

AP1991-7-6-9

Sunday Times 9 June 1991

ANC dissidents 'in secret society'

Sunday Times Reporter

A GROUP of ANC dissidents has set up a secret society within the organisation to rid it of the old guard members, claims Africa Confidential, an authoritative London-based publication.

The group calls itself *abaphantsi* (ancestors) and has an oath-taking ritual for recruits similar to that used by the Mau Mau in Kenya.

The publication, which is alleged to have close links to British intelligence, claims the group was set up in Soweto in mid-May.

The group's main targets are ANC treasurer Thomas Nkobi, secretary general Alfred Nzo, the head of the military wing, Joe Modise, and Josiah Jele, who is organising the ANC's crucial leadership election in July.

They are held responsible for "aberrations" of the movement in exile.

Africa Confidential claims the development of the group also stems from a growing unhappiness with the leadership and from fears that the election in July will be rigged in favour of the old guard.

INKATHA'S Atlanta-based US representative, the Reverend Sipho Mzimela, got a call from TransAfrica, the sanctions lobby, last week. The caller wanted details of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's forthcoming visit, presumably to co-ordinate TransAfrica's counter-measures.

"Do you know who we are?" she asked. Mzimela did know, of course, but let her explain anyway.

"We are the organisation that is fighting apartheid."

"Oh," said Mzimela, with a mischievous twinkle. "I thought apartheid was a great source of income for you." The line went dead.

After more than a generation genuinely fighting apartheid, mostly as a member of the ANC, Mzimela has not lost his sense of humour. Which is just as well since, in recent weeks, he has needed it badly.

He has been sorely vexed, not by the Inkatha Freedom Party's US critics — for whom he is more than a match — but by people who claim to be Buthelezi's most ardent fans.

SOME appear to be miffed that they are not running the visit; so miffed, indeed, that it might even be concluded that they are trying to mess things up in the hope that Mzimela will get the blame and Buthelezi will thus be persuaded to rely on them — as he always has hitherto — the next time he comes.

Then there are the entrepreneurs.

One of them is David Barron, founder and chairman of an outfit called the Jefferson Educational Foundation, but readily mistaken for the smoother sort of Southern TV evangelist.

Barron volunteered his services to help arrange Buthelezi's itinerary and promptly moved to take control of the show, treating Mzimela as a slightly pesky houseboy and refusing to show him the letters he was sending to his "old friend" in Ulundi.

Mzimela tolerated this for a while. The foundation's letterhead was thick with influential names, many of them hailing from President George Bush's kinder, gentler wing of the Republican Party. Barron himself suggested he might even be able to fix up a meeting between Buthelezi and the Reverend Jesse Jackson, for he and Jackson lifted weights at the same gym.

However, by the end of last month, it was becoming clear that Barron talked a braver game than he played. Somehow, he could never quite confirm that the arrangements he was promising to make had in fact been made. Mzimela himself meanwhile quietly sorted out the important stuff — the



SIMON BARBER'S Washington Diary

meeting with Bush, for example.

Matters came to a head on May 31. The previous day, Mzimela received a copy of a fundraising letter Barron had sent Johnson and Johnson, Dresser Industries and, by his own claim, more than 40 other major US companies active in South Africa.

IN the letter, dated May 22, Barron suggested he had personally convinced Buthelezi to come to the US, adding that "the Chief Minister has graciously accepted our suggestion and presented the challenges for an upcoming visit... on the shoulders of the Jefferson Educational Foundation".

"Although working on the visit for just a few days, we have met tremendous successes, having scheduled commitments from President Bush and Secretary of State Baker and preliminary media/public relations advance operations that will yield the sort of national media attention the Chief has always deserved."

In fact, he had done nothing of the kind. Mzimela had arranged the Bush appointment through Secretary of State for Africa Herman Cohen. At that stage, no one at the State Department knew anything about a Baker meeting. As for the other "advance operations", even the description "preliminary" would have been a vast exaggeration.

