of Hero of the Republic, by the Mozambican parliament, the People's Assembly.

On 16 March 1984 President Samora signed the Nkomati Accord on non-aggression and good neighbourliness with the then South African Prime Minister (now President) Pieter Botha. Despite this accord, the South African military did not abandon their support for its surrogate army in Mozambique, the MNR bandits.

(more)

Biography 4 Maputo

President Samora Machel took Mozambique into the Frontline States and he was one of the signatories to the Lusaka Declaration of 1980, which founded the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

President Samora was honoured with distinctions from many countries. These include the Lenin Peace Prize of the Soviet Union, the Playa Giron and the Jose Marti medals of Cuba, the Georgi Dimitrov medal of Bulgaria and the Order of St Michael and St George of Great Britain.

The Zimbabwean authorities named the main thoroughfare in Harare Samora Machel Avenue in honour of the role he played in the liberation of Zimbabwe.

He was best known, both by his leadership colleagues and the Mozambican people, as an intransigent patriot and defender of the Mozambican revolution's popular gains, valuing the sovereignty of his country above all else.

Nationally, regionally and internationally he became known for his unflinching anti-racism.

His vision of southern Africa was one of a region whose immense riches could be shared by all its peoples, uniting in a common bond all races, people of all ethnic origins and different religious beliefs.



CONSTITUTION

Maputo, 20 Oct (AIM) The successor to President Samora Machel must be appointed by the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, according to the country's constitution.

Article 57 of the Constitution reads: "in the event of the death, resignation or permanent incapacity of the President of the Republic, his functions shall be immediately assumed by the Frelimo Party Central Committee which shall name a new President of the Republic in the shortest possible space of time".

The Constitution also establishes, in Article 53, that the "President of the People's Republic of Mozambique is the President of Frelimo".



SAMORA/REACTIONS

Maputo, 20 Oct (AIM) The death in a plane crash on Sunday night of Mozambican President Samora Machel has been received with shock and sorrow throughout southern Africa and internationally.

Messages of condolence have begun to arrive in the Mozambican capital, and for their part the major news agencies have been giving great stress to the death of the Mozambican leader.

In neighbouring Zimbabwe, acting Prime Minister Simon Muzenda sent a message of condolences to the Mozambican government in which he described the death of President Samora as cruel and unexpected.

Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Robert Mugabe is on a visit to Britain, but he has decided to cut short his stay and return to southern Africa.

The former Tanzanian President, and Chairman of Tanzania's Chama Cha Mapinduzi party, Julius Nyerere was in Belgium when he received the tragic news. He too decided to return home, and tomorrow (Tuesday) he is scheduled to chair a meeting of the CCM Central Committee called exclusively to analyse the situation in the wake of President Samora's death. Julius Nyerere was a personal friend of President Samora, and a close comrade-in-arms from the time of the war against Portuguese colonialism, when Tanzania offered FRELIMO guerrillas secure rear bases.

(more)

Samora/Reactions 2 Maputo

Immediately on learning of the death of President Samora, the government of Botswana declared three days of national mourning in his memory. President Quett Masire is currently in New Zealand, and the measure was taken by his substitute, Deputy President Peter Mmusi.

The General Secretary of the South African liberation movement, the African National Congress (ANC), Alfred Nzo, who is currently visiting Denmark, accused the South African government of being directly or indirectly responsible for the plane crash. He said that the ANC would consider President Samora's death as murder until it was proved otherwise.

The Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) of South Africa also accused the apartheid regime of causing the death of the Mozambican leader.

In Guinea Bissau the Cabinet went into emergency session today. A top Guinean official told journalists that the news had been received in Bissau "with deep sorrow".

Through a statement issued by the office of President Hosni Mubarak, Egypt also lamented the death of President Samora and announced three days of national mourning.

In Kenya, President Daniel arap Moi announced the news to a mass meeting attended by thousands of people celebrating Kenya's national day. He called for a minute's silence in memory of President Samora.

The President of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko, announced that his country would observe national mourning until President Samora's funeral. President Mobutu was one of the leaders who met with the Mozambican leader at Sunday's summit in Mbale, Zambia. The Zairean Ambassador to Mozambique was also among those who died in the crash.

(more)

Samora/reactions 3 Maputo

The Portuguese President, Mario Soares, visiting Lancaster, in England, paid tribute to Samora Machel, describing him as "a man who knew how to surpass all the resentments created during the years of war" (against Portuguese colonialism).

The Prime Minister of Portugal, Anibal Cavaco Silva, also declared his "deep sorrow" at the tragedy.

The French Prime Minister, Jacques Chirac, told journalists that he wished "to express to the Mozambican people my sincere sentiments of sadness and condolence".

Sweden's Foreign Minister, Sten Anderson, described President Samora's death as "a blow for the struggle against apartheid". Interviewed by a Stockholm radio station, he described President Samora "as one of the forces that gave impetus to the Frontline States and to the struggle for a gradual and peaceful end to the apartheid regime".



VICTIMS

Maputo, 21 Oct (AIM) Communique from the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the FRELIMO party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique (unofficial translation by AIM):

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique, with deep sorrow, inform that in the tragic event in which the President of the Frelimo Party and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Marshal Samora Moises Machel, was a victim, the following members of the presidential delegation also lost their lives:

Luis Maria de Alcantara Santos - Minister of Transport and Communications
Jose Carlos Lobo - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Aquino da Braganca - Director of the Centre for African Studies
Fernando Honwana - Personal assistant to His Excellency the President of the Republic
Alberto Cangela de Mendonca - National Chief of Protocol
Muradali Mamadhussen - Private Secretary to His Excellency the President of the Republic
Joao Tomas Navesse - Assistant Director in the Directorate for Legal and Consular Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ivete Amos - Secretary to His Excellency the President of the Republic
Osvaldo de Sousa - Interpreter for English of His Excellency the President of the Republic
Bernardino Chiche - Interpreter for French of His Excellency the President of the Republic
Gulamo Khan - Press Attache in the Presidency of the Republic
Daniel Maquinasse - Official Photographer of His Excellency the President of the Republic
Parente Manjate - Employee of the Presidency
Nacir Charamadane - Employee of the Presidency
Adao Gore Nhoca - Employee of the Presidency
Eduardo Viegas - Employee of the Presidency
Albino Falteira - Employee of the Presidency
Alberto Chauque - Employee of the Presidency
Jose Quivanhane - Employee of the Presidency
Azarias Inguane - Photographer of Noticias newspaper
Fernando Nhaquila - Flight Engineer
Orlanda Garrine - Stewardess
Esmeralda Luisa - Stewardess
Sofia Arone - Stewardess
Ilda Carao - Stewardess

At the same time, the following internationalist workers perished:

Henriques Bettencourt - Personal Physician to His Excellency the President of the Republic
Ulisses La Rosa Mesa - Personal Physician to His Excellency the President of the Republic
Yuri Novodran - Captain of the aircraft
Igor Kartamychev - Co-Pilot
Oleg Koudrianov - Flight Engineer
Anatoli Choulipov - Flight Engineer

Travelling with the presidential delegation were their Excellencies the Ambassadors of the Republic of Zambia and of the Republic of Zaire, Cox C Sikumba and Tokwalu Batale Okulakamo respectively, both accredited in the People's Republic of Mozambique and who also perished in the disaster.

The following members of the Presidential delegation, some of whom are in serious condition, survived the tragic event:

Eusebio Guido Martinho
Carlos Jambo
Fernando Manuel Joao
Almeida Pedro
Manuel Jairosse
Daniel Cuna
Jossepa Machango
Vasco Langa
Joao Rendicao

Vladimir Novoselov, flight engineer

The death of senior Party and state leaders and officials constitutes an irreparable loss.

The personality of these comrades, their dedication to the national liberation struggle, their contribution to efforts of national reconstruction of the country and their militant engagement in the cause of their country and the revolution have made them well-known, valued and respected by all of us.

The wisdom, the experience, the youth and the generous commitment to the ideals of national liberation, of development of the country and of national defence constitute a living and enduring example that these comrades have left for ever in our memory.

The sacrifice of their lives in the service of the people and the state of Mozambique is a continuation of the noble tradition of the heroes of our struggle.

The physical loss of these comrades in struggle is felt with deep consternation by all the Mozambican people.

We also painfully feel the loss of the internationalist workers who, side by side with our people, struggled to bring about the common ideals of peace and prosperity.

On the death of the distinguished ambassadors, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique offer their most profound condolences.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique share the deep sorrow of the bereaved families, to whom they offer most profound condolences.

A Luta Continua
(the struggle continues).
Maputo, 20 October 1986



Maputo, Oct 22 (AIM) Wreckage of President Samora Machel's plane that crashed in South African territory on Sunday 19 October. (Photo: Kok Nam).

SAMORA/REACTIONS (REOPENS)

Maputo, 20 Oct (AIM) Further news of reactions to the death of Mozambican President Samora Machel in a plane crash on Sunday night is pouring into the offices of the Mozambique News Agency (AIM).

The General Assembly of the United Nations in New York delayed the opening of its debate on Kampuchea today in order to pay homage to the memory of President Samora.

Delegates from the United Nations' 159 member states observed a minute's silence in honour of the Mozambican leader.

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Humayan Rasheed Choudhury, who is the current President of the General Assembly, and U.N. Secretary General Xavier Perez de Cuellar praised the life and work of President Samora.

Mr Choudhury said that President Samora's death "is a loss not just to his country and people, not just to Africa, but to the world".

Mr Perez de Cuellar said that he had lost "a dynamic and inspiring friend".

He also sent a message of condolences to Mozambique's Prime Minister, Mario Machungo, saying that Samora Machel "will always be remembered as an intrepid freedom-fighter and as an eminent statesman of Africa".
(more)

Samora/reactions (re-opens) 2 Maputo

Also in New York, the US State Department, through spokesman Charles Redman, said that US officials had heard the news of the Mozambican leader's death "with profound regret".

"We extend to the government and the people of Mozambique the deepest condolences of the American people in the loss they have suffered of President Machel and his colleagues," the State Department spokesman said.

In Rome, Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said that the death of President Samora "has robbed the world of a heroic fighter for the freedom of his country and of all Africa".

From London British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent a message of condolences to the Mozambican government, the text of which has not yet been released.

The British Foreign Office said that "President Machel was not only the architect of his country's independence, he also made a crucial contribution to the Lancaster House agreement on Rhodesia, and strove ceaselessly to bring peace to his own country and to the whole region of southern Africa".



SAMORA/COVERAGE

Maputo, 21 Oct (AIM) Today's issue of the Maputo daily Noticias is devoted entirely to the death of President Samora Machel, and worldwide reactions to the tragedy.

The front page carries, in giant letters, the simple headline "Morreu Samora Machel" ('Samora Machel is dead').

A large portrait of President Samora appears on the front page, beside the text of last night's communique from the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Mozambican Cabinet, announcing the President's death.

At the bottom of the page appears an emotional editorial with the title "A Luta Continua" (FRELIMO's traditional rallying call, which means 'the struggle continues').

Inside, Noticias publishes the list of those who died with the President, and photographs of several of them, as well as the list of survivors.

The paper also carries a biography of President Samora. This is illustrated by photographs of President Samora proclaiming Mozambican independence on 25 June 1975, of his swearing in ceremony, of his being awarded the rank of Marshal of the Republic in 1980, of President Samora arm

in arm with Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe at the Frelimo Party Fourth Congress in April 1983, and of the President meeting the people, visiting factories, and reviewing troops.

A further page carries international reactions of shock and sorrow at the disaster, and is illustrated by a picture of President Samora addressing the Second Congress of Frelimo's close allies, the MPLA-Workers' Party of Angola, in December last year.

(more)

Samora/Coverage 2 Maputo

Page five of the six page issue describes the stunned reactions in Maputo to the news of the President's death.

It describes one immediate reaction as "Crash? What's crashed? Which President? Our President? We don't believe it."

This page also recalls that on 15 October, the Mozambique New Agency (AIM) had distributed an article written by its director, Carlos Cardoso, warning that President Samora was a target for the South African military hierarchy. Mr Cardoso had pointed to public indications that the assassination of President Samora was in the minds of leading South African military figures.

The back page contains a lengthier, more official biography of President Samora, illustrated with images of the President delivering one of his spellbinding impromptu speeches, as well as a full face portrait of the Mozambican leader apparently smiling at the paper's readers.

Radio Mozambique has continued to play solemn classical music, and at intervals is broadcasting the communiques announcing the President's death and the list of victims and of survivors.



SAMORA/EDITORIAL

Maputo, 21 Oct (AIM) President Samora Machel was "a major target," writes the Maputo daily paper Noticias in its front page editorial today.

The paper said that it would be "pure political short-sightedness" to overlook that "the escalation of violence in the region, fomented and directed directly by the land of apartheid, the repeated attacks carried out against prominent personalities in the region and in the southern African liberation movements, the political and economic destabilisation of independent countries, all form so many parts of a concerted strategy of imperialism".

President Samora was in the firing line "because all the recent political activity we have witnessed in southern Africa involved the role played by Mozambique, and the impetus given by the character of the Mozambican leader".

President Samora's death "fills our enemies with joy," writes Noticias. "They believe that, with our President dead, our country will be more ready to accept proposals to strike a deal with banditry, and that demoralisation and defeatism may be installed amongst our people and inside our defence and security forces."

But in believing this, Mozambique's enemies are "blindly deceiving themselves," declared the editorial. "The death of our beloved President, as well as plunging us into sorrow and mourning, also impresses upon each citizen that it is necessary to continue the struggle, and that only our Party and our government can embody the aspirations and ideals that Samora personified."

(more)

Samora/editorial 2 Maputo

The paper recalls President Samora's own words that "a people never dies, only individual persons die".

The Mozambican people, it continues, "in these difficult moments in our history, will be able to understand, just as in the past, who and where the enemy is or who the enemy represents. They will know how to assume as their own our President's thinking that, apart from direct external enemies, we also have in racism, tribalism and regionalism forces that are directly allied to imperialism."

The "supreme objective of our consistent nationalism," declares Noticias, "remains ridding the country of banditry so that we may build a more just society of well-being and prosperity for all".

The defence and security forces, the people's militias, Mozambican patriots of all colours, regions, races and beliefs "today face a still more difficult task now that our leader is no longer with us".

Vigilance is more necessary than ever, says the editorial, in a closing call for close inter-action between the people and the defence and security forces.

The only adequate response to the tragedy, concludes the editorial, is "a luta continua".



HONWANA

by Iain Christie

Maputo, 21 Oct (AIM) Fernando Honwana, who died with President Samora Machel on Sunday, was a man of charm and intelligence who played a quiet but important role in southern African diplomacy.

When the big issues -- Zimbabwean or Namibian independence and relations with South Africa -- were being discussed, Fernando would be there.

When Mozambican delegations held talks in the international arena on these topics, Fernando's name would be mentioned near the bottom of the list. It was as though he was of no special importance. But he was.

His talents as an analyst and a negotiator were deeply appreciated by Samora Machel. And as the President's personal assistant, Fernando attended almost every Frontline summit, as well as the long negotiations which led to the independence of Zimbabwe.

I have met few people who could match his understanding of the intricacies of politics in southern Africa today.

(more)

Honwana 2 Maputo

And for the journalists, the great thing about Fernando was that he would talk to us without hesitation and share his knowledge.

He would take a telephone call at any time of day or night from reporters who wanted to know what was really going on in this or that southern Africa development. I was one of these reporters and, for the record, I should say that in eleven years Fernando never gave me a piece of information which turned out to be wrong.

I last spoke to Fernando a few days before the fatal crash. He had telephoned me at home to ask if I could come and help him with the organisation of a major press conference in Maputo. This was typical. He had great respect for the press and loved helping reporters.

A graduate of York University in Britain, Fernando Honwana was fluent in English and was much sought after by English-speaking politicians, diplomats and journalists. Everybody wanted to speak to Fernando.

I will never forget the times we spent together, chatting long into the night about everything under the sun. He discussed everything, from the thoughts of Mao Tse Tung to the latest American detective novel.

He was a decent, and brilliant, human being.



SAMORA/REACTIONS

Maputo, 21 Oct (Aim) Messages of condolences on the death of President Samora Machel poured into Maputo today from all corners of the globe, while in Harare grief exploded into anger against the governments of South Africa and Malawi.

According to an informant who telephoned Aim from Harare, hundreds of young Zimbabweans marched on installations belonging to South Africa and Malawi in the Zimbabwean capital.

They set fire to part of the offices of South African Airways, petrol-bombed the delegation of Air Malawi, and attacked the Malawian embassy and the South African trade mission.

Two cars outside the Malawian embassy were wrecked, and any car seen bearing a South African number plate was liable to attack. Angry protesters tore branches from trees with which to smash South African vehicles' windscreens.

Aim's informant said "there is a feeling of great anger in Zimbabwe at the death of President Samora".

Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi declared that the sudden death of the Mozambican leader was "a profound blow" not only for Mozambique, but for the Frontline States and for the African continent in general.

He expressed his hope that the Mozambican people would be able to meet the tragedy with courage, and ensure peace, security and stability in the country.

He declared the full solidarity of the Tanzanian government and people with Mozambique in its hour of loss. Tanzania enjoys a very special relationship with Mozambique, since it was in Dar es Salaam that FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front) was founded in 1962. Tanzania provided generous facilities for FRELIMO's freedom fighters during the war against Portuguese colonialism.

