

# Choosing Machel's successor

It will be at least a week before a new president of the People's Republic of Mozambique is elected to succeed the late Samora Machel, writes the *FM's* special correspondent in Maputo, Jose Caetano.

In the meantime, the nation is being governed in terms of the Mozambican constitution by the 11-member Political Bureau of Frelimo's Central Committee, whose longest serving member is Major General Marcelino dos Santos.

The mechanism of presidential succession in Mozambique is regulated by article 57 of the constitution, which reads: "In case of death, renunciation or permanent incapacity of the president . . . his functions will immediately be taken over by the Central Committee of Frelimo, who should designate, in the shortest time possible, the new president of the republic."

The choice of Machel's successor is therefore in the hands of the Politburo.

The composition of the bureau in order of seniority is Major General Marcelino dos Santos; Major General Joaquim Chissano; General of the Army Alberto Chipande; Lt General Armando Guebeza;

Major General Jorge Rebelo; Colonel General Sebastiao Mobote; Major General Mariano Matsinhe; Major General Jacinto Veloso; Dr Mario Machungo; Colonel Oscar Monteiro.

Machungo is the Prime Minister; Chi-

Staff of the Mozambique Defence Force; and Monteiro is Minister in the Presidency.

Matsinhe heads Niassa Province; Guebeza is also Minister in the Presidency. Dos Santos and Rebelo have no positions in the Cabinet.

Strong candidates are Chissano, Mashungo and Chipande.

Meanwhile, Mozambique has declared a 60-day period of mourning in Machel's honour.

## Flight recorder.

Recordings from the black box of the crashed Tupolev 134 were heard and studied in Maputo on Tuesday morning. No statement is expected until the independent Mozambican and South African investigations are completed.

There is speculation in Maputo that the pilot may have confused Namaacha in the Lebombo mountains close to the South African and Swazi borders, with Marracuene on the coast north of Maputo, which are at the

same latitude, and began descending.

But no one has been able to explain the aircraft's presence so near to the South African border. ■



Plane crash wreckage . . . questions remain

pande is Minister of Defence; Chissano is Minister of Foreign Affairs; Veloso is Minister of Economic Co-operation; Mobote is Deputy Minister of Defence and Chief of