

Sources close to the government said Orlando Christina was the main organiser of the day-to-day activities of the MNR.

One source who has closely studied the organisation said: "This is an enormous blow for the rebels. He was the big man. He was the man who helped create the organization and the man behind the contact between the MNR and South Africa".

Mozambique has accused South Africa of MNR training and equipping as part of a campaign of destabilisation aimed at keeping its black neighbours economically dependent. South Africa denies the charge. (TZ 22, 23/4)

"Soldier of the Shadows"

According to the *Star* (Johannesburg), Mr. Orlando 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 and with shock by Mozambican exiles who see him as the embodiment of their dream of a Mozambique without President Samora Machel.

As secretary-general of the MNR 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 Inhamitanga in 1973. (St 23/4)

MNR Leader Shot

The deputy leader of the anti-government Mozambican National Resistance Movement (MNR), Orlando Christina, was found shot dead in a Pretoria suburb, South African police announced on April 22nd.

The police spokesman, Colonel Chris Coetzee, said an investigation was underway, but no arrests had been made, he said.

Christina was regarded in Maputo as a major figure behind a shadowy rebel guerrilla movement that has shaken the government of President Samora Machel.

His murder has dealt a major blow to guerrillas trying to overthrow Mozambique's government, reports the *Times of Zambia*.

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