

TV programme "Monitor"

First channel (nation-wide), Tuesday, August 6th, 1985, 21.00 hours

prepared by

West-German Broadcasting Corporation (WDR)

Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany

"German Support for South Africa's Police -

How the arms embargo against the apartheid regime

is being circumvented"

Moderator  
Klaus Bednarz:

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, and welcome to our broadcast tonight. During the whole time of his life, Heinrich Böll (well-known German writer who died in July 1985. Transl.) was committed to the cause of the oppressed and politically persecuted all over the world. Amongst them those 23 million black people in South Africa who are still treated as second-class beings and are being deprived of their most elementary political rights by a small minority of ruling whites. The abhorrent system of apartheid, as the foreign ministers of the European Community termed it recently, has become an issue of growing international criticism. But the struggle of the oppressed black people for more human rights and political liberties is even more brutally suppressed by the regime of the four million whites than ever before. A few weeks ago a state of emergency was declared in parts of the country, more than 1,000 opposing persons were arbitrarily detained and put into prison. The brutal acts of the police and the military against the black people has resulted in more than 500 deaths this year already, amongst them young people and children.

Significant portions of the equipment which is used by the South African police and army to suppress the resistance of the black population, originates from the Federal Republic of Germany. Here a report prepared by Wolfgang Landgraeber and Ursula Junk.

Film /  
Narrator:

Rebellion in the black ghettos of South Africa. Decades of peaceful protests achieved nothing. Now the desperation of the blacks has turned into open hatred. Police and paramilitary units act with brutal violence against the people.

If you take a close look you will discover products 'made in Germany' in the pictures of the civil war in South Africa. The armoured vehicles, for instance, from which the policemen fire into the crowd and throw tear-gas grenades, roll on chassis from the Daimler-Benz and Magirus-Deutz companies. Among the tear-gas victims are also children.

Although the United Nations enforced sanctions prohibiting the export of weapons and military equipment to South Africa already in 1977, it is particularly German firms who supplied the apartheid state with technology. They contributed to it that South Africa can ./.



produce its armaments largely on its own - in spite of the arms embargo.

Excerpt from a PR film of the South African arms industry. It is on show at international arms fairs.

We have asked an expert to point out to us which of the South African weapons and equipment originate from Germany.

Mr. Abdul Minty, a South African, is director of the institute in Oslo which, on behalf of the United Nations, monitors the adherence to the arms embargo. The institute is financed by the governments of Sweden and Norway. It reports breaches of the embargo to the United Nations Security Council.

Interview with Abdul Minty,  
"World Campaign against military and nuclear  
collaboration with South Africa", Oslo

O-tone / Translation:

Q: Mr. Minty, can you tell us which of the weapons and equipment shown here originate from Germany?

Minty: Well, there is a lot of it which is German. This is a transport plane, the 'Transall', which is constructed jointly by Germany and France. It was delivered by France at the time, and is now being used in Namibia and South Africa.

This is a naval speed-boat. Its engine is said to have been supplied by a German firm. But no charges have been made in this case.

This here is a German UNIMOG which is used by the South African Defence Forces as well. Almost the same type of this vehicle is used by the defence forces of the Federal Republic of Germany. It was altered into a rocket launcher in South Africa and used in attacks against Angola. It is clearly a military weapon.

This is ammunition manufactured in South Africa at a plant of the Rheinmetall company. And this ammunition is being used in attacks against Angola and the Frontline States. A still pending case filed against Rheinmetall for breach of the embargo is the only one of its kind that has become known.

Q: Can one say that weapons and military equipment are also being used by the police?

Minty: Yes, because in South Africa there does not exist a reliable distinction between the police and the military. In the sixties both cooperated with one another, and at that time one spoke of a police state. Since the seventies we live in a state which functions like a garrison. The police and the army operate together in the black townships. They use the most modern weapons against utterly unarmed people. British and German military equipment is used by the police in South Africa. And they have special vehicles of the kind which in other countries are used by the army.

(End interview)



Narrator: The Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs bears the political responsibility for breaches of the embargo, because it has to approve the export of products which can be used for military purposes.

Secretary of State Martin Grüner said in response to a parliamentary inquiry in May of this year:

- "Any transport vehicle on general sale, beginning with a simple transportation cart up to a cross-country vehicle as used on construction sites, can, as far as transportation work is concerned, also be used by the military.  
The use of a commodity cannot be a criteria for its classification as 'military' or 'civil'."

And this is how the South African equipped their allegedly purely civilian vehicles:

A Mercedes UNIMOG as combat vehicle 'Buffalo' which is now being used against black demonstrators.