(more)

Samora/reactions 2 Maputo

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) expressed shock at the death of President Samora, describing it as "a great loss for militant Africa".

The continental body said that President Samora had died a hero's death at the height of his resistance "against a desperate South Africa". The OAU appealed to all its member states to close ranks around Mozambique and the other Frontline States.

The President of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honecker, affirmed in his message that "the death of Samora Machel means the loss of a sincere friend and comrade-in-arms".

The Portuguese government has decreed three days of national mourning for the death of President Samora. A statement issued in Lisbon yesterday described the Mozambican statesman as "a friend of Portugal, and a tireless defender of close relations between the Mozambican and Portuguese peoples".

Larry Speakes, official spokesman for the United States administration, expressed deep shock at the tragedy.

Nigeria described President Samora as an illustrious and courageous son of Africa. A statement from the Nigerian Foreign Ministry accused South Africa of being behind his death, pointing out that the fatal crash occurred shortly after a series of threats made by the South African regime against Mozambique.

(more)

Samora/reactions 3 Maputo

Uganda radio broadcast a statement on Monday which described the death of President Samora as a "hard blow for the liberation struggle in Africa," adding that the tragedy showed that the struggle to liberate South Africa cannot be won with mere slogans, but demands total commitment. Mere verbal condemnations of apartheid should be abandoned, it said.

If the disaster led to a better understanding of what was required to win this war "then the sacrifice of Samora Machel will not have been in vain," said the radio.

The Pan-African News Agency (PANA) stated in a commentary on Monday that the presidential plane had probably been attacked or sabotaged by the South Africans.

The commentary, signed by the PANA Director-General, Auguste Mpassi-Muba, added that if there had been sabotage or any other kind of attack, then the perpetrators would be found in the ranks of the South African armed forces.

The Zambian government reacted to the tragedy by suspending the celebrations of Zambian independence, whose anniversary falls on 24 October.

President Kenneth Kaunda sent a message expressing shock at the death of his fellow Frontline leader. Not only Mozambique, but the whole continent had

been robbed of a great leader who had dedicated his entire life to the independence, unity, stability and socio-economic development of African peoples, said President Kaunda.

The Zambian leader added that he was particularly shocked and sorrowed because President Samora had met his death while returning from a summit held in Zambia. President Kaunda was thus one of the last people to see Samora Machel alive.



SAMORA/BODY

by Carlos Cardoso

Maputo, 21 Oct (Aim) The site where Samora Machel's presidential aircraft crashed was a desolating panorama yesterday, extremely difficult for the Mozambicans who travelled there to look at.

The bodies of the victims, covered with sheets and blankets, were scattered over a radius of some 30 metres around the fuselage and tail of the plane.

A Mozambican delegation, led by Security Minister Colonel Sergio Vieira, arrived on the scene at about one o'clock in the afternoon. The body of President Samora had already been placed inside a coffin, and was encased in a hermetically sealed brown plastic bag.

While some of the Mozambican delegation climbed the hill to view the trajectory followed in the crash of the aircraft, others began the process of identifying the bodies.

A South African doctor opened the coffin and the bag so that Colonel Vieira could proceed to identify the body of President Samora.



Maputo, Oct 23 (AIM) Four members of the Mozambican Air Force carry President Samora's coffin from the crash site at Mbuluzi in South Africa. (Photo: Kok Nam).

The bag was opened from the head downwards, but my first strong feeling that I really was looking at the body of Samora Machel came when I saw his right hand, resting on his abdomen.

(more)

Samora/body 2 Maputo

Those hands in life never stopped moving. They are engraved on the memories of many Mozambicans through personal contacts with the President, through photographs and films, through the many meetings and rallies he addressed.

Only later did I notice a small portion of the beard that had become famous across the world. The President's head was turned slightly over his left shoulder.

There was no time for detailed examination of the body. The autopsy will be carried out in Maputo, and in any case the Mozambicans could not bear to look at the still and silent body of the man whose image in their minds was one of enormous vitality.

One of the Mozambicans collected some stones to mark the exact spot where Samora's body was found.

The Mozambican delegation, suffering from emotions that were very difficult to control, moved on to identify the remaining bodies.

This process lasted almost two hours and was extremely painful, particularly for those who had among the victims close friends or figures whom they particularly admired.

Some, on recognising a friend among the bodies, withdrew a short distance so that alone they could shed the tears welling from their hearts. They returned later, affecting a calm they did not possess, to continue with the process of identification.

(more)

Samora/body 3 Maputo

At the end Sergio Vieira asked the South Africans to withdraw. The entire Mozambican delegation then stood round the coffin that contained the mortal remains of their President.

In a few words, Colonel Vieira evoked the memory of our "comandante chefe" after which the Mozambicans observed a minute's silence.

In the sepulchral silence, the soft choked breathing of many members of the delegation could be heard. Sergio Vieira began to weep, but was stopped with gentle words of encouragement from the Deputy Minister of the Interior, Hipolito Patricio.

Four soldiers of the Mozambican air force then carried the coffin to a small truck which drove it to a Mozambican helicopter.

At about 4.30 yesterday afternoon, the body of Samora Machel arrived in Maputo.



SAMORA/CHIPANDE

Maputo, 21 Oct (Aim) In the wake of President Samora Machel's death in an unexplained plane crash on Sunday night, Mozambique's Defence Minister, General Alberto Chipande, tonight urged the defence and security forces "to step up the struggle on all fronts".

General Chipande was broadcasting over Radio Mozambique to all members of the country's various defence and security bodies.

He called on them "to maintain a high spirit of discipline, to raise their fighting morale, to close ranks around their commanders and to sharpen revolutionary vigilance".

"Let us neutralise the manoeuvres of the enemy who is now trying to create division amongst us, sow discord and confusion, and promote indiscipline, rumours and intrigues," said General Chipande.

"Unite with the people," he continued, "let us step up the struggle against armed banditry in order to re-establish peace and tranquillity in our country."

He called for the strengthening of military units and for the protection of strategic installations.

"Let us increase our attacks and multiply our assaults on the enemy's camps," he said. "Let us make the bush a permanent theatre of operations."
(more)

Samora/Chipande 2 Maputo

"In this sorrowful and difficult moment in which we have lost our Commander-in-Chief," said General Chipande, "the best homage that we can pay to him is to step up the struggle against the enemies of the country and the enemies of socialism. This is our oath of fidelity to the ideals of Samora Machel."

"Let us glorify in combat the unforgettable memory of our hero of heroes, Marshal Samora Machel," declared the Minister.

General Chipande urged the defence and security forces to transform grief "into new strength" for "the defence and consolidation of our independence and national unity".

The Minister recalled the role played by Samora Machel in the struggle for Mozambique's independence from Portuguese colonial rule. The President had participated in the launching of the armed liberation struggle on 25 September 1964, and in 1966 was appointed commander of FRELIMO's guerrilla army.

General Chipande described him as "the great commander of the struggle in eastern, western and southern Niassa, in Tete, Cabo Delgado, Zambezia, Manica and Sofala". These were the provinces to which FRELIMO's armed struggle had spread by the time of the end of the war in September 1974.
(more)

Samora/Chipande 3 Maputo

General Chipande also recalled Samora Machel's leadership in FRELIMO's political-military training centres at Kongwa and Nachingwea in Tanzania, where he played a crucial role in generalising among the fighters the idea that the struggle should be of a popular and revolutionary nature.

The Minister spoke of Samora's role in the fighting in the movement to abolish all discrimination on the grounds of tribe, region, race or religious belief.

"The life of Marshal Samora Moises Machel is an example for all Mozambicans by its courage, coherence, firmness, dynamism and total dedication to the cause of the people," said General Chipande. "For us these qualities will always be a source of inspiration and wisdom."

General Chipande is well-qualified to speak of the life of President Samora. As a young guerrilla commander it was Alberto Chipande who fired the first shots in the war against Portuguese colonialism, against the administrative post of Chai in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. He worked closely under President Samora's command throughout the war.



AQUINO

By Carlos Cardoso

Maputo, 21 Oct (AIM) His grey hairs were in contrast to the youthfulness of his ideas and to his constantly inquiring intellect. Aquino de Braganca was an anti-conservative par excellence. He could not easily be placed within the facile left-right or radical-conservative dichotomy.

One day, in the beautiful entrance hall at the Callouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, when we were waiting to have a meeting with officials of the institution, he was moved by something I said to him. Perhaps a little vanity, or perhaps just the fact that he knew he was what I said: "Aquino, for people of my age and of my meagre knowledge about the history of FRELIMO, you represent a new epistemology."

Today, two days after his tragic death at the side of the man he most admired in his whole life, Samora Machel, I recall how much I owe to this

gentle man, of Goan origin, but African by choice, a Mozambican, a follower of Samora.

(more)

Aquino 2 Maputo

He created the word "Samorian". One day, he told me he wanted a word based on Samora or on Frelimo to describe the theory that Frelimo drew years ago from the people's experience in the Mozambican bush. He wanted a word that, without avoiding Marxism, would transmit in philosophical terms the sovereign experience of Frelimo. The books would come after this experience, but they are still not on the world's bookshelves because the great majority of Mozambicans only began to learn to read 11 years ago.

Samora, in his intense way, told him no. Marxism already exists, Frelimo will contribute to Marxism, it will enrich the river that flows into the great sea of popular revolutions. A new word for what? "Samoraism would be a negation of Samora," the Mozambican leader once told him, speaking in the kingdom of nature that is the beach at Pemba in the north of Mozambique.

Mozambique, such a dynamic reality, in such constant flux, could not enclose itself in one philosophy, Samora had said. It was always necessary to discover new things, new explanations for the new phenomena that Frelimo and Samora Machel himself were introducing in Mozambican society.

(more)

Aquino 3 Maputo

And Aquino saw in this the epic of an experience, the Mozambican experience, which brought to liberation theory a compendium of contributions which he, little given to the careful organisation of academics, was unable to put in order.

Let no one suggest that he was given to "observerism". He was a participant, but he always advised that "Cartesian methodology is necessary". He loved the very act of doubt as a method. There are things that happen only in transitions, that happen at the birth of nations when everything is pre-system, when everything is still the anti-system of the system that is to be replaced. Replaced by another that takes decades to build.

And here is where he had a slight anxiety. In building and doubting what was being built, he wanted to view the system from afar, from another decade in a society where the people are shod and their bellies are filled with three meals a day.

This was Aquino, an African of this century and its critic, of this Mozambican birth and its critic. He was a man with intense emotion for the sources of true local epistemology: the poor, the peasants, the "class suicides", the restive young people, all wrapped in so many memories of Amilcar and Ben Bella, of Samora and Nyerere, of Mondlane and Neto, and of so many others who watered Africa with their generosity.

Today I recall so many times that we, his younger friends, used to say "one day we must put Aquino in front of a tape recorder and get him to talk, just talk. Then someone can sort out the ideas, the phases, the contradictions".

We didn't do it in time. We don't know why. It is so difficult to imagine that some force would want to kill the Aquinos of this world.

And I remember that one day when I was very close to this man, I wrote on a scrap of paper: "sometimes the centuries bring forth Aquinos."



SAMORA/FUNERAL

Maputo, 21 Oct (AIM) The funeral of President Samora Machel will take place in a week's time, on 28 October. A joint statement released tonight from the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers announced the date and said that from Thursday 23 October the coffin containing President Samora's body would lie in state in Maputo City Hall.

The statement also announced the composition of the funeral organising committee. The committee's 15 members include six members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau. They are: Marcelino dos Santos, Secretary of the People's Assembly, Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano, Defence Minister General Alberto Chipande, Jorge Rebelo, Party Secretary for Ideological Work, Prime Minister Mario Machungo and Minister in the Presidency for State Administration Oscar Monteiro.

Among the other members of the committee are the general secretaries of the trade union, women's and youth organisations, Augusto Macamo, Salome Moiane and Zacarias Kupela respectively.

Also included are Health Minister Pascoal Mocumbi, Minister of Construction and Water Julio Carrilho, Rui Baltazar, Rector of the Eduardo Mondlane University, Major-General Osvaldo Tazama and Major-General Joaquim Munhepe, Secretaries of State for Defence, and Alberto Massavanhane, Chairman of the Maputo City Council.

The statement also announced that the funerals of the others who died in last Sunday's plane crash will take place on 29 October.



GULAMO KHAN

Maputo, 22 Oct (AIM) Gulamo Khan, the press attache at the Mozambican presidency, who died along with President Samora Machel in Sunday night's unexplained plane crash, is to be buried today in Maputo.

Mr Khan's funeral is the first of the 34 victims of the disaster. This is due to the fact that Mr Khan practised the Muslim faith. He will be buried in the Mozambican capital's Muslim cemetery.

Mr Khan was a journalist and a broadcaster on Radio Mozambique for more than a decade before his recent appointment as the President's press attache.

He was also a well-known figure in intellectual and literary circles in Maputo. He devoted much of his spare time to poetry, and a collection of his poems has been published. He was an active member of the Association of Mozambican Writers.



FUNERAL/ATTENDANCE

Maputo, 22 Oct (AIM) Two of Mozambique's closest allies, Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, will attend the funeral next Tuesday of President Samora Machel.

The intention of these two Presidents to join the mourners was confirmed to the daily paper Noticias by advance parties from Angola and Cape Verde who arrived in Maputo last night.

The Angolan delegation was led by Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues, and also included Foreign Minister Afonso Van Dunem and Deputy Defence Minister Antonio Condesse de Carvalho.

Cape Verde sent to Maputo its roving ambassador for southern Africa, Corsino Fortes, who is based in Luanda.

The Angolan and Cape Verdean advance parties were met at Maputo airport by Mozambican Interior Minister Colonel Manuel Antonio.

Alexandre Rodrigues told journalists at the airport that the news of the death of President Samora had been greeted with great sorrow and consternation in Angola. On hearing of the tragedy, President dos Santos had cancelled a planned visit to Europe.

(more)

Samora/funeral attendance 2 Maputo

The Angolan Minister added that the Angolan government and the leadership of Angola's MPLA-Workers' Party wanted to be the first at the side of the Mozambican people "in this moment of grief and mourning".

Mr Corsino Fortes said that he had been mandated to "share with Mozambique the grief caused by the death of President Samora".

Samora Machel, Aristides Pereira and Jose Eduardo dos Santos, though from different countries, fought a common battle against Portuguese colonialism, and since the independence of all three countries in 1975, they have worked together closely.

Aristides Pereira has been President of Cape Verde since 1975, while Jose Eduardo dos Santos succeeded the first Angolan President, Dr Agostinho Neto, in 1979.



AIM COMMENT: SAMORA MACHEL AND ANTI-RACISM

Maputo, 22 Oct (AIM) The non-racial and anti-racist nature of Mozambican society was vividly, if tragically, illustrated by Sunday night's unexplained plane crash in which President Machel lost his life.

Alongside the Mozambican leader died colleagues, friends, comrades of all races and colours. Black Mozambicans, white Mozambicans, Mozambicans of Indian origin, Mozambicans of mixed race, white Soviets and black Cubans all perished alike.

In a way, this was very fitting, for throughout his life President Samora Machel waged a relentless battle against all forms of racism.

His concern was always that "the enemy must be correctly identified". During the liberation war, he played a major role in convincing the FRELIMO guerrilla fighters that the struggle was not against whites, not against Portuguese citizens, but against a system of colonial and fascist domination and exploitation.

In the early days of the independence war, there were those in FRELIMO who wanted to kill captured Portuguese soldiers. Eduardo Mondlane, Samora Machel and others in the leadership opposed this, pointing out that the war was not the fault of Portuguese workers or peasants drafted into the colonial army, and that once a soldier was captured he ceased to be an enemy.

(more)

Samora/anti-racism 2 Maputo

Samora Machel always argued that the Mozambican and Portuguese peoples had common interests and common enemies. Thus FRELIMO considered itself in alliance with all anti-fascist forces in Portugal that were fighting for the overthrow of the Salazar and Caetano dictatorships.

Samora's anti-racism was both a question of moral principle and strategic necessity: it helped immensely to divide the Portuguese fascist forces.

It was the same with the wars Mozambique fought after independence. The enemy was never considered in racial terms, but always in terms of the social system involved.

Thus when Mozambique came under repeated attack from the illegal Smith regime in Rhodesia, President Samora stressed that it was not white Zimbabweans who were the enemy, but the anti-democratic minority regime.

President Samora realised that the regime could alter its colour and still remain the enemy. This was precisely what happened in 1979, with the creation of the short-lived "Zimbabwe-Rhodesia" with a black man, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, as Prime Minister. The addition of black faces made no difference: Samora's analysis enabled Mozambique to see that the regime was fundamentally unchanged, and so Mozambique's support for the Zimbabwean liberation forces continued.

(more)

Samora/anti-racism 3 Maputo

Similarly in the confrontation with South Africa. Repeatedly President Samora stressed that the enemy was the system of apartheid, and not individual white South Africans.

He held firmly to the belief that white South Africans, particularly Afrikaans speakers, were indeed Africans, even if their racism refused to allow them to admit it. He often told Afrikaners that their racism was keeping them away from their true place in Africa, as Africans.

