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Marcellino Dos Santos, second-in-command in the Mozambican government, has been removed as Planning Minister following the most important ministerial reshuffling to be carried out by President Samora Machel since the country's independence five years ago.

According to an official communique, the reorganization, announced on April 5, is part of "an offensive against infiltrations, bureaucratism, incompetence and negligence in the government apparatus." This move follows a recently announced decision by Machel calling for the reprivatization of small business, along with an appeal for foreign investors to contribute to Mozambique's "reconstruction" after its first difficult years of independence and the internal repercussions of the Rhodesian conflict.

Dos Santos, who was a comrade-in-arms of Machel in the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) before independence, will now become director of FRELIMO's economic policies. Many observers consider him to be the head of the FRELIMO wing closest to the Soviet Union. According to many, FRELIMO, while continuing to confront the problem of building a socialist society, is giving priority to problems of economic development and seeking to encourage western investment. The recent visit of ex-British Governor of Rhodesia Lord Soames to Maputo, along with a visit by Claude Cheysson of the European Common Market Development Committee, fits in with this analysis. □