

THE FORSYTH SAGA

With permission from my superiors, I am now at liberty to reveal that I am a trained intelligence operative of the Security Branch of the South African Police, holding the rank of lieutenant and agent number RS 407.

— Lieutenant OLIVIA FORSYTH

How I managed to infiltrate the ANC and escape

NATAL WITNESS
4 FEBR. 1989

PRETORIA — Before arriving at the British Embassy in Luanda in May of last year, I was engaged in an undercover operation involving my infiltration of the African National Congress by posing as a defector. This operation has yielded a mine of intelligence about the inner workings of the ANC.

Prior to this operation, I was sent on missions to investigate ANC activities in various Frontline states, before which I had infiltrated numerous radical organisations inside South Africa.

In 1981 I volunteered to join the Security Branch of the police.

From 1982 to 1985, I was placed at Rhodes University ... (where I infiltrated student) organisations.

At the end of 1985 ... (my controllers) decided that I was ready for missions outside the country ... that I should undertake a short-term infiltration of the ANC. Because normal infiltration is a lengthy process ... I would stage a bogus defection.

We decided to base my defection on the case study of Witaly Sergeyevich Yurchenko, the deputy chief of the First Chief Directorate of the KGB ... (who) pretended to defect to the CIA in Rome in August 1985.

To be convincing as a defector, I had to supply the ANC with a lot of information, at least some of which they could verify.

Lieutenant Joy Harnden, also known as RS430, was one of the agents who was actively involved in Operation Yurchenko.

Joy and I were friends ... at Rhodes. I recruited her in mid-1983.

It was decided that on completion of her studies she would be utilised as a principal controller of sources in Johannesburg.

I was therefore very surprised when I received a telephone call from Guy Berger in August 1984. He wanted a reference for her because she had become involved in the Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee (Jodac).

My apparent defection included a

subsidiary operation called Operation Olivetti, which involved a front company called John Fitzgerald and Associates.

(In order to make contact with the ANC) it was decided that Howard Barrell, a Harare-based journalist and ANC frontman, would be set up as the contact person. Barrell immediately introduced me to Garth Strachan, an ANC member in Harare, who recruited me into the organisation.

After my so-called training, Strachan provided me with tasks to perform in South Africa.

The next step was to throw out the bait of my "defection". I was sent to Lusaka, where I made contact with the ANC's chief of Military intelligence, Ronnie Kasrils, alias ANC Khumalo, as well as Mzwai Piliso, who was the head of intelligence and security.

The ANC then sent me back to South Africa ... After a further visit to Lusaka, I was instructed by the ANC to remain in South Africa for an indefinite period. However my controllers decided that I should go back.

When I arrived in Lusaka on June 25, 1986, I was immediately sent to Angola.

Then, on July 8, 1986, I was sent to the ANC's Quatro prison camp. The treatment and conditions at the camp were appalling. I was held in a dark, damp, overcrowded cell for 24 hours a day. All activities, including eating, washing and relieving ourselves, took place there.

Anaemia and stomach disorders were common among prisoners. I was particularly concerned when I received injections for malaria, because Aids is rife in the ANC camps.

After my arrival at the prison camp I was constantly beaten and interrogated for three weeks.

I was held with the other women prisoners. We were prevented from seeing the male prisoners, although we could hear the screams and sounds of prisoners being beaten.

After I had been incarcerated for



Lieutenant Olivia Forsyth at a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

some time, both Kasrils and Hani visited the camp. During discussions with them, it became clear that there was conflict within the ANC leadership with regard to my defection.

In December 1986, Hani visited the camp and informed me that the leadership of the ANC now appeared to be convinced that I was a genuine defector. He discussed strategies for my counter-infiltration into South Africa.

In February 1987, after seven months of imprisonment, Hani visited the camp in order to secure my release. I was made to sign a document stating that I was very repentant for any offences against the ANC.

After I was released I was taken to the ANC flat (in Luanda) and on May 11, 1987 I was taken to a security house.

Now I could begin formulating strategies for my eventual escape and I was able to resume communication with my controllers.

While at the security house I had frequent discussions with Hani and Kasrils, centred on various counter-penetration strategies.

Because some people were sceptical, Hani suggested that the best strategy would be to propose an exchange of prisoners with South Africa.

During my discussions with both

Hani and Kasrils, I was very critical of how the ANC had handled my defection. Both of them openly admitted that it had been a mistake to send me to Quatro.

Hani told me that there was likely to be progress in my case as Mzwai Piliso had been phased out because of inefficiency, drug-smuggling and alcoholic tendencies. It was his intention to see other older members of the leadership, such as Joe Modise, commander of Umkhonto we Sizwe, phased out.

Hani made it clear to me that the power struggles within the ANC

leadership are far from being propaganda.

If Amnesty International or the Red Cross were to visit the camps in reaction to queries (about missing relatives), the ANC's list of "deaths in detention" would be extremely long.

On November 29, 1987 Chris Hani dictated a letter to me to write to my parents.

The ANC then waited a further five months before realising that no official response was forthcoming.

On April 29, 1988 Ronnie Kasrils dictated another, longer letter to my parents, made a tape recording of me reading the contents, and had several photographs taken of me.

At this point there was a development which necessitated my departure earlier than I had anticipated.

I was informed by Kasrils that the ANC was involved in a massive spy-hunt in Zambia.

On Monday May 2, 1988 the opportunity arose. When their superiors were not present, the guards had a habit... of getting drunk.

I was able to leave the house. I hitched a lift with an Angolan, telling him... I needed to go urgently to the British Embassy.

I arrived at the embassy and requested asylum.

On November 16, 1988, the Angolan government finally issued me with an exit visa and I was accompanied that night on to a UTA flight to Paris. — Sapa.