At every international forum, President Samora always stressed that the battle in South Africa was to create a society where black, white, Indian and mixed-race children could play together while their parents built, together, a democratic society.

Thus Samora was pleased to receive white opponents of apartheid from across the political spectrum of opposition - from Joe Slovo of the South African Communist Party to Frederick van zyl Slabbert, former leader of the liberal, pro-capitalist Progressive Federal Party.

President Samora had hoped that one day he would visit a liberated non-racial South Africa. One of the best tributes that can be paid to his memory is to continue the fight to build non-racial societies, in South Africa and elsewhere, and eliminate the pernicious idea that a person's worth has something to do with the colour of his or her skin.



SAMORA/PREVIOUS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

by Carlos Cardoso

Maputo, 22 Oct (Aim) A plot to assassinate President Samora Machel was uncovered in November 1985, according to the President himself in his last informal meeting with Mozambican journalists on 11 October.

On 15 October I wrote a long article on the direct threats made by South African Defence Minister General Magnus Malan against the Mozambican leader, and on the campaign waged against President Samora by much of the South African media.

I interpreted these threats as the prelude to an assassination attempt.

The South African campaign, directly aimed against Samora Machel, had already lasted for several days, and the threatening declarations of the apartheid military hierarchy had already led to a climate of serious anxiety in Maputo when, on 11 October, several Mozambican journalists held an informal meeting with President Samora.

At the end of that afternoon we went with the President to "Lichinga House", one of the official guest houses normally used to cater for visiting heads of state, or other important foreign guests.

(more)

Samora/assassination attempt 2 Maputo

President Samora had been personally inspecting the guest houses where the heads of state and government attending the following day's Frontline States summit were to stay.

Out on the veranda, looking over the spacious garden, we sat round a table for a talk with the President that lasted until about nine o'clock that night.

Samora wanted to speak to us, and to hear our opinions, about the tense moments we were experiencing in the region, and particularly about South Africa and Malawi.

The President was in a good mood, radiating the vitality that characterised him, and he declared that he was optimistic about the future of southern Africa once the problem of apartheid was resolved.

Talking generally about international problems, and particularly those of the third world, Samora referred to a biblical quotation (the President would frequently refer to the Bible, though he was not a religious person). "As it says in the bible," he remarked, "to those who have nothing, the little that they have shall be taken from them and given to those that do have."

(more)

Samora/assassination attempt 3 Maputo

With the President as the sun set that afternoon were three of his colleagues who also died in last Sunday's plane crash - Aquino de Braganca, the Director of the Centre for African Studies, the President's private secretary, Muradali Mamadhussen, and his press attache, Gulamo Khan.

After the first few minutes of discussion Samora asked the journalists present what they thought of the current situation.

I had uppermost in my mind the whole adventurist behaviour of the South African military hierarchy over the years, and the recent threats of General Malan. I spoke of these things and told the President that the conclusion I drew was that "they (the South African military chiefs) are going to try to kill you".

Samora smiled, and scarcely had I finished speaking, than he replied "they've already tried. In November 1985 they infiltrated bazookas into Mozambique that were to have been used to assassinate me."

He paused for a moment, then added: "I am in their way. I have not sold out to anyone. My hands are clean."



SAMORA/UNITED STATES

By Fernando Lima

Boston (USA), 22 Oct (AIM) It is perfectly possible, by using electronic equipment on the ground, to cause an aircraft to deviate from its flight path, while the pilot still believes he is on the correct route.

I spoke in Boston to a specialist from the United States Air Force who, on condition that his name not be mentioned, told me that he is familiar with the type of aircraft, Tupolev 134, that President Samora Machel was using on his fatal journey from Zambia back to Maputo.

He said that the South African military possesses the necessary technology to interfere in the Tupolev's navigational system. By using such technology they could create a different flight path that could deceive the pilot.

The United States press is also suspicious about the circumstances of President Samora's death, and has insistently raised the hypothesis that the crash was caused by criminal action of some kind.

Both newspapers and the NPR radio station quote the declarations of the one surviving Soviet member of the crew, flight engineer Validimir Novoselov, currently hospitalised in Pretoria, to the effect that the plane was shot down.

(more)

Samora/United States 2 Boston

The Washington Post recalled the rising tensions between Mozambique and South Africa over the fortnight preceding President Samora's death. It quoted the article written by the Director of the Mozambique News Agency (AIM), Carlos Cardoso, on 15 October which warned that a South African assassination attempt against Samora Machel might be imminent.

The New York Times and the Boston Globe, in articles written by their southern African correspondents, stressed the major role played by Samora Machel in the politics of the region, and said that his disappearance from the scene could be a factor for increased destabilisation in the region.

The same concern is shared by African diplomats in Washington, who in general point an accusing finger at Pretoria.

In several American cities, meanwhile, friends of Mozambique are preparing memorial meetings and other events in honour of the fallen Mozambican leader.

In New York, the US civil rights leader and former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson has been invited to participate in a memorial meeting next Sunday.

Similar meetings are being organised in Boston and in Madison, Wisconsin.



FUNERAL/GULAMO KHAN

Maputo, 22 Oct (AIM) Journalist Gulamo Khan, who was President Samora Machel's press attache, was buried in Maputo today.

Present at Mr Khan's funeral were the Minister for State Administration, Jose Oscar Monteiro, Information Minister Teodato Hunguana, Fernando Ganhao of

the Standing Commission of the Mozambican parliament, and a large number of Mr Khan's friends and relatives.

Reading the funeral speech, Jose Oscar Monteiro described Mr Khan as "an honest and committed journalist who gave of his best in carrying out the duties with which he was entrusted".

Mr Khan, formerly a journalist on Radio Mozambique, had been President Samora's press attache for about a year. He was also an active member of the Association of Mozambican Writers.



SAMORA/CHISSANO

Maputo, 23 Oct (AIM) Mozambican Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano met yesterday evening with the diplomatic corps accredited in Maputo and called for maximum support for Mozambique from the international community.

He briefed the diplomats about the air disaster in which President Samora Machel and 33 others lost their lives, and informed them of arrangements being made for President Samora's funeral, scheduled for next Tuesday.

He called for unity, and said that this appeal was not only directed to the Mozambican people, but also "to all the genuine friends of Mozambique".

"let us strengthen our unity more and more," said Mr Chissano.



SAMORA/SURVIVOR

Maputo, 22 Oct (AIM) One of the survivors of Sunday night's plane crash has said that shortly before the disaster he heard "a sound like a shot" after which the engines failed and simultaneously the cabin lights went out.

The words of the survivor, one of President Samora's bodyguards, Fernando Manuel Joao, were spoken at the site of the crash to Mozambican Security Minister Sergio Vieira on Monday afternoon. They were recorded on the spot by Carlos Cardoso, Director of the Mozambique News Agency (AIM).

Mr Joao was brought from Nelspruit in the eastern Transvaal, where he was being treated, by Mozambique's Deputy Health Minister, Dr Fernando Vaz.

When Colonel Vieira spotted him at the desolate scene of the crash he immediately walked towards him. As a soldier, Mr Joao stood to attention, and the two men saluted each other.

Tears trickled down Mr Joao's face. Colonel Vieira placed his right hand gently on the neck of the wounded soldier, and drew Mr Joao's face onto his own left shoulder. The two men remained in that position for several seconds.

Mr Joao recomposed himself and resumed a military posture. He then reported succinctly what had happened on board the presidential plane.

(more)

Samora/survivor 2 Maputo

He said that shortly before 21.00 that Sunday night the plane was approaching Maputo, and a stewardess told the passengers to prepare for landing.

"Another five minutes passed with no further information," he said. Then suddenly "we heard the plane screech. It seemed that it was shot at."

The lights went off, the engines failed, and some three minutes passed with the plane travelling "blindly, with no power".

Mr Vieira pressed Mr Joao on the matter of the noise, and the soldier once again said he heard a "sound like a shot". Only on impact was there the sound of an explosion, he said.

When the plane hit the ground, Mr Joao was thrown out of the craft as it broke up. At about 22.00 he began to walk in search of help. At a nearby house he first tried to speak to a man, but he understood neither Portuguese nor Mr Joao's mother tongue, Shangaan.

But a woman holding a baby understood Shangaan. "She took the oil lamp and saw that I was bleeding. 'What's happened?' she asked. I said 'our plane



Maputo, Oct 23 (AIM) Security Minister Sergio Vieira comforting survivor Fernando Manuel Joao when they met at the scene of the crash of the Mozambican presidential plane on Monday. (Photo: Kok Nam).

has crashed. I am a Mozambican.' I didn't hide it. 'We were coming from a journey. There are many people there.'" (more)

Samora/survivor 3 Maputo

Mr Joao asked the woman to accompany him to the crash, but she refused because "that area is dangerous, last week someone stepped on a mine there".

The woman took the wounded soldier to the Induna (traditional chief) of the area. Mr Joao met this man at around midnight. Through the radio of a local religious mission a police station at the border town of Komatipoort was informed of the crash.

Mr Joao told the Komatipoort police what had happened, then requested that they immediately inform Mozambique "that the plane coming from Mbala (in Zambia) to Maputo has crashed here in Mbuzini".

When he had received first aid, Mr Joao was taken to Nelspruit.

After he had finished giving his account, Mr Joao joined the other members of Colonel Vieira's delegation in the task of identifying the bodies.



SAMORA/ELECTIONS

Maputo, 22 Oct (AIM) The Standing Commission of the People's Assembly has decided to suspend the country's general elections because of the death of President Samora Machel.

The Commission said, in a statement broadcast tonight, that it had taken the decision because "all Mozambicans are paying respectful homage to the victims of this tragedy".

The statement added that the Standing Commission will fix new dates for the completion of the electoral process after the funeral of President Samora Machel.

The general elections, the second in the country's history, began on 15 August and were scheduled to end on 15 November.



SAMORA/INQUIRY

Maputo, 22 Oct (AIM) The Mozambican authorities have set up a national commission of inquiry to determine the causes of Sunday night's air disaster in which President Samora and 33 others lost their lives.

The commission was announced in a statement broadcast tonight from the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers.

The commission includes two members of the Political Bureau, Lt-Gen Armando Guebuza and Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso.

Other members include Colonel Sergio Vieira (Minister of Security), Maj-Gen Antonio Hama Thai (Commander of the Air Force), Colonel Lagos Lidimo (member of the Frelimo Central Committee), Rui Lousa (Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications), Hipolito Patricio (Deputy Minister of the Interior), Major Joao Honwana (pilot, and Air Force Chief of Staff), Antonio Neves (technician with Mozambique airlines), Anibal Samuel (director of Maputo airport), Agarito Colaco (director of the National Aeronautical School), Paulo Muchanga (lawyer registered with the International Civil Aviation Organisation), Patricio Matimbe (pilot with Mozambique airlines) and Lt Carlos Pessane (aeronautical engineer).

Late this evening the Ministry of Health revealed that it had given the national commission of inquiry the first results of autopsies carried out on the victims of the crash. the Ministry gave no further details.



SAMORA/LYING IN STATE

Maputo, 23 Oct (AIM) The body of President Samora Machel, who died last Sunday night in an unexplained plane crash, will lie in state in Maputo City Hall from tomorrow afternoon.

Initially the lying in state was programmed to begin today, but late last night the Mozambican authorities announced a delay of 24 hours for organisational reasons.

Today's issue of the daily paper Noticias informed the people of the capital that from 17.00 local time (15.00 GMT) tomorrow they will be able to pay their last respects to their President.



SAMORA/DELEGATIONS

Maputo, 23 Oct (AIM) Members of the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party yesterday received top ranking delegations from Angola and Zambia, who communicated condolences from these two Frontline States' leaderships for the death of President Samora Machel.

Alexandre Rodrigues, of the MPLA-Workers' Party Political Bureau and Angola's Interior Minister, told his Mozambican comrades that the MPLA Political Bureau had gone into special session immediately on hearing the news of President Samora's death.

They had decided to send a delegation to Maputo at once "to experience and to follow closely all the details related to the funeral ceremonies" of President Samora.

Mr Rodrigues pledged the "unconditional support of the Angolan Party, government and people" for the people of Mozambique in their moment of mourning.

He delivered a message from Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos which expressed his personal grief and that of the Angolan people at the death of President Samora, and stressed the late Mozambican leader's qualities as a great African statesman. President dos Santos has said that he will attend the funeral in person.
(more)

Samora/delegations 2 Maputo

Later the Zambian Government presented its condolences to the Frelimo Political Bureau. Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda had sent a delegation headed by Foreign Minister Luke Mwananshiku to convey the country's condolences to Frelimo and to the Mozambican government and people.

He gave the Political Bureau a personal message from President Kaunda, in which the Zambian leader pledged his country's support for Mozambique to help see it through this difficult and sorrowful moment.



SAMORA/EDITORIAL

Maputo, 23 Oct (AIM) The best way of paying homage to the memory of President Samora Machel is to continue along the path that he pointed out, urges the Mozambican daily paper Noticias today in a deeply moving front page editorial.

"Tomorrow his coffin will lie in state so that each one of us may pay him our last respects," said the paper. "Bring him a tear, a prayer, a flower, our farewells. But there is something else he would wish much more to receive from us than these tears and flowers - our firm determination to go forward along the road that he has mapped out for us."

"Life does not stop and the struggle continues," added the editorial. Noticias pointed to the difficulties that the country faces - to the hunger, the banditry, the South African aggression.

"We have children who need to eat, who need to be cared for. We have the schools that have been destroyed, and the thousands of youngsters who have been left without books or teachers. We have the villages burnt by the bandits, the roads where people cannot travel, the bridges, the railways, the factories ruined by sell-outs in the service of apartheid. All this must be rebuilt."

(more)

Samora/editorial 2 Maputo

"We have banditry to defeat," urges the paper. "Is this one war or two?"

"One war is fought with bullets and claims the lives of our best patriots, our best citizens every day. But there is another war that we need to begin to wage right now, inside ourselves. For we cannot allow our sorrow to make us forget the great problems that surround us."

Two questions were being insistently raised throughout Mozambique and abroad, continued the editorial: "was it a crime or an accident?" and "who will succeed Samora Machel?"

These questions "are normal," said the paper. "It is our life that we are speaking of. It is only to be expected that people ask themselves about the future of the country."

But the paper argues that "what is important is not so much the name of whoever will be the next President. We know that the best person will be chosen. What is important is to know how to come through this period of sorrow, of crisis, of doubt, calmly and with serenity."

The editorial points out that the Constitution lays down the process of succession. The Central Committee of the Frelimo Party will meet "to appoint the person best fitted for the difficult task of governing the country. Governing a country at war is a very tough job, and a very heavy responsibility."

"At the right moment they will give us a name. Until then let us remain calm, and let us have the courage to resume our daily life."

SAMORA/ZIMBABWEANS

Maputo, 23 Oct (AIM) Three Zimbabwean Cabinet Ministers arrived in Maputo this afternoon to attend the funeral of President Samora Machel, scheduled to take place next Tuesday.

The three are the Minister of Information, Nathan Shamuyarira, the Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Development, Kumbirai Kangai, and the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, David Karimanzira.



NYERERE

Maputo, 23 Oct (AIM) Julius Nyerere, Chairman of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (Revolutionary Party) of Tanzania, is due to arrive in Maputo tomorrow to attend the funeral next Tuesday of President Samora Machel.

The former Tanzanian President will be accompanied by his wife, Maria Nyerere.

Links of friendship between Julius Nyerere and the late Mozambican President date back to the days of the armed struggle to free Mozambique, when Tanzania served as a rear base for the Mozambican freedom fighters.



SAMORA/FLIGHT ENGINEER

Maputo, 23 Oct (AIM) Mozambican officials were surprised this afternoon to read accounts coming from South Africa of an interview allegedly given from his hospital bed by the sole surviving crew member of President Samora Machel's Tupolev 134A aircraft.

According to the AFP account of this strange, impromptu press conference, the survivor, Vladimir Novoselov, said that "his experience as a pilot was the only thing that allowed ten of the plane's passengers to survive".

The Johannesburg Star claimed that Mr Novoselov said he had tried to belly-land the plane. "My flying instincts must have taken over," he was quoted as saying.

But Mr Novoselov is not a pilot. He is a flight engineer. The pilot, Captain Yuri Novodran, and his co-pilot, Igor Kartamychev, both died in the crash. Therefore Mr Novoselov could not have landed or tried to land the plane.

Mr Novoselov spoke to the journalists through an interpreter. But this was no ordinary translator from Russian into English - it was a South African military interpreter.

(more)

Samora/flight engineer 2 Maputo

There are several aspects to this interview that are not easily believed. What airman, after a disastrous crash in which his fellow crew members have perished, as well as a head of state, would congratulate himself in this way?

Can we really believe that an experienced Soviet crew member, trusted well enough to be part of the presidential crew, would say, as AFP quotes him, that he did not want to comment further "in case of repercussions from the authorities" in Moscow or Maputo?

Why is the South African media persisting in referring to a flight engineer as a pilot? Why were journalists allowed to visit a seriously wounded man in an intensive care unit? Was Mr Novoselov translated correctly?

These are some of the questions being asked in Maputo.