Then Barron came to the point: "Our major obstacle at this point is that Jefferson is straining with the enormous deficits we've run up on our South Africa desk, for which we have insufficient funding commitments. We are now faced with the reality that the Chief Minister will not be able to make the most of this trip unless we raise the necessary funds."

"Please help us obtain a \$20 000 (R56 000) to \$25 000 (R70 000) one-time com-

mitment from your company today."

This was outlandish on several counts. First, the idea that the foundation, which comprises a small office and fewer than five full-time employees, runs a "South Africa desk" as if it were the State Department itself, is egregious.

Second, Barron states elsewhere in the letter that the "deficits" he referred to were run up escorting various congressmen to South Africa. Those congressmen will be delighted to know that their junkets were deficit-financed since they are under obligation to know and disclose the source of anything of value they may receive in connection with their public duties.

FAR and away the greatest outrage, however, was the request for money in Buthelezi's name — as Barron himself had every reason to know since the chief personally told him not to engage in fundraising efforts. Buthelezi has a strict policy against soliciting corporate donations for fear of compromising his free market, anti-sanctions stance. Barron now says he misunderstood.

When Mzimela attempted to tackle Barron on this question at the latter's Washington office, Barron lost his temper. According to Mzimela and, separately, Dawn Gray, a church member who was also present, Barron erupted: "Get you're black a** out of here" and kicked Mzimela's briefcase across the room.

With the Chief's trip still only half-arranged, he then went on holiday to South Carolina.

Reached last week, he denied the racial slur, but admitted that he had ejected Mzimela abusively.

After the scene, Mzimela and Barron wrote to Buthelezi; the former to insist that the foundation be relieved of any further responsibility for the visit, the latter to abort Mzimela's quite justified demand.

IT is not to Buthelezi's credit — but may well reflect appalling and self-interested advice he was getting elsewhere — that he refused to side with the Inkatha representative. Instead, in a private letter whose contents Barron was only too happy to divulge, he threatened to cancel the trip unless the two "buried the hatchet".

They have — and one can only applaud Mzimela for his dedication in so doing. He, at least, understands the importance of the visit coming off well. For, if the visit goes badly, it will only encourage those who wish to believe the chief is marginal to step up their attacks on him. And that, as we have seen, means more bloodshed.

Sunday Times
9 June 1991

THE WAR OF THE IMPIS

Sunday Times
9 June 1991

The combatants carve their territory tree-line by tree-line, stream by stream, path by path

Brutal

The Natal war came to Richmond, they say, in a squabble over a stolen R4 automatic rifle. Five months later the villages of Ndoleni and Magodo, once secure ANC strongholds, lie abandoned. Fifty people have died, thousands are homeless.

The rifle, a treasure beyond price in a war-torn province, was probably stolen from a soldier, drunk or careless. A gang from the Pateni area used it in an attack on the home of Peter Nkabinde, father of a local ANC leader in the neighbouring bailiwick of Magodo.

In that fight, the villagers say, two Inkatha members were killed and the R4 fell into the hands of the Comrades. The Inkatha people of Pateni wrote politely to ask for the return of the rifle, but they were refused. Then the real war began.

It swept the Comrades, along with innocent families, out of Magodo, and out of Ndoleni. One group ended up in an ANC-run refugee camp in an old warehouse near Maritzburg which belongs to the French government. Bewildered, they live on handouts and wait for "the war of the weapon" to run its course so that they can go home again.

The civil war between Inkatha and the ANC has devastated parts of rural Natal and the province's black townships. It is a brutal and often under-reported conflict, and civil war is the only way to describe it.

About 4 500 people have died since 1984 in battles often fought only kilometres away from the highways, sometimes within sight and earshot of the condominiums and villages of Natal's coastal Playbelt.

The combatants carve their territory tree-line by tree-line, stream by stream, path by path. Rows of burnt-out houses mark the frontiers of this war.

