



AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

PO Box 38 28 Penton Street London N1 9PR United Kingdom
Telephone: 01-837-2012 Telex: 299555

19.10.89

STATEMENT BY SUE AND PETER DOBSON

We have both been ANC activists for the past decade. As such we carried out many tasks over that time, mainly concerned with gaining access to institutions of the Pretoria regime including security organisations (eg NIS, SADF). Our aim was to understand how they function and what their plans and strategies are. Despite the regime's extensive security measures, we operated undetected and with great success for more than 10 years.

Peter served in the SADF during his two years of national service, and was a lieutenant in the Military Psychology Institute. He then pursued a career in the computer industry, in which capacity he had access to government-related institutions and personnel. Specific information which was gained relates to sanctions busting computer purchase strategies, and the development of a new command-and-control system for the SADF.

Sue worked as a journalist on several daily newspapers as well as the SABC. More recently she was a press officer at the Bureau for information in which role she interviewed people such as Pik Botha, Louis Pienaar (Administer-General of Namibia), Hans Dreyer (head of the notorious Koevoet police unit) and Dolf Gouwe (head of SWAPOL). For the past 9 months she was extensively involved in covering the Namibian elections, and was posted to Windhoek as a member of a covert team whose aim was to undermine SWAPO, harass UNTAG and promote the Administer-General and the DTA. Some of the activities of this covert operation are in direct contravention of UN resolution 435.

During September 1989 it became clear that we were in danger and were instructed by the ANC to leave South Africa. This was a planned conscious decision and certainly not the result of some brainstorm or breakdown as the South African press have tried to convey. She turned to the mission of the USSR as the country most likely to help her, but they were unable to do so. Without divulging further details, we both left South Africa openly and flew to London.

Over the past few weeks some bizarre attempts have been made to smear us in the South African press, particularly by journalists known to act upon government instructions. We reject the smears that we are mentally unstable or KGB agents or SWAPOL informers.

more.....

We also reject the allegations that we acted in concert with Jeremy and Joan Brickhill. Our only connection to the Brickhills is a family relationship. Whilst we were active in the ANC in South Africa, we were integrated into internal ANC structures.

We both joined the ANC as responsible adults who were horrified by the repression of the 1976 uprising, and by the continued repression of our fellow citizens. The ANC has consistently led the struggle for a just, democratic government in South Africa and we will continue to support the ANC in that struggle. We are proud of the contribution we have been able to make.

We realise that it is difficult for friends and family to accept these facts, as they knew us in a completely different guise for the past 10 years. We call on them and all whites in South Africa to accept the necessity for fundamental change in our country, and to support the ANC and the Mass Democratic Movement.

London, 19 October, 1989.

Another South African covert operation in Namibia

Sue Dobson had worked over the years for a number of the right wing media in South Africa such as the Citizen and the SABC. A year ago she went to work for the South African Bureau of Information as a media officer. Several months ago she was selected to join a special covert "contingent" which was sent to Namibia to undermine SWAPO and promote the AG and DTA. They were also charged with getting to know as many people in UNTAG as possible for the obvious purpose of using personal and other information to their advantage.

The operation has a budget of some R3.5m (with an entertainment allowance of R100 000) and the team were told that their "cover" (and that was the word used) would be that they had been seconded to work in the AG's office.

The seven person team was made up of Major Connie van Rensburg (SADF), Botha Maree (SADF, but rank unknown) who had the National Intelligence Service (NIS) contacts and fed the journalists in the team with "information" on which they were to base their articles, Marlene Kromberg from the Bureau for Information, Karl Breedts described as "ex Boss", David Venter of Research and Planning in the Bureau for Information, Rob Smith from Foreign Affairs, who later turned out to be from NIS, and Sue Dobson.

This revelation underlines again the extent to which South Africa has breached the UN plan (see S/15943 para 17; S/15776 para 12) by its concerted campaign against SWAPO and by deploying SADF officers in secret operations in Namibia.

The contingent were given specific briefings. They had to promote South Africa as a peacemaker, they were told to play on allegations and supposed divisions within amongst the leadership of SWAPO and that Anton Lubowski was murdered by people within SWAPO. They were told to promote political parties other than the SWAPO and particularly the DTA and were told to get rid of the the impression that SWAPO's victory was a forgone conclusion. They were also instructed to discredit certain members of UNTAG, amongst them Cedric Thornbury.

Dobson was instructed to interview Mr Ahtisaari for the purpose of trying to get him to say that he was satisfied with the registration process and satisfied that the election would be free and fair.

One of the issues they were particularly instructed to promote was that of SWAPO's detainees who were alleging torture. Dobson's fellow journalist in the team interviewed a person whom, it was claimed, had been tortured. After the interview

she confided to Dobson that she felt sure that it was a put up job as the woman showed no sign of having been tortured, looked very fit and healthy and was in a very good mental state. She also said that there were so many inconsistencies and inadequacies in the story.

She was sent to interview General Hans Dreyer in about February 1989. Dreyer was evidently very proud of Koevoet's record and kept speaking of the number of "kills" Koevoet had achieved. The "contingent" had to produce copy that would present Koevoet as being a group of ordinary decent people who were doing a great job in SWAPOL. This copy, like other copy they produced, would be fed to "selected journalists" who would be paid to feed it into the SA and international media.

During a visit to a Koevoet base in September she was told how the "machinery" was ready to go at a moment's notice. There seemed to be new recruits there but she was told that they were simply members of SWAPOL who had come to the base for some training. While there they were charged with taking care of a Canadian TV crew and were told that under no circumstances were they to allow them near a certain building as it contained all the arms.

Derrik Brune of SWAPOL had been given the task some months ago of establishing a new network of agents in northern Namibia and had apparently completed much of this work.

Sean Cleary, former right hand of the Administrator General, according to a SWAPOL source, had been recruited by the CIA. In addition to his "Transcontinental Consultants" in Windhoek he had established "Sean Cleary and Associates" in Johannesburg. Whether this is true or simply a device for distancing him from the SA Government's operations is an open question.

A curious proposal being spoken of by the "contingent" before she left was that the whole of Namibia be declared a demilitarised zone. Precisely what was meant by this was not clear but it appeared to be a device to prevent SWAPO from assembling an army in the post-election period.

20/10/89