According to Bonn's reading: unobjectionable.

A UNIMOG as troop transporter 'Samil 20': unobjectionable.

The same UNIMOG as rocket launcher 'Valkiri': unobjectionable.

The combat vehicle 'Cassepir' - likewise used for chasing demonstrators - unobjectionable.

The transporter 'Samil 100', built on a Magirus-Deutz chassis: unobjectionable.

Interview  
Minty

Q: Is the export of police and military equipment already a breach of the embargo?

Minty: Yes, it is clearly prescribed that also any paramilitary police equipment for South Africa are included in the prohibition.

Q: But the Federal Government claims that only equipment for civil use has been exported.

Minty: This is what they say. But the German government takes its own laws as basis of its decisions and not the wording of the UN resolution. In cases in which South Africa has clearly used so-called civil equipment for military purposes, the German government is at the same time the accused and its own judge. There does not exist a superposed controlling authority. Many vehicles of the South African Defence Forces are being used with the knowledge of the German government and the companies. But they are not doing anything about it, even when they know very well what they are used for.

(End interview)

Narrator: A German company was able to deliver to South Africa, without any objection, a complete plant for the decontamination of tanks, vehicles and soldiers after an attack with nuclear, biological and chemical



weapons. These are photographs from the prospectus of the manufacturing company.

It is very difficult to imagine what the civil utilization of such a plant could be. And yet the controllers in Bonn gave the green light, on the following grounds:

- "The investigations undertaken proved that the appliances 'Deko-Trailer' and 'Deko-Jet', which are specially constructed for decontamination work but which can be used also for other purification purposes, are not subject to export permission according to the laws currently in force."

But also in the area of the cooperation of personnel the German authorities demonstrated utmost generosity in respect to the South Africans. In 1981, South African police officers were initiated to modern search and investigation methods at the Federal Bureau for Criminal Investigation (Bundeskriminalamt). They showed a particular interest in a new type of computer which allows a quick identification of persons by way of their finger-prints. An ideal search instrument for South Africa's police, because black people in the apartheid state have to identify themselves with a passport photograph and finger-prints. Respective inquiries by the South African authorities with the manufacturing company in Dortmund followed soon. Business contacts were established. Due to the aggravating situation in South Africa negotiations are suspended at present, so the company says.

Likewise welcomed are South African experts at a research institution which concerns itself with highly explosive material. The 'Fraunhofer Institute for Fuel and Explosives', which is subsidized by the Federal Ministry of Defence, organizes an international symposium every year. South African armament experts attend regularly, the last time in July of this year. They deliver lectures, exchange experiences and obtain instruction in subjects which clearly belong to the armament sector. Excerpt from the list of subjects treated:

- Lecture P 34:  
"The influence of temperature differences on the propellant powder in ballistic bombs".
- Lecture P 49:  
"Passive incendiary protection for ammunition and warheads for the reduction of injury".
- Lecture P 52:  
"Tight positioning of the charge in shell cases".

The Federal Government finds no fault with it that such delicate know-how is imparted to the South Africans. Secretary of State Mr. Würzbach from the Federal Ministry of Defence:

- "A free exchange of the results of scientific research with all countries is in the interest of the Federal Republic".

The highly confidential lists of participants' names and addresses prove that the attending South Africans are not just any scientists but representatives of the armament industry.

The firms NasChem and SomChem are branches of the state-owned armament company ARMSCOR. They produce bombs, ammunition of a large calibre and



rocket systems. KENTRON, likewise an Armscor firm, manufactures electronic-controlled weapons.

Interview  
Minty

Q: Do you inform the Federal Government about breaches of the arms embargo?

Minty: During the past four or five years we alerted Bonn of several cases. Sometimes we don't even get a reply. Otherwise, we are being told that the charges were investigated and that no evidence was found. The results of the investigation were confidential. So we do not know how investigations are being conducted.

In reality the political will is lacking, for we know that the German regulations in regard to certain other countries are far more strict and are being more effectively controlled. So it is possible to exercise control - only in the case of South Africa it is not being done.

(End interview)

Narrator: A lack of the political will to observe the embargo seems also to have existed in the case of the most recent export deal with the South African government. Four helicopters of the type BO 105 and a fifth of the type BK 117 were delivered to the apartheid regime by the company Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm. The helicopters - here pictures taken at a training session of the Federal Army - are a great export hit because of their manoeuvrability.