SAMORA/KITO

Maputo, 23 Oct (AIM) The Angolan Minister of the Interior, Alexandre Rodrigues "Kito", tonight in Maputo posed the hypothesis that President Samora Machel's

Tupolev 134 aircraft was diverted from its correct flight path by outside interference with its navigational systems.

Speaking to the Mozambique News Agency (AIM). Kito (Mr Rodrigues' Nom de Guerre) said that during South African military interventions in Angola "they obstruct at particular moments all forms of communications".

The Angolan Minister added that this included Angolan radar systems. "They have this capacity," he said.

"At a first assessment we think it possible that there was interference in the communication by radio beacon," he continued.

Kito said that in Angola there had been a case in which an Angolan plane had been diverted from its route by the South African military through this type of interference.

Kito said also that a cut in communications between the plane and the Maputo airport control tower could have been provoked from outside.

AIM asked him if it was also possible for there to have been outside interference in the entire electronic system of the plane, causing it to lose all its power abruptly.

(more)

Samora/Kito 2 Maputo

"South Africa is not an underdeveloped country," he replied, "and it has support from countries that are much more developed than it is. We think that there is this possibility."

One of the survivors, presidential bodyguard Fernando Manuel Joao, said on Monday at the site of the crash that he had heard "a sound like a shot," immediately after which the plane lost its power.

"At a first analysis," said Kito, "we think that the hand of South Africa can be seen in the accident."

The Angolan delegation to Samora Machel's funeral was the first to arrive in Maputo to assist the authorities in all that may be necessary. Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos will join the delegation later.

Kito said that in these moments of grief "I would like to urge the Mozambican people to close ranks in defence of the revolution".

He said that as a former MPLA guerrilla he had watched "the beautiful rise of this people to independence," and that he was calling in the people of Mozambique "to defend Machel rather than weep for him".

"We were the first delegation to touch down on Mozambican soil. This means that we had to come, to be present with you, to defend along with you this revolution to the last drop of blood if necessary," said the Angolan Minister.



SAMORA/PHOTO

By Paul Fauvet

Maputo, 23 Oct (AIM) As I write, I am looking at the most powerful photograph I have ever seen. No doubt part of its emotional impact on me arises from my personal knowledge of several people in the photograph, but I believe that anyone looking at the image would be mesmerised by the desolation of the scene, and the dignity of the group of men at the centre of the picture.

The photograph shows a hillside in South Africa. In the the background is the mangled wreckage of an aircraft, the Mozambican presidential Tupolev 134.

In the front is a coffin, the lid closed. Small pieces of the wreckage, items of clothing, a single shoe, various unidentifiable bits of debris lie scattered in the foreground.

Standing around the coffin are 12 Mozambicans. At the foot of the coffin is Security Minister Sergio Vieira, in military uniform. Beside him, with heads bowed, stand the Deputy Ministers of Health and of the Interior, Dr Fernando Vaz and Hipolito Patricio.

Immediately behind Colonel Vieira stands the presidential bodyguard who survived the crash, and who went to seek help, Fernando Manuel Joao.



Maputo, Oct 23 (AIM) One minute's silence was observed beside the coffin containing Samora Machel's body by the first group of Mozambicans to visit the scene of the crash on Monday. Security Minister Sergio Vieira (wearing dark glasses) is flanked on his right by Deputy Health Minister Fernando Vaz and Deputy Transport and Communications Minister Rui Lousa and on his left by Deputy Interior Minister Hipolito Patricio. (Photo: Kok Nam).

In the photo I recognise also the Deputy Transport and Communications Minister, Rui Lousa, and my own colleague, Carlos Cardoso, Director of the Mozambique News Agency (AIM), his tape recorder clutched in his right hand.
(more)

Samora/photo 2 Maputo

Those with military rank are saluting. The civilians stand with their arms at their sides. All eyes are fixed on the coffin.

Thus did a group of Mozambican citizens, government members, airmen, journalists, bid farewell to their chief. In that wooden box lay the mortal remains of the man who, in one way or another had dominated their lives - and indeed mine - for the past 15 years or more, President Samora Moises Machel.

One member of the Mozambican delegation is not in the picture. He is the photographer, Kok Nam, head of the photographic department of the weekly magazine Tempo.

It is an image that he had never imagined that he would one day have to photograph. In words it is difficult to describe the effect of this photograph. Looking at it, it is hard to hold back the tears, just as those 12 Mozambicans found it hard.

There is a terrible dignity to it, and Mr Kok Nam has caught perfectly the awesome silence of the scene. This photo is now part of Mozambican history. It is a document of enormous value, but tremendous grief for the generations that are to come.

SAMORA/MILITARY COOPERATION

Maputo, 23 Oct (AIM) Zimbabwean Minister of Information Nathan Shamuyarira said here on Thursday Zimbabwe's military cooperation with Mozambique will increase following President Samora Machel's death.

Speaking in an interview with AIM, he said that reports about Zimbabwe reducing its military presence in Mozambique were "completely untrue".

"It's wishful thinking and actually mischievous. We will never cut our links with Mozambique."

"And we are not going to cut those links now. Actually we are going to strengthen them."

"We in Zimbabwe, instead of cutting our links (with Mozambique) as suggested, we are going to redouble our efforts, both in the military and in the economic fields, to express and concretise our solidarity with Mozambique."

He said he believed "the death of our hero is going to urge the people of Mozambique to redouble their efforts to defend their national sovereignty and to expel the bandits and dissidents".

(more)

Military 2 Maputo

Mr Shamuyarira arrived here on Wednesday accompanied by Mr Kangai and Mr Karimandzira, both members of ZANU-PF's Central Committee, "to join Frelimo in making the preparations for the funeral" of President Samora.

"We are putting ourselves in the hands of Frelimo to use us in any way they see fit. Comrade Machel was a hero for Mozambique as well as a hero for Zimbabwe. That's why we came really, as Frelimo cadres. Although we are members of ZANU-PF, we regard ourselves as Frelimo cadres who have come to bury their national hero."

The Zimbabwean delegation on Thursday met Frelimo Political Bureau members who "gave us tasks to join with our Frelimo comrades in making the preparations for the funeral" on Tuesday.

He said Prime Minister Robert Mugabe would arrive in Maputo to lead the Zimbabwean delegation at the funeral.

He said that Zimbabweans feel the bereavement of Mozambicans as "their own bereavement".

Mr Shamuyarira said that next Sunday there will be rallies throughout Zimbabwean cities "to express our solidarity with Mozambique during this very difficult period".

"On Tuesday, Zimbabwe will have a national holiday to enable all our people to participate in mourning at the passing of a truly great hero."

(more)

Military 3 Maputo

On the recent events in Harare where South African and Malawian missions were hit by students, Mr Shamuyarira said that was the "result of anger of our people at the untimely death of Comrade Machel".

"Our people are very angry and agitated about this and as soon as they heard of his death on Monday they broke into spontaneous demonstrations."

He said Samora Machel's death was something Zimbabweans felt "very strongly" about. He stressed that those demonstrations were spontaneous and "not organised by the government or the Party" (ZANU-PF).



SAMORA/FLIGHT PLAN

Maputo, 24 Oct (AIM) The flight plan of the Mozambican presidential aircraft which crashed in South Africa on Sunday night was not Lusaka-Harare-Chimoio-Beira-Maputo, well-informed sources have told AIM.

The sources stated categorically that the flight plan was not along the coast, as earlier news stories have suggested.

The flight plan of the Tupelov 134 of President Samora Machel was Lusaka-Harare-Masvingo-Curla-Maputo, which is currently referred to in aviation jargon as the Curla route. Curla is a village on the border between Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

According to the flight plan, the presidential aircraft would have flown 350 kilometres parallel to the South African border at about 30 kilometres from the border.*



SAMORA/EDITORIAL

Maputo, 24 Oct (AIM) "Who is responsible for the tragedy?" asks a front page editorial in the Maputo daily newspaper Noticias today.

The editorial asks if there was sabotage of the instruments on President Samora Machel's Tupelov 134 aircraft which crashed inside South Africa on Sunday night, or if there was some form of electronic interference that took the plane out of its flight path.

"There was no mechanical failure on the plane," says the editorial. "The lights on the Maputo runway were on, and the instructions had been given" (from the control tower to the plane).

"But the plane did not land. Shortly afterwards it crashed in South Africa. How was this possible? How could the aircraft have deviated so much from its route?" demands Noticias.

"Can the route of a plane be altered by technical interference? We know that it can," declares the editorial.

Noticias then points to the enormous delay between the time of the crash - about 21.30 on Sunday night - and the time of the first official communication from the South African authorities to the Mozambican government - 06.50 on Monday morning.

(more)

Samora/editorial 2 Maputo

It points out that South African radar must have followed President Samora's plane from the moment it left Lusaka. "They certainly knew that something abnormal was happening," says the editorial. "Moreover one of the survivors contacted the Komatipoort police two hours after the crash. Pretoria therefore knew through two channels of the crash of the presidential plane. But only six hours or so later did the South African authorities inform, with no details, our government of what had happened."

"With an efficient system of communications, with radars on permanent alert, knowing full well that the plane was Mozambican, why did the South Africans take so many hours to inform our authorities?" asks the paper.

Noticias then recalls the pattern of events leading up to the tragedy. "Many things have happened in recent weeks. The alleged explosion of a mine near the Transvaal/Mozambique border was the excuse for a new campaign against Mozambique. There came the old accusations about bases of the ANC, which we do not have on our soil.

"From then on things moved very rapidly. About 15 days ago South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan made direct threats against the person of President Samora Machel. He also infiltrated a group of commandos into Mozambican territory.

"The same threats were made by Ron Miller, Deputy Foreign Minister, who is linked with the militarist faction of the South African army.

(more)

Samora/editorial 3 Maputo

"The press, radio and television of South Africa followed the path (or orders) and a campaign was launched in favour of a direct intervention in Mozambique. Threats and slanders against the President became more frequent."

At the end of the editorial, Noticias says: "Now it is our turn to ask the questions.

"Who is responsible for destabilisation in southern Africa? Who puts puppets in power? Who organises and provides weapons and finance for the bandits who burn our villages and kill our brothers? Who enters neighbouring countries to blow up homes and kidnap civilians?"

"Is this not terrorism?"

"Who violates our airspace every day? Who was in Gorongosa after the Nkomati non-aggression accord was signed? Who has violated the accord? Who sought an invasion of our country by South African troops? Who has sent a commando unit into Mozambique?"

"Can there still be anyone who doubts who is responsible?"

It is not up to a paper to provide formal evidence, says Noticias, "but the answer is certainly engraved on the most intimate thoughts of each one of us".



SAMORA/SOVIET VICTIMS

Maputo, 24 Oct (AIM) The commander of the Maputo military air base, Captain Celestino Anchas, yesterday paid homage to the four Soviet crewmen who died in last Sunday's air disaster.

The four Soviet airmen who died were:

Yuri Covodran (48) - Captain

Igor Kartamychev (29) - Co-pilot

Oleg Kaudrianov (48) - Flight engineer

Anatoli Choulipov (49) - Flight engineer

All four men were members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. They had worked in Mozambique for more than a year and a half. Prior to coming to Mozambique the four men had all worked for the Soviet civil aviation company in Leningrad, and had flown scheduled flights to other European countries.

At yesterday's ceremony at the Soviet embassy, Captain Anchas presented the condolences of the Mozambican government to Soviet representatives and to the wives of three of the dead men. Later other Soviet citizens working in Maputo also paid their last respects to their compatriots.

Their death, says an article on the ceremony in today's issue of the daily paper Noticias, "raises high the banner of the militant internationalism of the Soviet people for the Mozambican people".

The bodies of the four airmen will be flown to the Soviet Union tomorrow in a plane of the Mozambique airline. They will be buried in their home city of Leningrad.

One Soviet crew member survived the crash. He is Vladimir Novoselov, also a flight engineer, currently hospitalised in Pretoria. Late this morning Mozambican Deputy Health Minister, Dr Fernando Vaz, left for Pretoria to investigate personally the medical condition of Mr Novoselov.



SAMORA/CORTEGE

Maputo, 24 Oct (AIM) Thousands of Maputo's residents lined the main streets of the centre of the city this morning to watch in stunned silence, occasionally broken by uncontrollable bursts of wailing, as the body of their President was transported from the mortuary to Maputo City Hall, where the mortal remains of Samora Machel will lie in state.

Until a week ago, the noise of the President's motorcycle outriders was greeted with joy. When the sirens sounded people stood on the pavements, cheering, clapping or simply admiring the Mozambican leader.

Today the scene when the sirens blared was very different. Tradesmen abandoned their already deserted shops. From all sides people poured onto the streets. Children ran from their classrooms, motorists got out of their cars but forgot to switch off the engines or to take the ignition keys with them, housewives came down from the tall apartment blocks that Samora Machel had nationalised in 1976, abolishing the curse of landlordism.

A sea of people filled Avenida Eduardo Mondlane, the broad central Maputo thoroughfare named after the founder and first President of FRELIMO murdered by Portuguese agents in 1969.

The last time such a huge crowd had gathered was in 1975, when Samora Machel, victorious over Portuguese colonialism, completed his triumphal journey from the Tanzanian border to the capital, then still named Lourenco Marques, just five days before the proclamation of independence.

(more)

Samora/cortege 2 Maputo

Some merely wept, others looked on unbelievably as the gun carriage carrying President Samora's coffin moved slowly past. Others could not contain their emotions and broke down, crying and wailing.

Perhaps some people expected to see Samora Machel in an embellished, ornamental coffin, possibly made of gold. In fact his was a simple coffin, the natural colour of wood, decorated in the centre with just the emblem of the republic.

Preparations for this sad journey began this morning at 09.00 when representatives of Mozambique's mass democratic organisations, members of the government and relatives of President Samora arrived at the mortuary.

At 09.25 the President's widow, Graca Machel, arrived and the gates of the mortuary were opened. Graca Machel, supported by a relative and by Cristina Tembe, Maputo city secretary of the Mozambican women's organisation, the OMM, embraced the coffin that contained her husband's body. Several times she needed the strong support of those around her to prevent her from falling. Samora and Graca Machel were married in 1975, shortly after independence.

After relatives, friends and members of the government had paid their respects, the members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and high-ranking officers of the armed forces carried the coffin to the waiting gun carriage.

A lone soldier sounded the desolate tones of a military bugle, and the cortege began to move.

(more)

Samora/cortege 3 Maputo

The cortege took half an hour to reach Maputo City Hall. Lined up outside was a guard of honour and a military band.

The guard paid military honours to their fallen commander-in-chief. Then Mozambican officers, to the sound of a funeral march played by the band, carried the coffin inside.

The body of Samora Machel will now lie in state until Monday.



SAMORA/NYERERE

Maputo, 24 Oct (AIM) Former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere wept today as he presented a message of condolences from Tanzania's Party Chama Cha Mapinduzi to the Frelimo Party on the death of President Samora Machel.

Mr Nyerere, who is chairman of the CCM, delivered the message at the headquarters of the Frelimo Central Committee this morning.

The message was received by Political Bureau member Marcelino dos Santos, Secretary of the People's Assembly, in the presence of all the other nine members of the Political Bureau.

Mr Nyerere told the Frelimo leadership that the CCM Central Committee had met and decided to send a written message on the death of President Samora. "Our presence here is very important," he said. "We are together with you."

Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi will attend President Samora's funeral, scheduled for Tuesday.



Maputo, Oct 24 (AIM) Former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere stands with Frelimo Political Bureau member Marcelinodos Santos before President Samora's coffin this morning. (Photo: Alfredo Mueche/AIM).

SAMORA/LYING IN STATE

Maputo, 24 Oct (AIM) Members of President Samora Machel's family, members of the Mozambican government and of the leadership of the Frelimo Party, and the Chairman of the Tanzanian Party Chama Cha Mapinduzi, Julius Nyerere, this afternoon paid their last tribute to the fallen Mozambican leader as he lay in state in Maputo City Hall.

The first person to lay a wreath and observe a minute's silence in front of President Samora's coffin was Mr Nyerere.

A source in the protocol service told the Mozambique News Agency (AIM) that Mr Nyerere had also been the first to sign the book of condolences, followed by the other members of the Tanzanian delegation.

Tanzania has always been Mozambique's closest political ally, a link that dates back to Mozambique's independence war when Mr Nyerere and his government provided rear bases for the freedom fighters of FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front). President Samora and Julius Nyerere had developed a close personal friendship.

After the Tanzanian delegation had left, President Samora's relatives paid their tribute, in private.

Then the members of the Frelimo Political Bureau, accompanied by their wives, entered the building. Their ceremony, in stark contrast to the normal life of the Political Bureau, took place in total silence and with no speeches.

Then other Party leaders, members of the government, and members of the Standing Commission of the the People's Assembly filed past President Samora's coffin.

Later in the afternoon the country's mass democratic organisations and the diplomatic corps paid homage to the Mozambican leader.

From early evening onwards members of the public could visit the City Hall to pay their last respects.



Maputo, Oct 24 (AIM) Graca Machel and her youngest child lay flowers on the coffin of President Samora in the Maputo City Hall. (Photo: Anders Nilsson/AIM).

SAMORA/ARCHBISHOP

Maputo, 24 Oct (AIM) The Catholic Archbishop of Maputo today told the Mozambique News Agency (AIM) that he lamented the death of President Samora Machel and hoped "that divine providence may sustain another man capable of leading this people".