Forsyth was 'divisive and destructive' — Nusas

JOHANNESBURG — Police spy, Lieutenant Olivia Forsyth, was "divisive and destructive" during her involvement in the National Union of South African Students, the organisation said yesterday.

Mr Lindsay Falkov, Nusas national president, said Lieutenant Forsyth fostered suspicion and conflict in the organisation and played the classic role of an agent provocateur, not only in Nusas, but in her interaction with other UDF affiliates in the region.

Mr Falkov said: "There was strong evidence that she was a security agent. Hard facts were being sought by both Nusas and UDF officials at the time that she withdrew from the organisation. This expose comes as no surprise.

"Lieutenant Forsyth is an agent of apartheid. Her story is no doubt calculated to serve its ends. While she has hit the headlines with her spy stories, lies and distortions are the tricks of her trade," Mr Falkov said.

"We must not forget that other sides of the story can not be heard. She does not speak of the brutal role of the security forces in the Eastern Cape while she operated as their agent. She does not mention the mass detentions, the Uitenhage massacre, the mysterious murder of Mathew Goniwe and other UDF leaders, or the repression of legitimate opposition."

Mr Falkov said it was widely suspected that Lieutenant Forsyth was instrumental in the prolonged detention, under emergency regulations, of at least four of the human rights activists she formed false friendships with in Grahams-town.

"These stories remain shrouded in a silence imposed by our third state of emergency. Many of the organisations that she smears are currently banned. Nusas calls for these organisations to be given equal space in which to respond," he said.

In a separate statement the Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee (Jodac) said: "A thorough investigation was conducted (in 1987) into suspicions that Joy Harden had been working for the security police.

"This investigation proved conclusively that Harden had been recruited into the security police," Jodac said. — Sapa.

Natal witness — 4 Feb. 1989

POLICE DEFEND CAMPUS RECRUITMENT

Witness Reporter

THE practice of recruiting police "spies" from among the ranks of students on campuses has been defended by police.

In a statement issued yesterday, Major Charl du Toit reacted to reports earlier this week that a member of the SRC on the University of Natal (Durban) campus had resigned after alleging he had been asked by the security police to work for them.

Mr Derek McGowan, formerly the residence liaison officer of the SRC,

claimed to have been paid R250 by a member of the security police to have his car repaired. He said he was asked for information about the National Union of South African Students, the Black Students' Society and the SRC but denied having given any information.

In his resignation statement, Mr McGowan said he regretted his actions in accepting the R250 and said he would repay the money.

Major du Toit said although the South African Police could not comment on individual incidents it was

correct that use was made of "informers and public support to combat crime".

He said that subversive elements on the campus required monitoring "from time to time" and added that there were examples which indicated such elements did exist.

He cited the case of lecturer Mr Raymond Suttner who was sentenced to seven and a half years under the Suppression of Communism Act after allegedly using students to distribute Communist Party literature.

Tutu offers to help mediate Israeli, Palestinian conflict

By SIMON ANEKWE

Amsterdam News Staff

Speaking to a capacity audience at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue here Monday night, Archbishop Desmond Tutu criticized the Israeli government for its treatment of Palestinians and offered to join fellow Nobel Prize winner Eli Weisel in mediating between them.

He had not consulted with Mr. Weisel, the South African prelate added; neither did he know how such mediation could be arranged nor would that be his role. He was simply making himself available.

"Until now" he had not spoken on the question of Palestine, "for fear I would be called anti-Semitic," Tutu told his American Jewish audience. Indeed before he came to the criticisms, Tutu spent much of the time delving into the Old Testament as he prepare them for the hard statements to come.

Tutu spoke after receiving the Synagogue's 26th annual George Brussel Jr. Memorial Award as "the personification of the spiritual man who pursues justice and mercy with courage." The award was in the form of a "shofar," the traditional ram's horn blown on the Jewish New Year and used in ancient Israel to sound the alarm in times of danger.

The presentation was made by Chris Platt, chair of the Syn-



FIRST JEWISH Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Capetown, South Africa, proudly raises the "shofar" presented to him Monday night as he received the 26th annual George Brussel Jr. Memorial Award at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in Manhattan. It was the first time he was honored by a Jewish religious group. (Curt Clemons photo)

agogue's Social Action Committee, following brief remarks by Senior Rabbi Balfour Brickner who warned that:

"In America, Black anti-Jewish, pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel sentiment is a growing, serious and real problem, particularly as it comes from an intellectual and academic Black community. That is the one place we did not expect it.

"This means," Brickner continued, "that Blacks and Jews who have separate agendas had better sit down and carve out an action-agenda directed at the federal government and not at one another.

"We are not each other's enemy. An indifferent and insensitive federal government is. Solve the problem of Black economic inequity, and we will see

Black-Jewish tensions disappear." Rabbi Brickner ended.

"We're proud to acknowledge our Jewish heritage spiritually," the Archbishop said as he neared the hard statements. "We too are descendants of Abraham in that spiritual sense."

And "at home" in South Africa, many Jewish have been in the front lines of the struggle. "We thank God that Israel as a nation came into being" and it has the right to territory and security.

The Archbishop said he condemned terrorism in all its forms, but his audience should remember that in the fight to establish Israel as an independent state, "some of your leaders used terrorist methods."

Israel as a nation is not infallible, though when it is criticized the criticism is called anti-Semitism. But he was glad that some 500,000 Israelis also criticize the government's policies, he stated.

Blacks in South Africa and this country assume that Jews as a matter of course would side with them in the fight against oppression. So in South Africa, Blacks do not understand how the Israeli government would cooperate with the apartheid regime in military security matters, including building atomic bombs, Tutu stated.

He called it "bizzare" that Is-

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To: George Schnoll