

Woman is suspect in slaying of rebel

Citizen
25/4/83

A WOMAN may have been involved in the killing of Orlando Christina, "White father" of the Mozambique Resistance Movement (MNR).

Mr Christina, who was found dead in his bed with a bullet wound in his neck a week ago, was under constant and heavy guard and people seeking admission to his Pretoria farm were closely scrutinised.

American MNR sources believe the killer could only have been somebody close to Mr Christina . . . "somebody he really trusted, like a woman."

A specific name has been mentioned. It is not that of Mr Christina's South African-born wife, Francesca. She and her young son are staying with her parents on the East Rand.

According to sources, Mr Christina was formerly married to an English woman and had grown-up children. Little is known of their whereabouts.

According to a senior police officer, there were believed to have been "some other people" in Mr Christina's house at

By CHRIS STEYN

the time of the shooting.
Underground

However, most senior MNR members have gone underground since his death — driven either by fear for their lives, or to hold meetings to discuss a possible replacement for the legendary leader.

The name of the movement's foreign relations secretary, Mr Famel Maluza (61), has been mentioned as being high up in the successor stakes. Some senior MNR members, however, find him "unacceptable."

The organisations Lisbon-based public relations secretary, Dr Evo Fernandez, is considered

too young by some.

Mr Christina was one of Frelimo's most bitter opponents for more than 20 years.

He was one of the first agents of the former Portuguese secret police in Mozambique (Pide) to infiltrate the movements in Dar es Salaam in 1964.

After the Lisbon coup, he allegedly fled to Rhodesia where he is said to have worked with the Rhodesian Central Intelligence Organisation in forming the MNR from mainly Black members of the Portuguese special forces.

After Rhodesian independence, he crossed the border with a group of guerrillas, and settled on a farm north of Pretoria.