It has happened in Mpumalanga township and in the Edenburg Valley near Maritzburg, in Greytown, Umgababa, Umbumbulu district, in the Table Mountain area and within three kilometres of Louis Botha airport in Durban.

Relief workers claim there are

Rural Natal is still locked in a largely hidden civil war. BRIAN POTTINGER reports on a visit to the area

now 60 000 people who have been displaced by the fighting which routinely erupts throughout Natal — from Port Shepstone in the south to the Tugela in the north. This is surely an exaggeration. Government statistics put the figure at no more than a few thousand.

Yet, throughout the province, there are pockets of these refugees with their ubiquitous bundles — and the indications are that their numbers may grow.

The course of the war is obscured by confusion, by accusation and counter-accusation, but in broad terms it can be said that the Comrades launched their attacks on the traditional leaders, many of them Inkatha members, from about 1986 onwards, and swept them out of large stretches of Natal.

The old men, the indunas, gathered their retainers and systematically prepared for war. A year ago, perhaps, they swept back. Large, well-organised Impis, often 100 or 200-strong, rampaged through the villages in search of the Comrades. Civilians, all too often, got in the way and died.

Now, ANC sympathisers date the conflict from last year; Inkatha sympathisers from 1986 or 1987. Both, however, acknowledge that it is a fight for territory.

There appears little the political leaders can do to bring the fighting under control. Much of it is localised and deeply personal. The events of Ndoleni and Magodo prove the point.

There, the local chief was an Inkatha member, but he did not push a party line or try to repress other organisations. He could, conceivably, have survived the tumult, as other chiefs and indunas have done, by elevating his traditional position above his Inkatha affiliations.

It did not work that way. The chief was under pressure. "The

Sunday Times
9 June 1991

(1)

KEN OWEN ON SUNDAY



DEAR Breyten, Will you please, in Heaven's name, stop your piteous wailing? It's unseemly. Besides, it frightens the children. I am not in the habit of writing open letters, but you have, as a famous poet and political figure, put on the public record your disillusionment with the country of your birth, and have confessed to the abandonment of your hopes for our future. This cry of anguish cannot be left to stand as the last word. Perhaps, from your distant haven in Paris, you see more clearly than do we who live amid the blood and smoke of the revolution. But you do not make it any easier for us, who must struggle to keep up our courage, when, in your poet's pain, you resort to wild lamentation, and, if I may say so, to mad prophesies. Just to set the context, let me repeat what I said at the start of this turbulent period (was it less than 18 months ago?): "Bliss it is in this dawn to be alive." After all, man, the Group Areas Act has toppled this very week. Have you lived in Paris so long that you have forgotten the monstrosity of that law? I cannot forget. Specifically, I cannot forget the day, nearly 35 years ago, when I asked one of those dreadful commissars of apartheid how he justified moving Indian trad-

ers from their homes and businesses in the centre of Pretoria to the bare hills beyond Iscor.

His reply left me sick: "The Indians must realise that their stranglehold on the retail trade of this country is coming to an end."

Suddenly I grasped the full, ugly truth: the assault on the property rights of the Indian traders concealed a hidden agenda: to loot the Indian community, to displace them from commerce by shifting them out of town. For the first time, I fully understood how truly vulnerable to oppression are those who are deprived of secure property rights.

These days, I listen with contempt to the assertion that apartheid (like communism!) was a well-meant experiment that failed. It was not. It had an evil intent to break people's power of resistance, and to steal their land and their homes and their businesses.

(Ironically, that episode also alerted me to the truth that the communist assault on private property is nothing but a prelude to enslavement, and so I have been condemned, like you, to fight on two fronts at once. It has not been easy for either of us.)

Since that day I have carried the Group Areas Act on my back, like the hump on a camel or on a dwarf, from

Tramway Road to District Six, from Cato Manor to Sophiatown to Fordsburg, and every step of the way I have tasted bile.