The delivery was a civil one, the manufacturer asserts. But in the South African press a different story was told. The helicopters, the Minister for Law and Order Louis le Grange was quoted, were extremely well suited for combatting demonstrations from the air. One was already operating, three additional ones were just now, at the height of the unrests, being re-equipped for police operations.

Press reports with which also the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs must be acquainted. But the responsible Secretary of State Martin Grüner did not see any reason to subject the export deal to an examination. He said:

- "As far as civil helicopters of the types mentioned are being exported, their export does not require any permission."

Is this also a civil helicopter? It was recently photographed in South Africa. At the nose the mark of the German firm Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm. The helicopter is varnished in the white-and-blue colours of the police. The pilots wear white and blue uniforms like the South African police.

While the Federal Government and the manufacturers underline, in almost the same wording, the civil character of the export, South Africa's media celebrate it as a victory over the embargo.  
Radio Johannesburg on June 12th, 1985:

- "It could not be avoided that sometimes underhand ways had to be used, which included secret operations, but they were necessary, and they showed that allies can always be found who by-pass an embargo, no matter how comprehensive it may be."



In spite of this, and as if the German and the South African side had mutually pledged silence on the business, Minister le Grange continues with attempts to keep the manufacturer's name secret. In his words:

- "It could cause embarrassment to the government of the supplying country."

Anger, sadness and grief at a funeral a few days ago. Here again the omnipresent police in their armoured vehicles of German origin. The helicopters from the Federal Republic of Germany will soon support them in their work. They might be used for spraying enamel paint onto the demonstrators from the air, to be able to identify them during police-raids in the townships. This - it is being reported from the ghettos - is the latest invention of the South African system of oppression.

(End of Report)

Klaus Bednarz,  
Moderator:

To say it once again very clearly: all that, which we have shown just now, is known to the responsible persons in Bonn. And yet it is being tolerated.

Imagine there were already five-hundred deaths in Poland this year due to police action, and West-German firms would still be supplying the vehicles for the troops and the helicopters for the Polish police!

But of course in South Africa operations are directly only against black people ...

While in the USA and in France the banks, for instance, withdraw demonstratively from business with South Africa, German banks, by contrast, provide South Africa increasingly with loans. And the Prime Minister of Bavaria, Franz Josef Strauss, attested the regime in Pretoria during a recent interview in the First Channel TV News even - I quote - "a good development which leads to an equalization of all groups of peoples (Volksgruppen) and racial groups". We would like to show you this memorable interview again tonight, accompanied by a commentary of the Deputy General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), Mr. Dan Vaughan. The South African Council of Churches is a council of 23 churches and 11 religious associations, the largest church organization in South Africa. But first the opinion of Franz Josef Strauss about apartheid:

Strauss:

"There exists a general apartheid. We have for years, for decades - I personally - been fighting for it that this be abolished. It is largely abolished: the job reservation, i.e. the job reservation for whites, the differing wages - this does practically no longer exist. Also the marriage laws have been altered. In short, things have been happening which one would have deemed impossible to take place ten years ago."

Vaughan, SACC:

"I do not quite know from where Mr. Strauss has obtained his information about the end of apartheid. From our point of view, that is the view of the South African Council of Churches, apartheid continues to be



just as brutal and evil as before. In the places where we live, we are segregated; where we use public transport, we are segregated; where we enter public hospitals, we are segregated; when our children go to school, they are segregated. In the normal everyday life in South Africa, black and white do not meet. Whoever says that apartheid exists no longer disavows the facts of South African society."

Strauss:

"One should, however, be careful in respect to the political apartheid. Because whenever one drives the matter to the point with those who say 'Away with apartheid' and asks them whether they want 'One man - one vote' now, whether they want that every South African, every person who lives in South Africa obtains the right of vote immediately, then one experiences a big surprise: the same people, who previously called for the abolition of apartheid with a loud voice, say that they do not want it immediately, that this can only be a long-term development. This is why I have demanded more intellectual honesty, more precision in the definition and more political realism in my contributions on this subject."

Vaughan, SACC:

"As far as those people are concerned who allegedly do not want an equal right of vote for all, I must say the South African Council of Churches has always stated that as long as not every South African has the equal right to determine the leadership of his country, apartheid continues to exist. As long as not everybody has the equal right to vote in the country of his birth, in the whole of South Africa, one can never say that apartheid had vanished from the shores of our country."

Moderator:

So much on the subject of race discrimination in South Africa. Incidentally, particularly active in providing loans to South Africa is the Bayerische Vereinsbank. Member of the Board is Franz Josef Strauss.

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August 1985