

Pretoria, Rebels Were Involved in Plane Crash

MAPUTO, Mozambique — The leadership of Mozambique has for the first time implied that neighboring South Africa and rightist rebels were involved in the death of President Samora Machel, who was killed in a plane crash Oct. 19.

The official Radio Maputo quoted Foreign Minister Joaquim A. Chissano, the leading contender to succeed Mr. Machel, as saying Saturday that "armed banditry and apartheid" were the main culprits in the president's death.

The radio said that Mr. Chissano made the accusation while speaking to relatives of a Mozambican Foreign Ministry official, João Tomas Mavesse, one of 33 other persons killed in the crash.

President Quett Masire of Botswana said Friday night: "No one believes the word of the South African government because Pretoria has in the past committed acts of murder and destruction in Mozambique."