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Samora Moises MACHEL - Mozambique

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2019/07/30

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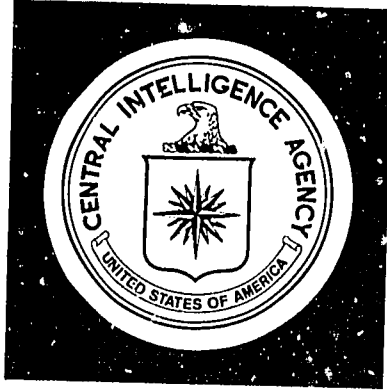
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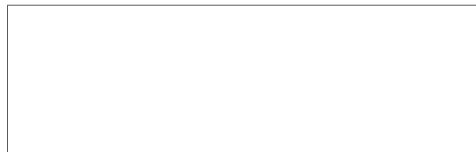
# Biographic Report

*Samora Moisés MACHEL*  
*Mozambique's First President*

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BR-75-39  
July 1975

**NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION**  
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**President Machel Accepts FRELIMO Flag**



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**MOZAMBIQUE**

**Samora Moisés MACHEL**

**President**

President of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) since 1970, Samora Machel (pronounced mahSHELL) became the first President of the People's Republic of Mozambique on 25 June 1975; his inauguration ended five centuries of Portuguese rule. A man of action and a natural leader, Machel joined FRELIMO as a guerrilla fighter in 1963 and was chief of guerrilla operations from 1968 until the end of the hostilities in 1974. As FRELIMO president, he led delegations to the peace talks with the Portuguese in Lusaka, Zambia, in June 1974 and again in September, when an independence agreement was signed. During the discussions he impressed the Zambians with his independent character.



From September 1974 until June 1975 Mozambique had a transitional government. Machel refused to take part in it, however, preferring to stay in Tanzania, where he had lived during the 12 years since he joined FRELIMO. There he prepared for independence by organizing a party congress, sending FRELIMO members out to build local party organizations in Mozambique, and laying his plans for the future government.



Finally returning to Mozambique in May 1975, he made a whirlwind speaking tour of the country that ended in his triumphal entry into Lourenço Marques on the day before his inauguration.

An austere, dedicated revolutionary, Machel is respected and popular within FRELIMO. he is uncompromising on matters of principle and unwavering in his determination to bring about revolutionary change in Mozambique as well as national independence. Machel has had little contact with Americans and less with US officials.



*This report was prepared by the Central Reference Service and was coordinated within CIA as appropriate. Comments and questions may be directed to*



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**A Marxist State?**

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Machel's political philosophy is Marxist and is closer to Maoism than are most other forms of African socialism. He has written several political pamphlets in classical Maoist-Marxist terminology. In his inaugural speech he made it clear that FRELIMO would dominate all aspects of "national reconstruction" and "be the vanguard of the revolution." He pledged a revolutionary and socialist government whose motto would be: "to each according to his work, from each according to his abilities." Mozambique's economic situation, he says, is catastrophic because of colonialism, and the priority tasks of the new government will be economic and agricultural development, health, and education.

An admirer of Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, Machel is likely to be guided by Nyerere's policies of state control and the establishment of rural agricultural communes. The new Constitution has emphasized the creation of such communes (also referred to as collective villages and as revolutionary societies). Machel gives high priority to "dynamization"—a political consciousness raising program in which party cells will be formed, either at places of work or in residential areas, to politicize and educate the masses. Through these cells FRELIMO hopes to explain its policies and prepare the people for their new responsibilities. The cells are also expected to create a collective spirit that will replace the tribal spirit. Tribalism is a major problem for FRELIMO, which lacks support from, or even contact with, many of the southern tribes whose territory was not involved in the guerrilla operations during the 10-year hostilities.



The inauguration: L-R, Portuguese Prime Minister Gen. Vasco Goncalves; FRELIMO Vice President Marcelino dos Santos; Machel; and President of the Organization of African Unity Mohamed Siad Barre (President of Somalia)



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Machel is ideologically inclined toward state control of industry, but he has stated that Mozambique will permit private investment as long as it does not interfere with state economic policy. Foreign investment will also be permitted, within the same limits.

