

Secret witness testifies NATAL WITNESS Terror accused '28 OCT. 1988' was ANC commissar

Witness Reporter

A MAN appearing in the Supreme Court, College Road, on charges relating to terrorism, had been a commissar of a tactics platoon at an ANC training camp in Angola, a witness said yesterday.

As commissar the accused man, Mr Ntela Richard Skhosana (23) of Estcourt, was responsible for the "political upgrading" of the platoon, the witness said.

Witness A was giving evidence in camera in the trial in which Mr Skhosana and four others are charged on 14 counts relating to terrorism, taking part in ANC activities, illegal possession of machineguns or rifles, ammunition, grenades and bombs, and unlawful publications.

The witness, who may not be identified, admitted to leaving South Africa in July 1985 to join the ANC and to having undergone military training in Tanzania and Angola.

"I was doing my basic training at Caculana, Angola, in April 1986 when I came to know (Mr Skhosana) as commissar," the witness said.

"As commissar he would also have been second-in-charge of the platoon and responsible for seeing that the members of the platoon discussed politics and read books relating to politics."

The witness said Mr Skhosana left Caculana in October, 1986.

"I returned to South Africa in October 1987," the witness said. "My job was to reconnoitre mili-

tary bases, electricity plants, police stations, and the movement of soldiers in my operational area." The witness did not identify the "operational area".

"My instructions also were to eliminate people hostile to the community — like a troublesome policeman or an employer who ill-treats employees."

However, seven days after infiltrating the target area, the witness encountered problems.

"People were hostile to me. No one had been mobilised, as I had been told. I found myself all alone... I was detained on October 26, 1987, and released in February 1988."

Under cross-examination by defence counsel Mr Pius Langa, the witness said: "I was sold out by the ANC. When I got into (South Africa) I did not have anything to use in case of a fight. All I had was my coat."

The accused, who have pleaded not guilty, are: Mr Derrick Zakhele Muthwa (27) of Empangeni, Mr Mafi Percival Mgebhozi (21) of Durban, Mr Skhosana, Mr Vivani Isidore Vincent Made (40) of Amanzimtoti and Mr Livingstone Nhlanhla Mathaba (26) of Mtunzini. The trial continues.

28 OCT. 1988

The Star Friday

Four days of Idasa talks dispel some mutual suspicions

BONN — Four days of frank talking in Leverkusen near Cologne have dispelled many of the myths that Soviet and Afrikaner academics and a party from the ANC believed about each other and this has become the basis for future talks.

While the ANC has indicated that its armed struggle will continue, there are signs that the organisation is placing increasing emphasis on negotiated political solutions. And the Soviet delegation has made repeated references to the desirability of a negotiated settlement.

Most South Africans at the talks have said they are going home with a much clearer understanding of ANC perceptions of the South African question and a definite conviction that the banned organisation is a vital player in South Africa's political future.

Further rounds of talks between liberal South African whites and members of the ANC leadership are planned and Idasa's Dr Alex Boraine, convener of the Leverkusen gathering, said the next meeting would probably take place

BY SUE LEEMAN,
The Star's Foreign News Service

The historic meeting between Soviet and Afrikaner academics and an ANC group has ended with all sides affirming their commitment to building a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

within a year.

In his closing remarks at a press conference here, Dr Boraine said the Leverkusen talks had succeeded in breaking down stereotypes.

"I think we came a little closer to the development of a climate that could lead to negotiations, the end of apartheid and the birth of a non-racial democracy in South Africa."

The five Soviet delegates, all academics specialising in southern African issues, stressed that the Soviet Union had no intention of establishing relations with Pretoria until apartheid was dead.

However, team leader Dr Vasili Solodovnikov said they remained committed to talking to whites "who support the liberation struggle".

Some observers are reading

this as a shift in emphasis and believe there is a growing Soviet awareness that whites are an important part of the peace process.

A buoyant ANC publicity chief, Mr Thabo Mbeki, is clearly delighted at the contact between Afrikaners and the Soviet academics.

Idasa chairman Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert said he believed the value of the conference lay first in the discussion of attitudes to apartheid and, secondly, in "placing the position of the Soviet Union and the ANC in perspective to bring about change away from apartheid".

He clearly does not hold out much hope of a softening of President P W Botha's opposition to talks of this nature, but said Idasa's task lay in communicating what had happened at the talks to the broader South African community.



Talking of the future in South Africa ... from left are Mr Thabo Mbeki, ANC secretary for information, Dr Alex Boraine, director of Idasa, and a Soviet expert on South Africa, Dr Vasili Solodovnikov, at yesterday's Bonn press conference.

28 OCT. 1988

NEWS

Rural health care neglected, KwaZulu minister tells

Witness Reporter

THE level of environmental safety achieved in South Africa's towns and cities is comparable with the best in the world, but the millions of people living in the rural areas have been neglected, KwaZulu's Minister of Health, Dr Frank Mdalose, said yesterday.

In a paper delivered at the National Environmental Health Conference in Pietermaritzburg, Dr

Mdalose said health hazards that existed in "ancient times" were still present in many country areas.

Dr Mdalose's speech was delivered to the conference delegates, all members of the Health Officers' Association of South Africa, by KwaZulu's Deputy Minister of Health, Mr Nyanga Ngubane.

Expressing concern at the conditions in rural areas, Dr Mdalose

said: "I would like you to think back for a moment to Edwin Chadwick (19th century British social reformer) and his insistence that health depends on sanitation.

"How many thousands or millions of our people in the rural areas are still without adequate sanitation and its partner, clean and germ-free water?"

"How many, especially in the densely-populated informal

settlements around our cities, are without adequate housing or means of garbage disposal?"

Dr Mdalose criticised the fact that the conference was not dealing with rural inadequacies.

He urged delegates to ensure that the rural sanitation problem was put on next year's conference agenda.

In a paper on Malaria Control in Natal and KwaZulu, prepared by

Mr R.H. Short and Mr S.M. Ngxongo, conference delegates were told that the main objectives of control were:

- to prevent morbidity caused by malaria;
- to eliminate or reduce mortality ascribed to malaria;
- to reduce mosquito vector population.

These objectives are difficult to achieve because of the delicate

balance and interaction between the parasite, vector, human host and environment.

In Natal/KwaZulu the control of the parasite by detection and treatment of malaria infections, and the reduction of the vector population to minimise the potential for disease transmission, is a co-ordinated effort involving constant liaison at both grassroots level and management level.

The Natal Witness,

conference