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A.N.C. (S.A.)

11 JUL 1985

ATTENTION CDE PRESIDENT
FROM: THABO
11/07/85

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN TODAY'S GUARDIAN-UK. IT IS AN ARTICLE BY PATRICK LAURENCE.
HEADING: TUTU INTERVENES TO SAVE LIFE OF BEATEN BLACK

BISHOP DESMOND TUTU, THE ANGLICAN BISHOP OF JOHANNESBURG AND WINNER OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, YESTERDAY SAVED THE LIFE OF A SUSPECTED INFORMER AT THE FUNERAL OF FOUR YOUNG BLACK ACTIVISTS.

THE MAN WAS BEING KICKED, PUNCHED AND SJAMBOKED BY SCORES OF ANGRY BLACKS OUTSIDE THE CEMETERY WHEN BISHOP TUTU INTERVENED PHYSICALLY TO DRAG HIM TO SAFETY AND RESCUE FROM CERTAIN DEATH.

EARLIER A SECTION OF THE 10,000-STRONG CROWD AT THE CEMETERY INTERCEPTED THE UNIDENTIFIED MAN AS HE DROVE UP A SIDE STREET NEAR THE CEMETERY. A WALL OF PEOPLE BLOCKED THE CAR FROM THE FRONT AND BACK AS THE DRIVER WAS HAULED OUT AND ACCUSED OF BEING AN INFORMER.

HE WAS UNABLE TO SATISFY HIS IMPROMPTU INTERROGATORS OF HIS INNOCENCE, LARGELY BECAUSE HE WAS LITERALLY PARALYSED WITH FEAR. AS HE WAS BEING QUIZZED, HIS CAR WAS OVERTURNED AND SET ALIGHT. THE FLAMES SET HIS ASSAILANTS INTO ACTION AND THEY BEAT AND KICKED HIM MERCILESSLY.

BISHOP SIMEON NKOANE, SUFFRAGAN BISHOP OF JOHANNESBURG, TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO STOP THE ASSAULT. THEN BISHOP TUTU, WHO HAD EARLIER PLEADED WITH THE BLACKS NOT TO USE METHODS IN THEIR 'STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM' OF WHICH THEY OR THEIR LEADERS WOULD BE ASHAMED, INTERVENED TO SAVE HIM. THE MAN WAS TAKEN AWAY TO HOSPITAL BY BISHOP NKOANE.

THE FUNERAL STARED AT THE STADIUM IN THE DUSTY TOWNSHIP OF DUDUZA, ABOUT 25 MILES FROM JOHANNESBURG. FOUR COFFINS WERE CARRIED BY YOUNG ACTIVISTS AND PLACED ON CHAINS IN THE VIRTUALLY GRASSLESS SPORTS FIELD.

MOST YOUNG PEOPLE WORE YELLOW T-SHIRTS WITH PHOTO-PRINTS OF THE FOUR DEAD MEN ON THE FRONT. INSCRIPTIONS ON THE T-SHIRTS LAUDED THE FOUR AS FREEDOM-FIGHTERS AND CONTAINED QUOTATIONS FROM SPEECHES BY THE IMPRISONED AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS LEADER, MR NELSON MANDELA.

THE THEME OF MOST SPEECHES WAS ONE OF BLOOD AND SACRIFICE IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM, ESPECIALLY FROM THE CLASSMATES OF THE DEAD MEN. ALL FOUR WERE FOUNDER MEMBERS OF THE DUDUZA BRANCH OF THE CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS.

ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, THE FOUR STUDENTS DIED WHEN GRENADES WHICH THEY WERE CARRYING EXPLODED. THE FUNERAL, HOWEVER, DEMONSTRATED AGAIN THAT MOST TOWNSHIP PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THEY WERE KILLED BY POLICE AND INFORMERS.

THE DESPAIR OF OLDER PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY WAS MANIFEST IN THE WORDS OF A LOCAL HEADMASTER, MR CHARLES MOTJUWADI, 'WHAT CAN I SAY TO THE PEOPLE OF DUDUZA WHOSE YOUNG IS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES' HE ASKED.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF COSAS ACTIVISTS WAS, HOWEVER, IN A MORE MILITANT MOOD. 'WE SAY NO TO THE S.A.D.F. AND YES TO UMKHONTO WE SIZWE' (THE MILITARY WING OF THE ANC). ON COSAS SPEAKER SAID. ANOTHER SAID: 'WE ARE UNARMED, UMKHONTO WE SIZWE, WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU'.

AS THE COFFINS OF THE FOUR STUDENTS WERE CARRIED ALONG A DUSTY STREET TO THE CEMETERY UNDER A HUGE ANC FLAG, THE CROWD SWELLED TO AT LEAST 10,000 PEOPLE DETERMINED TO HONOUR THEM AS HEROES.

ENDS.
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