**Brain Drain**

If the trained white technicians leave, Mozambique will have a major problem: loss of their talents and skills could seriously disrupt the country's economic life. FRELIMO has promised them a place in the new society if they choose to remain, and color is not a basis for either FRELIMO membership or Mozambican citizenship.

So far, however, Machel has not scored well in halting the exodus of white professionals. The speeches he made in the provinces upon his return to Mozambique in May contained racial themes and references to Portuguese atrocities

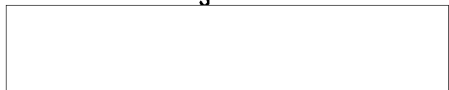


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**Foreign Policies—Pragmatically Socialist**

Listing his government's priorities in foreign affairs at his inauguration, Machel said Mozambique would strengthen its relations with fraternal African countries, with the socialist countries, and with the liberation movements of the world. Mozambique was, however, "ready to have relations with all other countries on the basis of noninterference in internal affairs, mutual benefit and absolute equality." He said the country would work for "real peace" in the world, support the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a peace zone, and abide by the UN Charter.

Machel's actions have shown that he is more a pragmatist than an ideologist. When he became FRELIMO president, he decided to continue the policy of his predecessor, Eduardo Mondlane, of seeking aid from all nations. He rejected the advice of the FRELIMO vice president and foreign affairs expert, Marcelino dos Santos, that the organization should depend only on "friendly" socialist countries. As well as receiving military training and equipment from the Chinese and Soviets, FRELIMO has received medical supplies and educational aid from Eastern and Western European governments and from private groups in the United Kingdom and the United States. Machel



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has indicated that Mozambique will continue to accept aid from all governments.

Because of the close ties between the Mozambican and Portuguese economies and Mozambique's dependence on Portuguese technicians, Machel will probably find it necessary to remain closely linked with Portugal for quite some time. Because of the type of society he envisions, however, he will probably find himself moving toward ties to the Chinese. He concluded an aid agreement with them immediately after independence

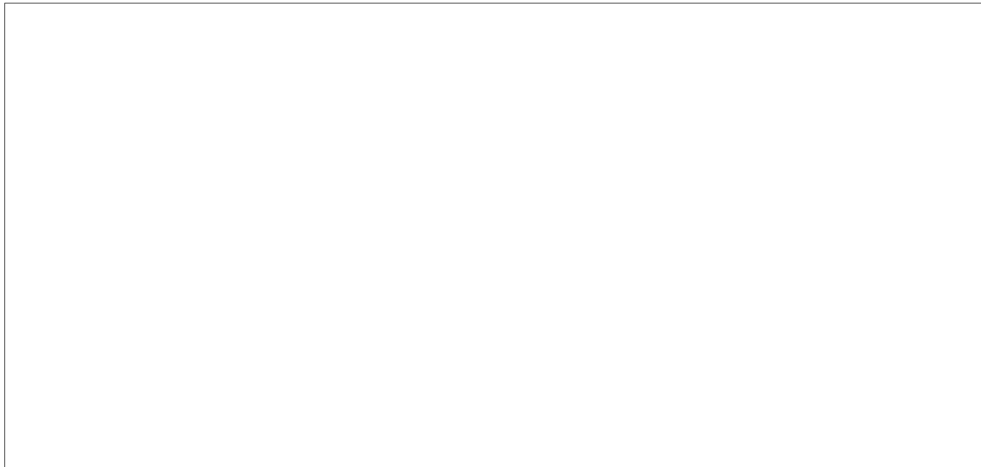
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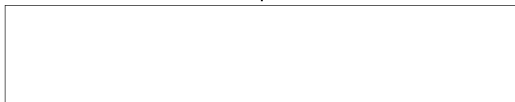
*Toward South Africa and Rhodesia*

Machel's pragmatism is expected to influence the policies he adopts toward his country's white neighbors, South Africa and Rhodesia. He has condemned their racial policies, but he did not, as expected, move immediately to implement the economic sanctions against Rhodesia that are encouraged by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations. Economic realities will make Machel loath to implement the sanctions unless the resulting financial loss to Mozambique's economy can be met from other quarters. (Mozambique has annually earned about \$200 million from wages sent home by Mozambicans working in South Africa, from the transshipment of Rhodesian and South African imports and exports, and from tourism and other commercial ties.) Another important financial source will be the sale to South Africa of electricity from the Cabora Bassa hydroelectric plant, probably beginning some time in 1975.