"He fought greatly to secure peace," Archbishop Alexandre said of President Samora. "He died while on a mission designed precisely to establish peace in the zone."

Archbishop Alexandre described the Mozambican leader as "a charismatic man, of rare innate qualities". His death "is a question mark. I still cannot understand it."

The Archbishop declared that "as a religious person I have found many things in common with Samora Machel. He was a nationalist who loved his people. He was a great moralist. He gave correct moral guidelines to the country. He destroyed many vices - prostitution, alcoholism, bandits."

"He was very positive, and his work was within our Christian principles," the Catholic Archbishop said of the fallen President.



SAMORA/TAMBO

Maputo, 24 Oct (AIM) The President of the South African liberation movement, the African National Congress (ANC), Oliver Tambo, arrived in Maputo today to present his condolences on the death of President Samora Machel.

He was received this afternoon by two Frelimo Party Political Bureau members, Marcelino dos Santos, the Secretary of the People's Assembly and Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano.

Mr Tambo told them that "the South African people and the members of the ANC are shocked at the death of President Samora Machel".

He added that "we shall do our best so that we can struggle side by side, and give each other mutual support as we have done in the past".

"We are confident that our struggle will end in victory," concluded the ANC leader.

Mr dos Santos thanked Oliver Tambo for his words. "We need solidarity and sympathy in this moment of struggle," he said.



SAMORA/COOPERANTES

Maputo, 24 Oct (AIM) Hundreds of foreign citizens working in Mozambique filed past President Samora Machel's coffin late this afternoon as the body of the Mozambican leader lay in state in Maputo City Hall.

The foreign workers, many of whom are organised in various national solidarity groups, are known generally in Mozambique as "cooperantes" (literally "cooperators").

They came from many different countries: among those who paid their last respects and signed the condolences book were Cubans, Soviets, Brazilians, Britons, Irish, Swedes, Danes, Australians, Canadians, United States citizens, Argentinians and Chileans. And this list is by no means exhaustive.

Julie Cliff, an Australian doctor who has been working with the Mozambican Health Ministry since 1976, told AIM of her feelings on seeing President Samora's coffin.

"First I felt really sad," she said. "For I had been there in Independence Square (where the City Hall is located) many times before at moments of great happiness, including the day of independence itself when I was visiting Mozambique. I had heard Samora speak in the Square on many occasions."

"I was impressed to see so many different nationalities there," she said. "And I was impressed by the astonishing silence inside the City Hall."

Asked what her personal view of President Samora was, Dr Cliff simply replied: "I think he was a great man, a hero who died fighting for the liberation of Africa."

INQUIRY

Komatipoort, 25 Oct (AIM) The international commission of inquiry into the crash last Sunday of Mozambican President Samora Machel's aircraft has been formally constituted.

Delegations from Mozambique, the Soviet Union and South Africa turned up for a meeting yesterday in a small hotel on the outskirts of the South African border town of Komatipoort.

The Mozambican delegation was headed by Dr Fernando Vaz, Deputy Minister of Health, and included Paulo Muchanga, Antonio Neves and other civil aviation and legal staff.

The Soviet part in the commission was led by Ivan Donison, the chief expert in the Soviet Union's Committee on Air Safety. It also included Leonid Seliakov, the chief designer of Tupolev aircraft, Vladimir Permialov, principal engineer in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Vladimir Komaroov, a senior engineer in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Alexander Chipiaev, an expert with the Committee on Air Safety, Vladlav Kororkin, an expert with the Soviet secretariat for the International Civil Aviation Organisation, and five other members.

The South African delegation was composed of police General Lother Weethling, air force Major Graham Rochat, Roy Dowles of civil aviation, and was led by Piet de Klek of the department of civil aviation.

Part of the commission visited the crash site during the afternoon, while another part travelled to Pretoria to visit the Soviet flight engineer Vladimir Novoselov, who survived the crash and is in a military hospital in Pretoria.

Dr Vaz and Soviet and South African members of the commission saw and listened to Mr Novoselov. In terms of the inquiry, his statements yesterday are considered the only valid ones made until now.

The Mozambican and Soviet delegations returned to Maputo last night.



SAMORA/LAST RESPECTS

Maputo, 25 Oct (AIM) Throughout today thousands of people have been converging on Maputo City Hall, where the body of Samora Machel is lying in state, in order to pay their last respects to their fallen President.

Independence Square, immediately in front of the City Hall, was full of long lines of people moving slowly and silently forward, patiently awaiting their turn to enter the building.

The long queues starting forming long before the City Hall opened its gates at 08.00. They extended, apparently interminably, down three of the four avenues that lead into Independence Square.

Inside the building two staircases give access to the first floor where President Samora's coffin is lying. One is used for mourners to enter, and the second for them to leave. There is a striking contrast between the two staircases. Ascending there is silence, but descending there are tears and sobbing, with some of the grief stricken mourners needing support from friends in order not to fall.

On the ground floor, there are tables on which 14 condolence books are available for signing after mourners have filed past President Samora's body.
(more)

Samora/last respects 2 Maputo

First aid teams are patrolling Independence Square to deal with any fainting or sudden illness, and water, milk and fruit juice are available for mourners while they wait.

The weather is cool, and the sky sombre and overcast. There was a dramatic change in Maputo's weather yesterday. On the day that Samora Machel's body was moved from the mortuary to the City Hall, the bright sunshine of earlier in the week disappeared, to be replaced by a pall of heavy



Maputo, Oct 25 (AIM) Mourners passing in front of President Samora's coffin where it lies in state in the Maputo City Hall. (Photo: Anders Nilsson/AIM).

grey cloud, and occasional gusts of wind. It was as if the elements themselves joined the people of the capital in mourning their hero.

The lying in state will continue until Monday. On Tuesday, Samora Machel will make his last journey, as he goes to join the founder of FRELIMO, Dr Eduardo Mondlane, and other leading figures who fell during the armed struggle, including his wife Josina Machel.

He will join them in the stark, star-shaped monument that is the burial ground in the Square of the Mozambican Heroes on the road from the city to the airport.



SAMORA/ARISTIDES PEREIRA

Maputo, 25 Oct (AIM) The first head of state to arrive in Maputo for the funeral of President Samora Machel was Aristides Pereira, the President of Cape Verde.

President Pereira arrived at Maputo international airport at 14.30 local time (12.30 GMT). He was greeted as he stepped off the plane by Marcelino dos Santos of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau.

The two men, old friends from the days of the joint struggles against Portuguese colonialism, embraced each other emotionally.

Travelling with President Pereira was the former President of Portugal, General Antonio Ramalho Eanes.

When he held office General Eanes exchanged state visits with President Samora. General Eanes made a highly successful visit to Mozambique in 1981, and President Samora conquered the hearts of many of the Portuguese people when he visited the former colonial power in 1983.

SAMORA/SURVIVORS

Maputo, 25 Oct (AIM) Another of the survivors of last Sunday night's air disaster in South Africa in which President Samora Machel lost his life returned to Maputo today.

He is Captain Joao Rendicao, a veteran of Mozambique's independence war, who has worked for the past six years as part of the presidential escort.

Captain Rendicao (33) was hospitalised after the crash in the eastern Transvaal town of Nelspruit.

A Mozambican medical source told AIM that Captain Rendicao had suffered head and spinal injuries and that he was seriously wounded in his right eye.

There are now four survivors in Maputo, while five others are in Nelspruit and the surviving Soviet flight engineer, Vladimir Novoselov, is in a Pretoria military hospital.



SAMORA/HUNGUANA

Maputo, 25 Oct (AIM) Mozambique's Information Minister, Teodato Hunguana, said in Maputo tonight that the Mozambican government "by no means" excludes the possibility that last Sunday's plane crash in South Africa in which President Samora Machel lost his life was caused "by criminal action".

Mr Hunguana was replying to speculation tending to establish as generally accepted, right from the outset, the idea that pilot error or bad weather caused the disaster.

"The Mozambican government certainly does not exclude the possibility that South Africa was involved in the death of our President," declared Mr Hunguana.



SAMORA/CHISSANO

Maputo, 25 Oct (AIM) The Frelimo Party Political Bureau is currently directing the destinies of Mozambique in the aftermath of the death of President Samora Machel, Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano has told the diplomatic corps accredited in Maputo.

Radio Mozambique tonight broadcast parts of the briefing that Mr Chissano gave to the diplomats three days ago. Mr Chissano said that the Political Bureau was now, in the name of the Frelimo Central Committee, directing all aspects of the nation's life "be they economic, political, diplomatic or military".

"We feel we are carrying out the orders that our Commander-in-Chief, the head of our Party and the President of our Republic gave us," Mr Chissano said. "All the guidelines that he laid down are being carried out by us right now, just as if we had to give an account of ourselves to him on the day of his return."

Mr Chissano agreed that there would be a great amount of speculation about the future of Mozambique amongst diplomats and in the foreign media. "But many of these speculations will prove unfounded," he said, pointing out that "there are no political squabbles" amongst the Mozambican leadership.

"We are united," he said, "and we are going to take our time in reaching a decision for remedying this situation. I say 'remedy' because you cannot replace President Samora Machel and his leadership. But we are going to try to find ways of remedying this situation through a process of very level headed reasoning within our Party."

Mr Chissano declared that "our people will support us in this task for the consolidation of our independence, and for the pursuit of the aims laid down in our Constitution and the goals of our Party".

SAMORA/PROVINCES

Maputo, 26 Oct (AIM) Children throughout Mozambique marked the first anniversary of the creation of their own organisation by paying homage to President Samora Machel, who died in an unexplained air crash in South Africa a week ago.

The children's organisation, "Continuadores da Revolucao Mocambicana" (literally, those who continue the Mozambican revolution), was established at a conference in Maputo, in the presence of President Samora, in October 1985.

The organisation is open to children between the ages of seven and 14 years.

In Maputo yesterday a group of "continuadores", representing all Mozambican children, visited the City Hall, where President Samora's body is lying in state, to pay last respects to a leader well-known for his fondness towards children. "Our children are flowers that never wither," Samora Machel would often say.

In the northern province of Cabo Delgado, the "continuadores" in the provincial capital, Pemba, declared in a message to provincial governor Joao Baptista Cosme: "Papa Samora, you have died without tasting the fruits of the tree that you planted."

Even before 25 October last year, when their organisation was founded, it was common for children to refer to the President as "Papa Samora", just as adults, as a sign of affection, would call him "O Velho" (the old man).
(more)

Samora/provinces 2 Maputo

In Pemba people began signing a book of condolences opened in memory of President Samora on Friday. To the east of Pemba, in the district of Montepuez, more than 10,000 people were present at a ceremony in memory of the President, according to a Radio Mozambique report.

Condolence books were also opened in the other provincial capitals. In Lichinga, capital of the northern province of Niassa, where President Samora first won fame as a guerrilla commander, hundreds of people organised through workplaces and residential areas yesterday went to write their messages of sorrow at the death of their leader.

On Tuesday, the day of President Samora's funeral, the population of Lichinga will be invited to come together to one spot in the town to listen collectively to the Radio Mozambique live transmission of the funeral.

In the northern provinces, Radio Mozambique reports large sums of money collected for the families of those who died in the plane crash. The amount collected from the people of Nampula province is so far over 660,000 meticaís (about 17,000 US dollars).

Some of this money has already been handed over to Party and State leaders in meetings organised to explain the significance and repercussions of last Sunday's tragedy.



SAMORA/VICTIMS

Maputo, 26 Oct (AIM) Today 19 of the 34 victims of last Sunday's air crash in South Africa in which President Samora Machel lost his life will lie in state in Maputo's Fourth Congress Hall.

This is the main building used for conferences in the city. The name derives from the fact that it was first used to house the Fourth Congress of the Frelimo Party in April 1983.

According to the programme distributed by the funeral organising committee, the bodies will be moved from the mortuary to the Fourth Congress Hall in groups, a process scheduled to last all morning.

The first group consists of Transport and Communications Minister Luis Alcantara Santos, Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Carlos Lobo, the personal assistant to the President, Lt-Col Fernando Honwana, and President Samora Machel's official photographer, Major Daniel Maquinasse.

Directing the funeral cortege for these four victims will be Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano.

The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Colonel-General Sebastiao Mabote, will receive the coffins as they arrive at the Hall.
(more)

Samora/victims 2 Maputo

The second cortege will consist of the bodies of Aquino de Braganca, Director of the Centre for African Studies, Cangela de Mendonca, National Director of Protocol, Muradali Mamadhussen, President Samora's private secretary, and Ivete Amos, secretary to the President.

In the third group will travel the mortal remains of Osvaldo de Sousa, interpreter in English of the President, Bernardino Chiche, interpreter in French of the President, Henrique Bettencourt and Ulisses La Rosa Mesa, personal physicians of President Samora and both Cuban citizens.

A fourth cortege will bear the bodies of Parente Manjate, Eduardo Viegas, Albino Falteira and Ernesto Chauque, all officials in the presidency.

The fifth and final cortege is to consist of the bodies of Jose Quivanhane, an official in the presidency, Azarias Inguane, photographer on the daily paper Noticias, and Orlanda Garrine, a stewardess.

The other victims of the crash, Gulamo Khan, President Samora's press attache, and Joao Navesse, assistant director in the department of legal and consular affairs in the Foreign Ministry, have already been buried.



SAMORA/AVENGE

Maputo, 26 Oct (AIM) Faced with the loss of President Samora Machel, it is now the duty of all Mozambicans "to avenge his death by continuing the struggle he began," declares the editorial in today's issue of the Mozambican Sunday paper Domingo.

The editorial laments the loss "of our guide, the strategist of guerrilla struggle who gave us our nationality: the light which shone to show the path to our complete liberation has been snuffed out".

"Our region," continues the paper, "has lost the man who taught his whole people not to feel fully free and independent while neighbouring brother peoples still did not enjoy their own freedom and independence."

But the editorial points out that "although we have lost a man, we have not lost a cause, quite the reverse". The death of Samora Machel, the paper argues, commits Mozambicans to follow the path he traced out.

"No death can destroy an ideal, when that ideal is correct," says the editorial. "The justness of our struggle is implicit in the implacable struggle that the enemy waged against this great man," it continues. "Samora had many friends. But he died through the force of his enemies. They feared him because they knew how far he would lead this battle, and they knew how far they would be able to resist him."

"It is up to us to continue this battle," urges the paper. "It is up to us to ensure that the enemies of Samora continue to fear him even after his death."



SAMORA/COMRADES

Maputo, 26 Oct (AIM) Here are some brief biographical notes on some of the colleagues, friends and comrades of President Samora Machel who died with him in Last Sunday's air disaster, and who are lying in state today in Maputo's Fourth Congress Hall.

Luis Maria de Alcantara Santos (Minister of Transport and Communications): trained in civil engineering in Oporto University, Portugal, he started his career as a railway engineer in Mozambique in 1953.

In 1974, he was invited into the Transitional Government as Minister of Public Works. This government, led by FRELIMO, but also including ministers

appointed by Portugal, governed the country until full independence on 25 June 1975.

Mr Alcantara Santos returned to government in 1980 as Minister of Ports and Surface Transport. In 1983, his position was changed to that of Minister of Ports, Railways and Shipping, and in April this year to Minister of Transport and Communications.

He was deeply involved in regional cooperation and the Transport and Communications Commission of SADCC (Southern African Development Coordination Conference), and won wide respect among his transport colleagues in the other SADCC states.

He was noted for his outstanding competence and his capacity for hard work. His Zambian colleagues referred to him with admiration as "the tough minister" because of his drive and stamina in lengthy meetings and commission sessions.

(more)

Samora/comrades 2 Maputo

Aquino de Braganca (Director of the Centre for African Studies at Maputo's Eduardo Mondlane University). Born in 1928 in the then Portuguese-ruled enclave of Goa in India, Aquino became the best-known of Mozambican intellectuals.

He was involved in the liberation struggle from 1958, participating actively in the creation of the CONCP (Conference of Nationalist Organisations in the Portuguese Colonies). He counted among his personal friends such great figures as Algerian leader Ahmed Ben Bella, Angola's first President, Agostinho Neto, and Amilcar Cabral, the founder of PAIGC, the liberation movement in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.

He worked with FRELIMO from its foundation in 1962. His work, both as a journalist and as a historian, was vital for spreading throughout the world knowledge of the peoples of the then Portuguese colonies and of their struggles.

Aquino's painstaking research in 1974 into the links between Angolan traitor Jonas Savimbi and the Portuguese colonial regime was instrumental in the decision of many governments to withhold support from Savimbi's UNITA and to recognise the People's Republic of Angola.

Under Aquino's leadership, Maputo's Centre for African Studies became one of the foremost Marxist academic institutions on the continent.

His commitment to the struggle against apartheid made Aquino a target for the Pretoria regime. He was injured in the letter bomb attack that killed his comrade, the South African militant and scholar Ruth First, in her university office in August 1982. But the second time his enemies came calling, he did not escape.

(more)

Samora/comrades 3 Maputo

Jose Carlos Lobo (Deputy Foreign Minister): almost immediately after independence, he was appointed Mozambique's permanent representative at the United Nations. He was based in New York until May 1983, when he was appointed Minister of Mineral Resources. In June 1984 he left that post to become one of two Deputy Foreign Ministers.

