

# Frelimo's bitter enemy <sup>Star Weekly</sup> lived, died by the gun <sup>Jb</sup> 23/4/83

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Mozambican rebel leader Mr Oriando Cristina was a soldier of the shadows who played a key role in two tortured decades of his country's history.

News of his death in Pretoria at the hands of an unknown gunman was greeted with delight in Maputo on Thursday and with shock by Mozambican exiles who see him as the embodiment of their dream of a Mozambique without President Samora Machel.

In a grim echo of his life of intrigue, Mr Cristina was shot on Sunday on a farm just outside Pretoria. Friends say he was shot through the neck as he lay in bed.

As secretary-general of the Mozambique National Resistance he was officially deputy to the anti-Frelimo movement's commander, Mr Alfonso Dhlakama.

However, sources close to the MNR describe him as the father of the movement, and say he masterminded most of its activities.

The former big game hunter and agent of the Portuguese secret police (PIDE) infiltrated the

young Frelimo movement in Tanzania in 1963.

He was sent to Algeria for military training by a Frelimo central committee member, Leo Milas — a black American who Maputo officials now claim was a CIA agent.

On Mr Cristina's return to Mozambique PIDE had to protect him from the wrath of the Mozambican Army, which wanted to charge him with desertion.

He then became secretary and confidante to millionaire industrialist Mr Jorge Jardim, one of the most powerful figures in colonial Mozambique and a godson of the Portuguese dictator, Mr Antonio Salazar.

They worked together on the formation of the so-called "special groups" to fight Frelimo on its own ground.

Mr Cristina then played a major role in the establishment of two more elite units, the special paratroop groups and the Flechas (Arrows) — both of which were made up largely of black men. The Flechas have been blamed by Frelimo for some of the worst atrocities of the war.

Frelimo claims Mr Cristina was present during the massacre of villagers at Inhampinga in 1973.