Machel is, however, ready to aid the black nationalists who oppose the Rhodesian and South African regimes, and he has asked the South Africans and Rhodesians to close their consulates in Lourenço Marques. The South Africans have been allowed to open an "office," and the Rhodesians to retain a "trade representative."



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**Early Life and Career**

Samora Moisés Machel was born on 11 May 1932 at Macia in Gaza District, 70 miles north of Lourenço Marques.

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Machel's family was Protestant, but he attended the Roman Catholic Mission School of São Paulo de Moçano in Bilene, where he was nicknamed "the rebel." Unable to continue because of his family's financial situation, he left school after completing fourth grade and found a job.

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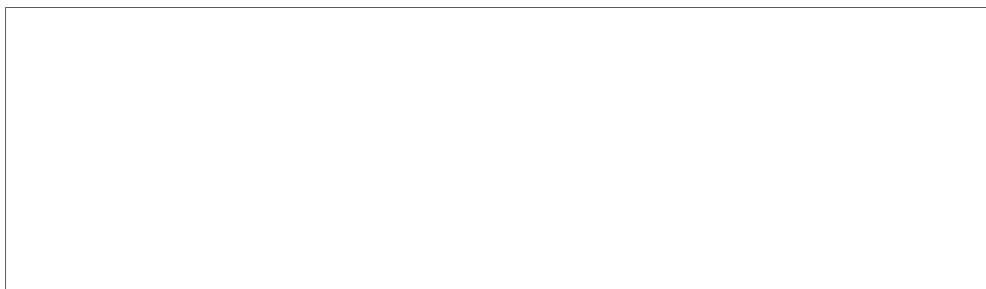
Machel later went to a school on Inhaca Island, where he trained as a nurse. As of 1961 he was working as a nurse at the Miguel Bombardo Hospital in Lourenço Marques.

In 1961 Machel met Mondlane, a US-educated Mozambican and lecturer at Syracuse University, who was visiting Africa under UN auspices. In 1962 Mondlane founded FRELIMO in Dar es Salaam, and in 1963, when Machel heard of it, he made his way to Tanzania to join. After receiving 9 months of guerrilla training in Algeria, he returned to Tanzania to train—and then lead—the 250 guerrillas who launched the initial attack against the Portuguese on 25 September 1964. Machel specialized in hit-and-run tactics and trained his men to be tough, disciplined and satisfied with a Spartan existence. By 1966 Machel had been formally recognized as FRELIMO's secretary for defense, and when the guerrilla commander Filipe Magaia was killed in a skirmish in 1968, he took on the added job of commander in chief of the organization's guerrilla operations. In the same year he was also elected to the party's Central Committee.

After the assassination of Mondlane in February 1969, Machel was named to the interim three-man council of the presidency. He quickly emerged as the group's strong man. One of the three, Uria Simango, publicly criticized his two colleagues, dos Santos and Machel, and was expelled from the party in November 1969. In May 1970 the FRELIMO Central Committee elected Machel president and dos Santos vice president.

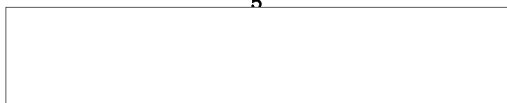
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**"The General"**

Machel is heavily bearded and slight of build and has piercing eyes. "The General," as he was nicknamed by his troops, usually wears green fatigues and



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is rarely seen without a pistol in his belt. Only occasionally has he appeared in a Western business suit. A powerful orator, Machel speaks Portuguese, broken Swahili and some French. He understands English.

An austere man, Machel lived modestly in Dar es Salaam. He neither drinks nor smokes.

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He shuns the limelight, and for a long time he has avoided press interviews. On the few occasions when he has talked to the press, however, he has been articulate and open and has seemed warm and friendly.

Machel received the Lenin Centenary Medal in 1971. In 1975 he was awarded Zambia's highest decoration, Grand Commander of the Order of Grand Companions of Freedom, and Tanzania's highest decoration, the Order of the Torch of Kilimanjaro.

**Family**

Machel has been married twice. By his first wife he has a son who is now 13 years old. In 1969 Machel married Josina Muthemba

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She died in a Chinese hospital in Dar es Salaam in 1971.

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Machel has three brothers.

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