

MAPUTO. — About 3 000 mourners attended the funeral in Maputo yesterday of Dr Ruth First, a leading figure in the banned African National Congress, who was killed by a letter bomb blast last week.

Six ANC pall-bearers carried her coffin, draped with an ANC flag, into Maputo's Llanguene cemetery.

Dr First, a communist and ANC activist since the 1940's, was buried next to the 13 graves of ANC members killed in a South African Commando raid near Maputo in January last year.

Her husband, Joe Slovo, leader of the banned SA Communist Party, followed the coffin with the couple's three daughters and Dr First's mother, Tillie.

Dr First (59), who

ANC honours for Ruth First burial

Citizen 24/8/82

fled South Africa in 1964 after being banned and detained, died when she opened a boot-by-trapped parcel at her university office last Tuesday.

Mr Marcelino Dos Santos, of the ruling Mozambican Frelimo Party and a close friend of Dr First, said at the graveside that she had fallen "as a militant of the ANC, of a people struggling to create a

free South Africa ..."

Most members of the Mozambican Government and of the marxist Frelimo party's standing political committee attended the funeral along with many members of the diplomatic corps.

Buses brought hundreds of workers and students to the cemetery from the Eduardo Mondlane University, where Dr First had

worked as Director of Research at the Centre of African Studies.

As the coffin was lowered into the grave, an ANC choir sang "The Red Flag" and songs of the ANC's military wing.

Family members and government officials scattered flowers and earth on the coffin.

South African journalists and foreign cor-

respondents based in the Republic were barred from entering Mozambique for the funeral, the date of which was not released in advance for security reasons.

The account of the funeral was made available to Western news services by the official Mozambican news agency, Aim. — Sapa-AP.