Lt-Col Fernando Honwana (Personal Assistant to President Samora): a brilliant young intellectual who accompanied President Samora on almost all of his working visits, Fernando was one of the Mozambican leaders most trusted aides.

A warm and friendly man whom it was easy to approach and speak to frankly, Fernando holds a special place in the hearts of journalists at AIM, since it was in our offices that he spent his last working hours in Mozambique. On the night before the fatal plane crash he was working up to just before midnight with some of us on a lengthy translation from Portuguese to English, a language he spoke fluently.

(more)

Samora/comrades 4 Maputo

Major Daniel Maquinasse (President Samora's official photographer). As a young FRELIMO guerrilla he took some of the best-known photographs of the war for national liberation.

He was called up by the colonial army in 1967, but deserted the following year and went to Tanzania to join FRELIMO. He carried with him a small camera that was to become his most important weapon.

After six months of political-military training at FRELIMO's main rear base at Nachingwea in southern Tanzania, he crossed back into Mozambique, this time as part of a guerrilla unit fighting in the northern province of Cabo Delgado.

After the fall of colonial fascism, it was Daniel Maquinasse who photographed the signing of the Lusaka Accords ending the war, the swearing in of the Transitional Government and the very moment of national independence itself.

After independence, Major Maquinasse accompanied President Samora on virtually every visit he made, both inside and outside the country, recording in images Mozambican history in the making.



SAMORA/VICTIMS (RE-OPENS)

By Elias Cossa

Maputo, 26 Oct (AIM) In a simple ceremony, but one charged with emotion and grief, the mortal remains of 19 of the 33 people who perished along with President Samora Machel in last Sunday's unexplained air disaster were today transported from the city mortuary to Maputo's Fourth Congress Hall, where they are now lying in state.

Although Sunday dawned bright and clear, in mid morning the sky turned a sombre grey as if in sympathy with the five separate corteges that carried the coffins to the Hall, where three and a half years ago most of the victims had participated in the nation's most dynamic political event, the Fourth Frelimo Party Congress.

This was the last journey that any of them would make to the Hall which so frequently has reverberated to the main debates and conferences that the city has hosted.

The coffins containing the bodies of the five most prominent of the victims were placed to the right of the spacious Hall. These were Jose Carlos Lobo (Deputy Foreign Minister), Luis Alcantara Santos (Transport and Communications Minister), Lt-Col Fernando Honwana (President Samora's Personal Assistant), Major Daniel Maquinasse (President Samora's official photographer) and Aquino de Braganca (Director of the Centre for African Studies at Maputo's Eduardo Mondlane University).

The other 14 coffins were laid on the other side of the Hall to form an L-shape.
(more)

Samora/victims 2 Maputo

All but two of these victims were of Mozambican nationality. The two foreigners lying in state are Henriques Bettencourt and Ulisses La Rosa Mesa, President Samora's personal doctors, both Cuban citizens.

These two "companeros internacionalistas" (internationalist comrades) will be flown back on Thursday to the land of Jose Marti where they first learnt the virtues of international solidarity.

The Hall is brightly lit and decorated with two predominant colours - the black of mourning and sorrow, and the fiery red of working class power.

The families of the dead and the top Party and State leaders who accompanied them were dressed in mourning clothes of deepest black, with the exception of the widow of Aquino de Braganca who wore a sari of pure white. Silvia de Braganca, like her husband, is of Indian origin.

Aquino was born in Goa in 1928, when it was still ruled by the Portuguese. His political and intellectual career always found him linked to the liberation movements of the former Portuguese colonies and particularly to FRELIMO. Today, several of his colleagues from the Centre for African Studies accompanied Aquino's coffin into the Fourth Congress Hall.

They could not forget that Aquino had brushed with death before when he had escaped the South African letter bomb that killed his friend and colleague Ruth First in August 1982.

(more)

Samora/victims 3 Maputo

The wife and three children of Transport Minister Alcantara Santos, as well as his closest colleagues, accompanied the cortege. One of his sons wore the full dress uniform of a second lieutenant in the Mozambican Navy.

The family of Jose Carlos Lobo held a religious service in the mortuary chapel before setting out for the lying in state. Mr Lobo, born in the central province of Zambezia, was a staunch defender of FRELIMO's cause from the early days of the armed struggle. Several other Mozambicans from Zambezia accompanied Mr Lobo's coffin.

At the Fourth Congress Hall, Secretary of State for Culture Luis Bernardo Honwana mourned his brother Lt-Col Fernando Honwana. The Honwana family is well-known and liked in Maputo. In the death of Fernando they lost one of their most brilliant members, a man who was at the right hand of President Samora as his personal assistant. Fernando Honwana played a particularly important political and diplomatic role at the time of the Lancaster House Conference which led to Zimbabwean independence.

Daniel Maquinasse was frequently held up as an example of the type of commitment that Mozambican media professionals should follow. A guerrilla/photographer in FRELIMO's liberated areas during the war, and the presidency's official photographer afterwards, his camera caught many of the most important moments of Samora Machel's life.

(more)

Samora/victims 4 Maputo

At the head of each of the 19 coffins was placed a large portrait of its occupant, against a backcloth of red and black.

Wreaths were heaped on the coffins, and the flowers added to the atmosphere of solemnity which the Hall, built in 1983, had never before experienced.

The last time many of the dead visited this Hall was exactly a fortnight ago, when the last summit of the Frontline States was held here, following the torrent of South African accusations and menaces made against Mozambique in early October.



SAMORA/GRACA

Maputo, 26 Oct (AIM) Graca Machel, widow of President Samora Machel, today returned for the third time to stand before the coffin of her husband lying in state in Maputo City Hall.

She was accompanied by President Samora's sons and daughters and by other close members of the family. Also at her side were the son and one of the two daughters of the first President of FRELIMO, Dr Eduardo Mondlane, assassinated by Portuguese agents in 1969.

President Samora will join Eduardo Mondlane on Tuesday when he is laid to rest under the star-shaped monument in Maputo's Square of the Mozambican Heroes.

Mrs Machel placed flowers on either side of the cushion on which her husband's familiar peaked military cap has been laid.

She remained silent at the side of the coffin for about five minutes, then embraced it before leaving the building.



Maputo, Oct (AIM) Graca Machel, widow of Samora Machel, at her husband's coffin, together with Marcelino dos Santos. (Photo: Antoinio Muchave/AIM).

Her sobs deeply affected the thousands of people quietly filing in to visit their President for the last time.

The feelings among the mourners are still dominated by great shock and consternation. There have been cases of people who have fainted on entering the hall where President Samora lies in state - at the sight of his coffin, they have finally understood that their leader really is dead.

In such cases, first aid teams have come to their assistance. Dr Isabel Ruas, in charge of the first aid service, told AIM that at least ten people were treated this morning in the health post set up in the City Hall. She added that the present cool, overcast weather in Maputo had helped matters greatly. Had there been the high temperatures normal for this time of year, many more people would have collapsed, not simply from grief but from long hours of exposure to the sun while waiting to enter the City Hall.



SAMORA/DELEGATIONS

Maputo, 26 Oct (AIM) "We bring a message of solidarity for the Mozambican people," declared Nicaragua's Deputy President, Sergio Ramirez, on his arrival in Maputo this afternoon. He is leading the Nicaraguan delegation to attend President Samora Machel's funeral.

On the same plane a Cuban delegation led by Jorge Risquet, Deputy President of the State Council, arrived.

Both Latin American statesmen were met at the airport by Mozambican Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano.

Among other delegations arriving today were those of the Soviet Union, led by Deputy Prime Minister and Political Bureau member, B. A. Aliev, of Poland, led by Deputy Prime Minister Kazimierz Parcikowski, and of Democratic Yemen, led by Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Altaly.

FUNERALS OF THE VICTIMS

Maputo, 27 Oct (AIM) Seventeen of the victims of the plane crash that killed President Samora Machel were buried in Maputo today. Before the funeral processions to the cemetery, Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano presented condolences to the bereaved families on behalf of the Party and government and read the funeral oration.

"We have come to bid farewell to comrades, companions-in-struggle," Mr Chissano said. They "gave their country the best of their strength and dedication".

They were comrades "who were able to lend the brilliance of their intelligence, the strength of their capacities to carrying out the tasks entrusted to them by the people," Mr Chissano continued.

"The deaths that today we lament were honourable deaths. They fell gloriously, in a mission against colonialism, racism and apartheid," he said.

Mr Chissano then gave a brief biographical outline of the victims, stressing the dedication of each one to the cause of the revolution. "Your example as soldiers, as revolutionaries, as fighters for freedom, as internationalists, as patriots will always remain alive in our memories."

Mr Chissano also recalled the Soviet and Cuban citizens who died in the crash. "Remembering you as dedicated internationalists in the people's cause will be a spur for us to continue the struggle," he said.
(more)

Funerals 2 Maputo

The first procession to the cemetery was of the coffins of Transport and Communications Minister Luis Alcantara Santos, Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Carlos Lobo, Lt-Col Fernando Honwana, personal assistant to President Samora, Aquino de Braganca, Director of the Centre for African Studies, and the President's official photographer, Major Daniel Maquinasse.

The funeral processions left the Fourth Congress Hall, where the bodies of the 17 and the two Cuban doctors who died in the crash had been lying in state. The bodies of the Cubans will be flown home for burial.

The funeral ceremonies were attended by members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and the Council of Ministers and thousands of other mourners.



SAMORA/SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE

Maputo, 27 Oct (AIM) When the South African police arrived on the scene of the plane crash that claimed the life of Mozambican President Samora Machel, they did nothing to aid the wounded, and instead took away documents from the plane.

At a press conference in Maputo on Sunday, one of the survivors, Almeida Pedro (23), a video cameraman with the Maputo company Telecine, said that the South African police appeared on the scene of the crash about 02.00 on the morning of Monday, 20 October.

Mr Pedro, who was able to walk, said that at that time "two cars with South African policemen" arrived. There were two black and two white policemen. "They came with torches," he said.

Mr Pedro approached the police to seek help, and they asked him where the plane was. "One of them spoke Portuguese," he said.

"I thought they were coming to help people, but they only stayed around the aircraft. They were going from one side to the other with their torches," said Mr Pedro.

Four more white policemen arrived in two cars, continued Mr Pedro. He said that he was "very surprised" because the policemen wanted to know whether the wreckage was the Mozambican presidential plane, after which another survivor, cameraman Carlos Jambo, pointed out the body of the Mozambican President.

(more)

Samora/South African police 2 Maputo

Asked whether the police were carrying any form of communications equipment, Mr Pedro said that "each car had its radio. They were communicating."

Mr Pedro said that he saw "all of them collecting paper, those diplomatic bags, dollars. They took lots of things."

Almeida Pedro said that the police picked up and took away two diplomatic bags.

"Help took a long time in coming," he continued. "Many people were losing blood. When they arrived at two o'clock they didn't go to the aid of the people who were crying out."

"There were people who died for lack of assistance," he said. With a speedy response to the needs of the injured there might have been more than ten survivors.

When Almeida Pedro saw the police taking away documents and other material, he asked what was going on. "They were deceiving us," he said. "They told us 'don't worry'. There was one who spoke Portuguese. I even met him later at the Komatipoort border. 'We have to collect everything here, we are going to put it in a plane and return everything to Maputo,' they said."

However, on Monday morning South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha was overheard at Komatipoort telling Mozambican Security Minister Sergio Vieira that nothing belonging to the passengers of the presidential aircraft had been touched, and that police had cordoned off the area of the wreckage to prevent anything from being removed.

(more)

Samora/ South African police 3 Maputo

Another survivor, Fernando Manuel Joao, one of the President's bodyguards, confirmed Mr Pedro's words, saying that even at 06.00 in the morning, over eight hours after the crash, he found when he returned to the wreckage that "the South Africans were not at all concerned with the lives of the wounded. They were just messing around with the other things there."

Mr Joao said that he became angry with the South Africans for "refusing to take the wounded to hospital".

Mr Joao, the survivor with the least serious injuries, had already walked considerable distances in search of help, and at midnight had managed to contact the Komatipoort police through the radio of a local religious mission.

He spoke with a police inspector who finally ordered helicopters to come and take the injured to the hospital in Nelspruit.

The first of the injured arrived at Nelspruit at 08.00, almost eleven hours after the crash. Mr Joao himself arrived later in the morning. That afternoon, Mozambique's Deputy Health Minister, Dr Fernando Vaz, picked up Mr Joao from Nelspruit and took him back to the scene of the crash.

Mr Joao also told the press conference of his attempts to persuade the Komatipoort police to contact Mozambique about the crash.

(more)

Samora/South African police 4 Maputo

During his radio contact with Komatipoort, the chief police officer there "told me that he was already radioing to Maputo, but that nobody was responding. I said 'transmit more to the ministries, either of foreign affairs, security or defence. They are sure to be on the air right now seeking any information about the plane.' He said 'no problem'".

Hours later, when Mr Joao was back at the scene of the crash "I spoke to a police inspector and asked him to give me a copy of the message he said he sent to Maputo. He said 'don't worry, we've sent the message'. He did not give me a copy. He only said that Mozambique had already been informed of the exact time of the crash."

In fact the Mozambican government was only officially informed of the disaster by the South African authorities at 06.50 on Monday morning.

Mr Joao added that in his conversation with the Komatipoort police he had asked how many kilometres separated the site of the crash from the Mozambican

and Swazi borders. He was told that the site was about 30 kilometres from both countries.

In fact Mbuzini, the zone where President Samora's plane came down is only a few kilometres from Namaacha, a Mozambican town on the Swazi border. The exact point of the impact is just 300 metres from the Mozambican border.



SAMORA/SURVIVORS

Maputo, 27 Oct (AIM) Two survivors of the air crash of 19 October in which Mozambican President Samora Machel lost his life said at a press conference in Maputo on Sunday that they could not recall having heard any explosion on board the presidential aircraft before it crashed in the eastern Transvaal.

A third survivor, presidential bodyguard Fernando Manuel Joao, repeated what he had told Security Minister Sergio Vieira at the site of the crash - namely that there had been a bang following which the lights went out and the engines died.

Mr Joao said that the sound "like a shot" seemed to have come from the area of the ministerial compartment. This is between the President's own compartment and the compartment at the back of the plane where most of the passengers were seated.

Another survivor, video cameraman Almeida Pedro, said that he had been "dozing" and therefore did not remember any bang or whether the lights had gone out.

The other survivor at the press conference, bodyguard Daniel Samuel Cuna, said that he had been reading and that he could not recall the lights going out and the engines dying.

(more)



Maputo, Oct 26 (AIM) Three of the survivors of the crash of the presidential plane at a press conference in Maputo tonight. From the left they are Daniel Samuel Cuna, Fernando Manuel Joao and Almeida Pedro. (Photo: Anders Nilsson/AIM).

Samora/survivors 2 Maputo

"I didn't hear anything," said Mr Cuna. "I only heard the stewardess Yolanda ask us to fasten our seat belts. I was reading." Mr Cuna said he could not remember anything else.

Mr Joao added that he had spoken to a colleague when the lights went out and asked what was happening. The other replied "I don't know. Perhaps we're landing in Maputo."

Mr Joao believed that the plane could not have been hit by a missile, but did not reject the hypothesis that some form of anti-aircraft equipment had been used.

Mr Joao said that nine of the ten survivors had been in the rear cabin. He himself was in the second to last row, and was thrown clear, together with his seat to which he was firmly attached with a safety belt, when the plane hit the ground.

The tenth survivor, said Mr Joao, was sitting in the front of the plane, in the cockpit.



SAMORA/CREW

Maputo, 27 Oct (AIM) The Soviet crew that manned President Samora Machel's Tupolev 134 (TU 134) aircraft had been in Mozambique for 18 months before the disaster of 19 October in which the Mozambican leader lost his life.

This crew had landed at Maputo airport 65 times, and at least 70 per cent of these landings were at night.

The crew consisted Captain Yuri Novodran (pilot), Igor Kartamyshev (co-pilot), Oleg Koudriashov (navigator), Anatoli Choulipov (radio operator) and Vladimir Novoselov (flight engineer and the only crew member to survive).

According to investigations made by the Mozambique News Agency (AIM), this crew had flown a total of eleven times on the three routes Maputo-Harare, Maputo-Lusaka and Maputo-Luanda. Four of these trips were between Maputo and Zambia.

Captain Novodran was a pilot first class in Soviet civil aviation. He had clocked up a total of 13,056 hours flying time, 7,523 of which were with TU 134s. He had a total of 2,044 hours of night flying.
(more)

Samora/crew 2 Maputo

In the 23 years of his career as a pilot, he had flown in a large number of different types of aircraft and had trained many younger pilots. There is no report of any violation of flying rules by him.

Co-pilot Igor Kartamyshev (29) was a pilot third class in Soviet civil aviation. He had 3,790 hours flying time, 2,380 of them in TU 134s. He had flown at night for 1,166 hours.

Anatoli Choulipov (39) was a radio operator first class with 14,370 hours of flying time, 1,450 of them with TU 134s. In his 30 year career he had flown in every type of aircraft in service in the Soviet Union.

Vladimir Novoselov, currently in a Pretoria military hospital, is a flight engineer first class with 6,203 hours flying time. He is specialised in TU 134s and has been flying in these aircraft for ten years, during which time he has trained a large number of flight engineers.



SAMORA/ALBERTINA

Maputo, 27 Oct (AIM) The South African authorities have refused to allow Albertina Sisulu, co-president of the country's largest legal anti-apartheid organisation, the United Democratic Front (UDF), to attend President Samora Machel's funeral in Maputo.

Mrs Sisulu is the wife of ANC leader Walter Sisulu, who is serving a life sentence alongside Nelson Mandela in Pollsmoor prison near Cape Town. She is also the chairperson of the Federation of South African Women.

Albertina Sisulu was scheduled to arrive from Johannesburg today. However, according to a reliable South African source in Maputo, she was asked to apply for a travel document from the apartheid authorities, and when she did so this morning the request was not granted.

She has, however, sent a moving message of solidarity to the Mozambican people and to President Samora's family.



SAMORA/GOOD WEATHER

Maputo, 27 Oct (AIM) The director of Mozambique's meteorological department, Mr Sergio Ferreira, said here today that the weather over southern Mozambique was good on the day of Samora Machel's plane crash in South African territory.

Speaking at a press conference he said that at 18.00 hours GMT the weather was affected by a humid, high pressure system flowing in from the Indian Ocean near Madagascar.

The weather was not bad and should not have presented the pilot of the President's plane with any problems.

The clouds were between "800 and 1000 metres above the ground," he said. He added that "there was good visibility".

There were some cumulous clouds and there were signs of thunderstorms in South Africa's highveld area and some "poor weather conditions" along the Mozambique-South African border. "But nothing serious," he added.

He said the weather along the Zambia-Maputo route of the plane was good and with good visibility.

Mr Ferreira showed satellite photographs in sequence from 06.00 GMT to 12.00 GMT on that day. There was a slight increase in cloud cover, but visibility remained good.

There was some rain towards Nelspruit in the Transvaal, some 90 miles west of the Mozambique border.

He emphasised that the weather should not have been a problem for the pilot.



SAMORA/SOUTH AFRICANS

Maputo, 28 Oct (AIM) At Samora Machel's funeral in Maputo today, the South African apartheid regime was directly accused of responsibility for the death of the Mozambican President.

Large numbers of placards and banners carried by mourners pointed an accusing finger at South Africa for the unexplained plane crash of 19 October which killed President Samora and 33 others.

Thousands of placards bore a poster showing President Samora with the words "apartheid is responsible for the death of our President".

At the entry to the Square of the Mozambican Heroes where President Samora's body was laid to rest, mourners carried a giant banner reading "the boers have murdered the finest son of the Mozambican people".

To its side, a second banner read "we demand that the racist South African regime be severely punished".

A further banner bore the words: "The enemy is mistaken if he thinks that by murdering you Samora he is going to rule us. We continue to obey your command. A Luta Continua."

SAMORA/FUNERAL

By Paul Fauvet

Maputo, 28 Oct (AIM) Samora Machel today kept his appointment with the founder of FRELIMO, Eduardo Mondlane. The Mozambican leader was also reunited with his wife Josina in an embrace that will last forever.

President Samora's body was laid to rest today in the Square of the Mozambican Heroes, at the conclusion of a solemn ceremony of great emotion and dignity.

The day of Samora's farewell dawned cold and overcast. Banks of grey cloud scudded across the Maputo sky, and sudden gusts of wind howled down the city's otherwise hushed avenues.

It was one of the coldest days I can remember in Maputo. Normally Maputo is warm in October, with showers and breezes. But the chill winds and occasional burst of rain out of a squally sky were something that I had never experienced in Maputo at this time of year. Other mourners agreed - the elements themselves seemed to be mourning the passing of Samora.

Samora's widow, Graca Machel, and other members of the Machel family arrived just before 09.00 this morning at Maputo City Hall in Independence Square where the fallen President's body has been lying in State since Friday.
(more)

Samora/funeral 2 Maputo

Already inside were the ten members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau. Heads of the foreign delegations attending the funeral were also allowed inside the City Hall.

The ceremonies themselves started with a choir singing FRELIMO songs from the time of the armed struggle against Portuguese colonialism. President Samora's coffin was brought down from the first floor where it had lain in state, and was placed at the entrance to the City Hall.

Units of the defence and security forces then marched past the coffin to the sound of a military band.

In the Square itself, thousands of Maputo residents watched the proceedings, initially in silence, but as the ceremonies continued, many could contain their emotions no longer and broke down in floods of tears.

Over the crowd watched the giant portrait of President Samora that has adorned the City Hall for several years. Flying beside it at half mast were the flags of the Frelimo Party and of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

A contingent of mourners from the Mozambican Youth Organisation (OJM) bore a banner reading "We young Mozambicans will carry out what you were unable to finish".

Mourners listened to three speeches. First Zacarias Kupela, general secretary of the OJM, read a lament in the name of all Mozambique's mass organisations and professional bodies.

He was followed by Defence Minister General Alberto Chipande, speaking on behalf of the defence and security forces.

Finally, Samora Machel's old friend and comrade Marcelino dos Santos, number two in the hierarchy of the Frelimo Political Bureau, read the main funeral oration.

(more)

Samora/funeral 3 Maputo

For Mr dos Santos, it was evidently extremely hard to read this speech. His voice cracked with emotion, and at two points he almost broke down altogether. These were at those points in the oration dealing with two matters that President Samora held particularly dear to his heart - the strengthening of the armed forces for the defence of the country, and the warmth and tenderness of his relations with children.

President Samora had always referred to Mozambican children as "flowers that never wither" and as he recalled this, Mr dos Santos' voice trembled, and many in the audience wept bitterly.

At the end of Mr dos Santos' oration, those inside the Hall moved on to the steps overlooking the Square. Among the mourners who were given the honour of entering the Hall were not only the 18 heads of state or government attending the funeral, but also figures such as Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Zimbabwean party ZAPU, the President of the African National Congress, Oliver Tambo, and the Chairman of the South African Communist Party, Joe Slovo.

To the sound of a dead march, top ranking officers of the Mozambican Armed Forces carried Samora Machel's body to a waiting gun carriage drawn by an armoured car. A lone helicopter of the Mozambican air force circled overhead.
(more)

Samora/funeral 4 Maputo

The cortege moved slowly off through the streets of the city, arriving at the Square of the Mozambican Heroes at 12.36.

When the coffin arrived invited guests were already standing in front of the Heroes Monument. These included the children of Eduardo Mondlane, who had also died through the cowardly actions of Mozambique's enemies - in his case, a parcel bomb sent to him on 3 February 1969 in Dar es Salaam.

As Samora Machel's body was slowly lifted down from the gun carriage for the final march to the monument, a 21-gun salute rang out.

At the sound of the first shot, every siren in every factory, every ship's foghorn, every bell in the city rang out in mournful tribute to the founder of the Mozambican nation.

All traffic in the city stopped. All citizens in the streets stood stock still for a minute's silence in honour of the man to whom they owed their freedom and independence.

In the Square, tears trickled down the cheeks of Graca Machel, Marcelino dos Santos, and many other Party and State leaders.



Maputo, Oct 28 (AIM) Marcelino dos Santos and Joaquim Chissano and the other members of the Frelimo Political Bureau take Samora Machel's coffin on its last journey to the Heroes' Monument. (Photo: Sergio Santimano/AIM).



Maputo, Oct 28 (AIM) Mozambican soldiers break down in tears at the funeral of President Samora. (Photo: AIM).

The helicopter hovered some 200 metres above the Monument, an austere star-shaped structure, made of slabs of the purest white marble.
(more)

Samora/funeral 5 Maputo

The military band then played the national anthem for their President for the last time.

Slowly the coffin was carried to the entrance to the Monument, accompanied by the members of the Political Bureau and the President's widow.

It was now noticeably colder than earlier in the morning. A biting wind chilled the mourners.

The coffin entered the Monument, and the rain came. Not a downpour, but mournful sprays gusting into the faces of all present.

Shortly after 13.00, Graca Machel walked slowly away from the Monument, where she had just witnessed her husband being laid in his last resting place.

Samora Machel's coffin now lies fittingly next to that of Eduardo Mondlane. The man who created FRELIMO and the man who led it to victory are now reunited.



SAMORA/ORATION

Maputo, 28 Oct (AIM) Frelimo Political Bureau member Marcelino dos Santos today pledged that the Frelimo Party would carry on the work of President Samora Machel.

"We will carry out your guidelines and strengthen our armed forces," declared Mr dos Santos, reading the funeral oration for President Samora. "We shall pass on to permanent offensive."

His voice cracking with emotion, and evidently finding it difficult to keep reading, Mr dos Santos referred to the Nachingwea political-military

training centre in Tanzania, which had been FRELIMO's main rear base during the war for independence.

President Samora had been the architect of the type of training given by FRELIMO at Nachingwea, which sought not merely to instill military technique, but to ensure that the guerrilla army served the people and never turned their guns against them.

"As you so dearly wished," said Mr dos Santos, "we shall make Nachingwea flower again in every one of our military training centres. Our soldiers shall follow the example of the heroic guerrillas who, under your command, defeated the colonial army."

"We shall liquidate armed banditry and foreign aggression," he pledged. "The roads shall be cleared of criminals and highwaymen. There shall be no more massacres in communal villages. In their schools our children shall never know terror. The hospitals that we build shall not be destroyed. Our people shall know peace and tranquillity."

In this passage Mr dos Santos was referring to the trail of destruction left behind by the South African backed MNR, who have made communal villages, health posts and primary schools their favourite targets.

(more)

Samora/oration 2 Maputo

Victory would be achieved, continued Mr dos Santos, "because we are a people whose unity has been consolidated with your blood and strengthened by your memory. Those who come after us will be able to take pride in these heroic years. The light of your example shall remain a source of inspiration."

President Samora "always fought consistently against apartheid," said Mr dos Santos. "You understood apartheid as a problem for all humanity, because you perceived that what is at stake in South Africa is the very definition of humanity."

"You had a deep loathing for the racist system. You considered that the destruction of apartheid would be the liberation of the entire South African peoples, of both the oppressed majority and the white minority, imprisoned behind the bars of fear that they themselves have built."

"You used to say that only when all reach the top of the mountain of equality would they be able to see the beauty of their country and of the South African people," recalled Mr dos Santos.

Marcelino dos Santos paid particular homage to President Samora's unwavering struggle against racism and tribalism. "We will never forget how you used to refer to the anti-racism of our society, and how you would declare: this is our sophisticated weapon," he said.

President Samora had described the anti-racism of Mozambique as a "sophisticated weapon" in response to South African claims that Mozambique was acquiring "sophisticated" military hardware.

(more)

Samora/oration 3 Maputo

"For you anti-racism was not something merely tactical: it was a principle on which you would never yield," continued Mr dos Santos. "Today in our country people of all races share fully the same rights and the same duties."

"During the struggle you would say: we are not fighting to change the colour of the exploiters, to replace oppression by foreigners with oppression by Mozambicans," recalled Marcelino dos Santos.

Mr dos Santos concluded his oration with "the solemn pledge that we shall continue your work, that we shall remain faithful to your example as a man and a fighter."

"We swear to defend with our very lives every inch of land in our sacred country," he said. "We swear that we shall build the Mozambique of your dreams, a developed and prosperous country, a socialist Mozambique."

Mr dos Santos ended with a cry of "Samora Vive" (Samora lives), followed by the most famous of all Frelimo slogans, "A Luta Continua" (the struggle continues).

SAMORA/MANDELA

Maputo, 28 Oct (AIM) Imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela and his wife Winnie have joined the Mozambican people in mourning the death of President Samora Machel.

Although the South African authorities predictably refused to allow either of the Mandelas to travel to Maputo to attend President Samora's funeral, a message from them was telexed to the Mozambican capital. The full text of the message reads as follows:

"To the people of Mozambique. To the family Machel. To Frelimo. To the Government of Mozambique.

"Never before have we made application to leave South Africa. Today we believed that our place was to be with you physically.

"Each one of us is imprisoned in different jails. We were prevented from being present with you today to share your sorrow, to weep with you, to lighten your grief, to hold you very close.

"Our grief for Comrade Samora is so deep that it tears away at the heart. Throughout the night we have kept vigil with you. Throughout today we shall mourn with you for a mighty soldier, a courageous son, and a noble statesman.

"We must believe that his death will strengthen both your and our resolve to be finally free. For you, victory over immoral surrogate bandits. For us, victory over oppression. Our struggle has always been linked and we shall be victorious together.

"A caring world is with you. It cannot and will not fail you. With their support and the legendary resolve of the people of Mozambique you can only emerge as victors.

"AMANDLA

"Nelson Rolilahla Mandela and Nonzamo Winnie Mandela."



SAMORA/KAUNDA

Maputo, 29 Oct (AIM) Mozambican President Samora Machel "has fallen at the hands of wicked men," declared Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda in Maputo this morning.

President Kaunda, in his role as Chairman of the Frontline States, was addressing an opening plenary meeting of a special Frontline summit, the day after the Mozambican leader's funeral.

In Maputo's Fourth Congress Hall, where on so many occasions over the past three years the living Samora Machel has chaired key meetings and debates in Mozambican history, the Zambian President paid a moving tribute to his fallen comrade.

"We mourn a truly great man," said Dr Kaunda. "He stands out in death as our hero."

"He has fallen at the hands of wicked men," he accused, "at the hands of political imbeciles, of historically inept people who do not understand what this world is all about."

"A hero of heroes has fallen," continued Dr Kaunda, "a leader of leaders has fallen."

(more)

Samora/Kaunda 2 Maputo

As for those responsible for Samora Machel's death, "history will never forgive them," he declared.

"But history will never forgive us if we do not follow in his footsteps," he added. "Samora Machel lies dead in Heroes Square, but his soul goes marching on."

"No one can destroy what Samora Machel stood for," concluded the Zambian President. "May we be his worthy followers."

SAMORA/MARCELINO

Maputo, 29 Oct (AIM) Frelimo Political Bureau member Marcelino dos Santos today told his colleagues in the Frontline States that Mozambique would remain faithful to the memory and the legacy of President Samora Machel.

In a plenary session in memory of President Samora that opened a special Frontline meeting this morning, Mr dos Santos pledged that "we will remain firm, and the Frelimo Party will remain strong".

"The Mozambican leadership and people are united around Frelimo," he declared. "We are strong and united and, just as in the past, we will know how to take our place, how to play our role here in Mozambique, in southern Africa, on the African continent as a whole and in the community of nations."

"Our strength is the strength of truth and justice," said Mr dos Santos. "We will defeat banditry," he promised. "The struggle against apartheid will triumph. The memory of Comrade President Samora Machel will live forever."



SAMORA/FRONTLINE

Maputo, 29 Oct (AIM) The leaders of the six Frontline States declared today that Mozambican President Samora Machel, who died in a plane crash inside South Africa on 19 October, "fell victim to apartheid".

In a final communique from today's Frontline summit, read out by Zambian Foreign Minister Luke Mwananshiku, the six leaders noted South Africa's track record of aggression, destabilisation and murder and the repeated threats made by Pretoria warmongers against Mozambique "and particularly against the President himself" in the days immediately preceding President Samora's death.

The summit said that President Samora "died on a mission of struggle against apartheid. He died fighting for peace in southern Africa, for the freedom of our peoples, for cooperation and progress of the entire region."

The communique praised Samora Machel as "an illustrious, selfless revolutionary fighter" and spoke of his role in the Frontline States, in SADCC (Southern African Development Coordination Conference), in the Organisation of African Unity and in the Non-Aligned Movement.

"His contribution constitutes a milestone in the history of the peoples of the region," declared the six leaders.

(more)

Samora/Frontline 2 Maputo

The life of Samora Machel, continued the communique, would be "a source of inspiration" for the struggles of the peoples of the region and for "the upbringing of future generations".

The Frontline leaders pledged their support "in defence of the legacy of Samora Machel" and of Mozambique's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The struggle against apartheid and colonialism would be prosecuted "more vigorously than before," they pledged.

The summit also condemned a visit by Jonas Savimbi, leader of South Africa's Angolan surrogates, UNITA, to western Europe and called on all Western countries to impose comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against Pretoria.

The summit praised the United States Congress for overriding the veto of President Ronald Reagan on the recent bill for a limited package of sanctions against apartheid.

In a brief press conference, the Frontline Chairman, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, dismissed contemptuously the "declaration of war" made by the South African backed MNR bandits against Zimbabwe.

"It's really just a question of his master's voice," said President Kaunda. "They were telling the world what South Africa has already done. Zimbabwe has been ready for that for some time. It's nothing new for us."

(more)

Samora/Frontline 3 Maputo

Asked whether the Frontline held South Africa responsible for the fatal crash of President Samora's Tupolev 134, the Zambian leader pointed out that the Mozambican authorities "must wait for the outcome of the official investigation," but that several other Frontline member states "have already made their positions clear".

There was substantial "circumstantial evidence" pointing to South African involvement, said President Kaunda, and this was sufficient "for us to hold South Africa directly responsible".

He pointed to South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan's threats against the Frontline States, and Mozambique and "our late comrade" in particular.

"The plane was being monitored by South African radar," he said. "And we know that electronically it is possible to tamper with machines like aeroplanes."

"We have not been impressed by the crocodile tears of the two Bothas," he added.

Attending today's summit were Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, Quett Masire of Botswana and Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, as well as President Kaunda. The Mozambican delegation was led by Frelimo Party Political Bureau member Marcelino dos Santos.

Also present were the Presidents of SWAPO of Namibia and the African National Congress of South Africa, Sam Nujoma and Oliver Tambo.



SLOVO/CHISSANO

Maputo, 30 Oct (AIM) The Chairman of the South African Communist Party, Joe Slovo, last night called on the world to stand beside Mozambique against aggression from the Pretoria apartheid regime.

Mr Slovo made this call when he was received by Mozambican Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano, to whom he presented his party's condolences on the death of President Samora.

Mr Slovo, who had come to Mozambique to attend President Samora's funeral on Tuesday, said that "solidarity with Mozambique is a contribution to the elimination of the crime against humanity which is apartheid".

"We still believe that the future of Mozambique, of South Africa and of the entire continent depends on the survival of the Mozambican revolution," he continued.

Mr Slovo praised the qualities of President Samora as a guerrilla fighter and as a national leader, adding that "we are inspired by the example of the Frelimo Party under his leadership".

Joaquim Chissano told Mr Slovo that before his death President Samora had left "clear guidelines" in the military, political and economic fields and for the reorganisation of the Party.

He added that the implementation of these guidelines was already under way when the Mozambican leader met his death. He promised that all efforts would be made to translate Samora Machel's dreams into reality.



DIVERSION

Maputo, 6 Nov (Aim) Mozambique's Minister of Information, Teodato Hunguana, said here today that "South Africa is trying to divert the attention of the world from the major question concerning southern Africa at the moment: the causes of the death of President Samora Machel".

He was commenting on this evening's press conference by South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha, during which Mr Botha presented a document allegedly taken by the South African authorities from the wreckage of President Samora's plane.

According to Mr Botha, the document refers to an alleged Mozambican-Zimbabwean plan to topple the Malawian government.

"This is a vulgar attempt to turn the victim into an accused, to turn the person who has been attacked into an attacker, to turn the country that has been invaded into an invader, to present the country that is being destabilised as the destabiliser," declared Mr Hunguana.

At the end of September South Africa launched a major bandit invasion of the Mozambican provinces of Tete and Zambezia from Malawian territory.
(more)

Diversion 2 Maputo

"South Africa," continued Mr Hunguana, "after being accused of trying to instal a puppet regime in Maputo through direct military intervention, now wishes to present itself as the defender of Malawi against an alleged Mozambican intervention. Mozambique's legitimate right of self-defence is thus transformed into an act of intervention."

The Minister added that South Africa "is trying to imitate the events surrounding the publication of the Gorongosa documents".

In 1985, following a joint Mozambican-Zimbabwean attack on the MNR bandits' main base in Gorongosa district, in central Mozambique, diaries and notebooks were found which implicated South Africa in serious violations of the Nkomati non-aggression accord.

"When we found the documents in Gorongosa," said Mr Hunguana, "the Mozambican government immediately informed the South African government which then sent a representative (Mr Roelof Botha) to Maputo to discuss the matter. Mozambique behaved in a responsible, correct state to state manner."

Mr Hunguana stressed that only two weeks later did the Mozambican authorities make these documents public.

"Up till now we have not received any official information from the South African government concerning the documents which were taken from the wreckage of the presidential plane. We also do not know whether the documents which the South African authorities said they took away were in reality the ones they took from the plane or not. Likewise we do not know if the document presented (by Mr Botha) was really amongst the documents taken by the South African authorities," said Mr Hunguana.
(more)

Diversion 3 Maputo

The Minister added: "We are warning the international community that something extremely serious is taking place - South Africa is doing all it can to hinder the normal process of the investigation into the death of President Samora Machel. This campaign around documents allegedly found in the wreckage of the plane adds to the already suspicious fact that the South African government has still not placed the 'black box' flight recorders of the plane before the international commission of inquiry."

Teodato Hunguana noted that "immediately after the crash, South Africa said that it was an accident and shortly after it went on to refuse to take part in the decoding of the flight recorders, keeping them in its possession".

The Mozambican minister stressed that "following any plane crash the normal and immediate procedure is to have access to the flight recorders so that the investigation can proceed. When the crash involves a head of state such access to the flight recorders is more imperative."

Mr Hunguana concluded by saying that the Mozambican government "reserves the right to take a position on the press conference held by the South African government".



BLACK BOXES

Maputo, 7 Nov (AIM) Members of the Mozambican commission of inquiry into the plane crash that killed President Samora Machel believe that South Africa is

doing everything possible to avoid handing over the presidential Tupolev's "black box" flight recorders.

Almost three weeks after President Samora's plane went down in Mbuzini in the eastern Transvaal, the black boxes are still in the possession of the South African authorities and there is no sign that they will be handed over to the international commission of inquiry into the disaster.

According to the Mozambican side in the investigation, on 24 October the South Africans agreed "unreservedly" to send the Tupolev's black boxes to Maputo on the following day whence they would be sent on to Moscow for decoding in the presence of delegations from Mozambique, the USSR and South Africa itself. These are the three countries that form the international commission of inquiry.

On 21 October the USSR had invited the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to be represented at the decoding. The United States, Britain and other Western countries are members of the ICAO.

The black boxes were to have gone to Moscow on board the Mozambique airlines flight from Maputo to Berlin on 25 October. A South African delegation would have accompanied them to Moscow. On 24 October, the South Africans agreed to the principle that the decoding and analysis of the information in the black boxes could only be guaranteed by the Soviet manufacturers of the plane.

(more)

Black boxes 2 Maputo

The South African agreement was given by the Ministry of Law and Order, without any reference to the ICAO or to ICAO member states.

But on 25 October the South African's changed their minds, and now referred to an undertaking with the ICAO which they wished to maintain, apparently to ensure impartiality in the decoding. One interpretation of this change is that Pretoria was taken by surprise by the willingness of the Soviet Union to allow any member of the ICAO to be present at the decoding.

Two days later the South Africans asked Mozambique to speak to the ICAO. Mozambique informed the ICAO that it had no objection to its participation in the inquiry.

On the same day South Africa asked Mozambique for landing rights at Maputo for a plane bringing the delegation that would travel on to Moscow. This message made no reference to impartiality.

On 28 October, at the site of the crash, it was agreed that the black boxes would go to Maputo the following day in transit to Moscow, and that the South African delegation, while in Maputo, would have access to the recordings of the communications between the Tupolev's crew and the Maputo air traffic control tower. The delegation was also to have interviewed the air traffic controller on duty on the night of the crash.

But that same day South Africa requested an emergency meeting for the following day in Komatipoort to discuss the black boxes. In other words, the South Africans had two different positions on the same day.

(more)

Black boxes 3 Maputo

On 29 October the South Africans asked for the recordings of the communications with the control tower and of the discussions amongst the crew to be made available to them before the black boxes left for Moscow.

The South Africans defended this change in position on the basis of the strong international accusations that South Africa was directly involved in the death of Samora Machel. Again, South Africa made no reference to the question of impartiality.

Mozambique then proposed that the South African delegation listen to the recording of the crew conversation in Moscow, after hearing the recording of the plane/control tower communications in Maputo. In the Mozambican capital they would have access to all other relevant documentation. South Africa did not reply to this proposal.

On 30 October the South Africans again changed their position. They suggested that a South African delegation should come to Maputo to interview

the air traffic controller, and not to listen to the plane/control tower recording. In the opinion of the Mozambican side, this was an attempt to get the same results by different means.

Also on 30 October the South Africans threatened to suspend the investigations for 15 days in order to consider what steps to take.
(more)

Black boxes 4 Maputo

On 31 October the ICAO agreed to take part in the decoding, as a result of the contacts that Mozambique had established with the international body. The participation of the ICAO corresponded to South Africa's previous demands of "impartial decoding". South Africa was informed and agreed to ICAO participation.

On 3 November the South African side of the international commission expressed "shock" at a press conference given by South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha, in which he revealed technical data from the investigation. They said that the information given by Mr Botha to the press did not come from the South African commission of inquiry.

On the same day, and when the departure of the Mozambican and South African delegations to Moscow had been agreed for 8 November, South Africa produced a new demand: it wanted access to the manuals which explained how the Tupolev black boxes functioned.

Mozambique thought the request was reasonable, and consented - as long as the South African delegation that came to Maputo to see the manuals would then leave for Moscow.

On 4 November the South Africans said they did not agree with the proposal made by Mozambique on 29 October, and again argued the need for impartiality. This was a switch in position, since they had earlier accepted that ICAO participation guaranteed impartiality.

(more)

Black boxes 5 Maputo

The black boxes are major pieces of evidence for the investigation, and in Maputo the impression is that the constant South African demands are merely designed to give an idea that South Africa is doing something.

Roelof Botha's Thursday press conference at which he talked of an alleged Mozambican/Zimbabwean attempt to overthrow the Malawian government strengthens the belief in Maputo that Pretoria is trying to distract world attention away from the investigation into the death of Samora Machel.

"We are warning the international community that something extremely serious is taking place: South Africa is doing all it can to hinder the normal process of the investigation into the death of President Samora Machel," Mozambique's Information Minister, Teodato Hunguana, said on Thursday in response to Mr Botha's press conference.



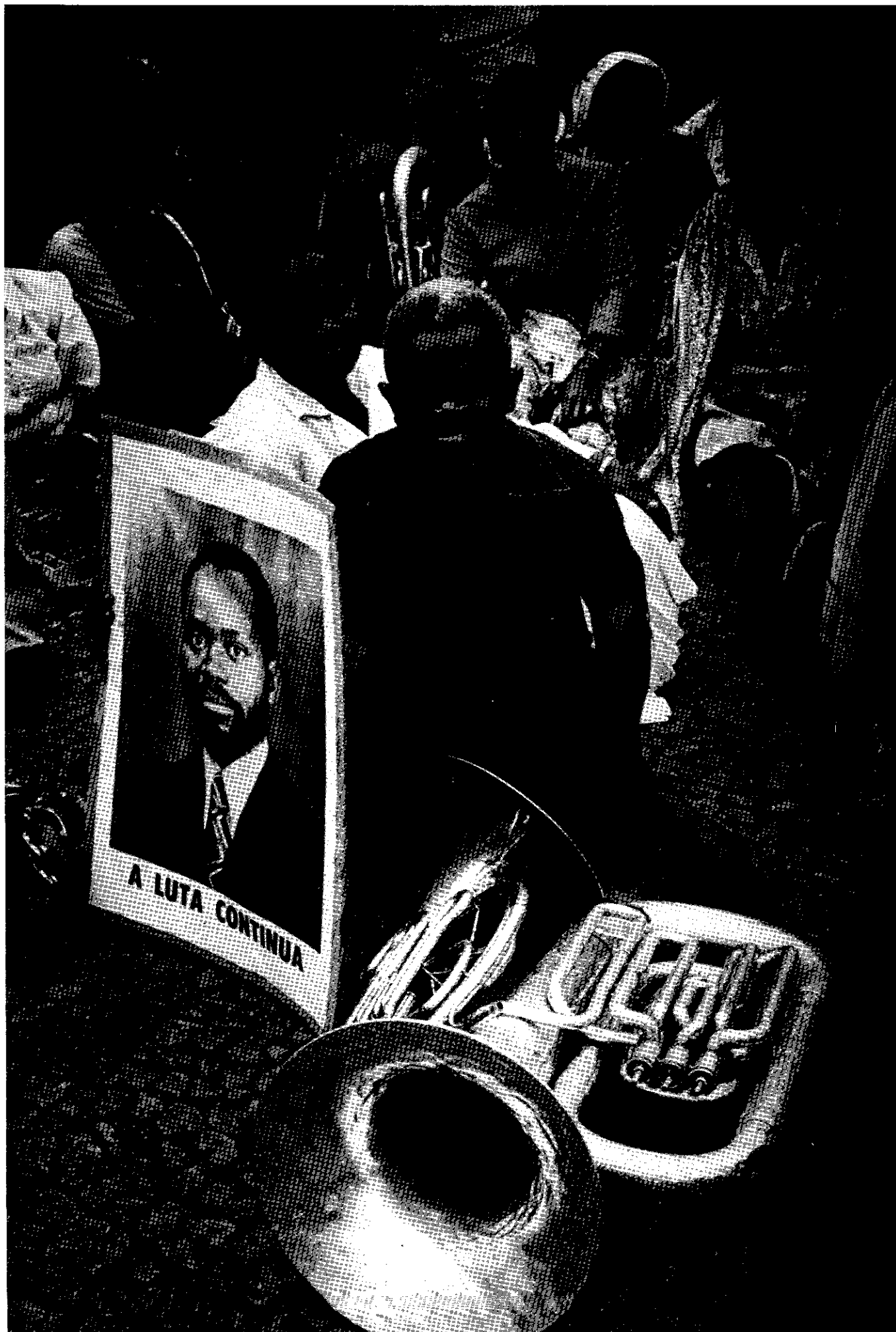
FULL ALERT

Maputo, 7 Nov (AIM) South African forces in the northern and eastern Transvaal were on full alert the night of the plane crash that killed President Samora Machel.

According to South African military sources stationed in the eastern Transvaal, on 18 October the order was given from Pretoria for all South African forces in the northern and eastern Transvaal to be on full alert on 19 and 20 October.

According to a source in Mozambican security, there was a build-up of South African special forces in the eastern Transvaal immediately after Pretoria's announcement of a land mine explosion in the Kangwane bantustan in which six South African soldiers were allegedly wounded on 6 October.

The build-up involved squadrons of Allouette and Puma helicopters and of Mark 2 Impala fighter bombers, as well as members of the "reconnaissance commandos".



SURVIVOR/BANDITS

Maputo, 9 nov (AIM) The South African authorities tried to persuade at least one of the survivors of the plane crash that killed President Samora Machel to abandon his work for the Mozambican government and join the bandits of the MNR.

Vasco Langa, a protocol officer in the Mozambican Foreign Ministry, says that he was interrogated in hospital in the Eastern Transvaal town of Nelspruit every day from 20 to 24 October, and that his tormentors tried to blackmail him into the MNR, suggesting that this would speed up his medical treatment.

Mr Langa returned to Maputo on 30 October, and is currently in Moscow completing his recovery from the injuries he sustained in the crash. Before leaving Maputo he spoke at length to Mozambican leaders about his experiences in South Africa, both at the site of the crash, and in hospital, and the tape recording of this was made available to AIM today.

Mr Langa was put on his own in a ward and was submitted to lengthy, and often insulting interrogation. "They asked me why I was travelling with Samora" Mr Langa said. His first response was to lie.

"But they already had our passenger lists and they saw my name", he continued. "They said: 'Langa, you'd better tell the truth because we already have all the data on you and your job. You'd better say how long you've been travelling with Samora.' I told them that I'd only started a little while ago, and that I was still new to the profession."
(more)

Survivor/Bandits 2 Maputo

Mr Langa recalled that the interrogators "began to ask about President Samora's tastes, about what he liked to do, what he thought about South Africa. I told them I couldn't reply because I'd only been working with the President a short time."

They then "asked me questions about the last meeting the President had held with the Zimbabweans, and what had been discussed there. They asked what I thought about it. I said I didn't know anything about the matter."

His interrogators then tried to persuade Mr Langa to join the MNR. "They said: 'Don't you know that Renamo (the Portuguese acronym for the MNR) is advancing? Don't you know they're capturing important positions?'"

Mr Langa told them that he didn't know anything about such matters, but the interrogators insisted. "'Langa, we can see you're badly injured', they told me. 'We promise you that in two weeks we will operate on you and put you into intensive care. You'll get better.'"

"'We're going to take you to Pretoria', they said. 'In Pretoria you have to study, and we want you to join the group that is working to liberate Mozambique.'"

This conversation seems to have taken place on the morning of 20 October, shortly after Mr Langa had entered hospital. Later that day, Mozambique's Deputy Health Minister, Dr Fernando Vaz, visited the wounded, and Mr Langa told him of the conversation.

Mr Langa asked the Deputy Minister not to leave him there since he feared for his life. Dr Vaz calmed him, after which Mr Langa asked that his fears be transmitted to Frelimo Political Bureau member Marcelino dos Santos.

In the following days interrogation continued on various topics. "They sent a major from the air force", he said, "to ask questions about aviation. I told him I didn't understand anything about aviation. Then he suggested that the crew was drunk. I told him it wasn't true, since under safety norms a crew does not drink when it knows it's going to fly."

Contact with the crew was part of Mr Langa's job, including during the flight itself. It was Mr Langa who was in charge of sending messages to Maputo via the communication link between the crew and the Maputo air traffic control tower.

"'No', the major told me", continued Mr Langa. "'The aeroplane crashed because the Russians were drunk.'" The major alleged that the Soviet flight engineer whom the South Africans had taken to Pretoria had confirmed this.



This book looks at the sudden death of Mozambican President Samora Machel, and the events leading up to it, through the work of the journalists and photographers of the Mozambique News Agency (AIM). Through it, readers can follow the drama as it unfolded day by day, and can draw their own conclusions as to who was responsible for the death of Samora Machel. We offer this work as our homage to a great revolutionary, and a great leader of the Southern African liberation struggle.

AIM – Mozambique News Agency