What bliss, then, to see the monstrous thing crash, like Lenin's statue in Addis Ababa, into the African dust! What joy to have lived till this day!

AND here you come, whimpering from afar, to spoil it all with your terror and your childish disillusionment. You see the transformation of South Africa in the crudest terms, as a mere struggle for control of a totalitarian state, and you pour scorn on the ANC's leaders — an aged elite, you call them, "royalty gone mad". You do not see the new country struggling to be born.

You say you can never fit into this society again, you accept the accusation that you are running away, but then you slide back into the equation: "We" shall not succeed in building a democratic state; "we" shall explore the infinite declensions of barbarism.

This is really all too gloomy. I must confess to a suspicion that you have been overwhelmed by the shock of your visit — it is the shock of self-recognition — and that you are constructing a justification for flight. There is no need: If you prefer Paris to South Africa, you are a civilised and sensible man. Be happy, and visit us, pray, from time to time.

But there is no need to exaggerate the sins or weaknesses of the ANC. Heaven knows, I have been merciless

in my criticism of that poor organisation's errors, but I have also watched with growing hope and pleasure the change that has occurred as the ANC and its supporting organisations encountered reality.

IT'S not simply that Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki have proved to be moderate and principled men; even Chris Hani, I suspect, is less fierce than his speeches, and all of them have clung to the process of negotiation through thick and thin. If the ANC horse could throw its communist rider, it might well come within the ambit of normal political contest as you understand it in the civilised West.

Meanwhile, the country has gone through an immense transition with

Sunday Times 9 June 1991

Self-satisfied

WITH more than a hint of moral smugness, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans has pronounced sanctions a success — the implication being that sanctions, rather than the stroke of fortune that brought President De Klerk to power, account for South Africa's change of direction.

Anybody who understood the ferocious character of former President PW Botha will know that, had his health not failed him, he would — as Dr Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert once remarked — have gone into siege “with a smile on his face”.

However, grant Mr Evans his right to his opinion; it is a popular one among those who brought sanctions on our head, and it has been contrived to obscure the cost of

sanctions. That cost may be seen, if Mr Evans wishes to report back truthfully to his countrymen on what they have wrought, in a wrecked economy, in insurmountable unemployment, in markets lost (to the Australians among others), in deprivation, hunger, disorder and violence.

This country will not fully recover in a generation. The sanctioners, Mr Evans among them, may take what moral satisfaction they can from the “success” they claim. As consistent opponents of sanctions, we prefer to attribute the end of apartheid to a moral revival among Afrikaner elites, and we are glad we had no part in the policy of starving blacks until the whites gave up. The starving will continue for a long time. Congratulations, Mr Evans.

Zulu king not above politics

King Goodwill Zwelithini's call for an end to violence was, to me, very ambiguous and hypothetical. He gave the impression that the tears and anxieties surrounding Zulu impis in the communities of the PWV areas were unfounded and exaggerated.

As a Zulu, I hereby publicly renounce my allegiance to him as a king because of his biased political stand. Contrary to his statements, it is clear to every reasonable observer that he is not above politics. He sides with the IFP.

May I remind him that the

Jeppe station train massacre, the Sebokeng massacre, the Alexandra massacre, and the recent Swaniville massacre, to say the least, were all committed by Zulus connected to the IFP.

When is he, as the king of the Zulus, going to condemn these horrendous and barbaric acts of aggression? These are not just rumours or unfounded allegations, as all the suspects in the above massacres have been positively identified.

I would like the king to please tell us when are we, as Zulus,

going to walk proudly in this country and not have this atmosphere around our necks?

Mr Buthelezi says Chief Albert Lutuli carried "traditional" weapons too. Well said. I would now like him to tell us on which occasion Chief Lutuli carried "traditional" weapons to a political rally.

When did Chief Lutuli use his "traditional" battle-axe or spear to maintain and gain leverage for a political party?

Shame on our "leaders".

Muziwandile C Chidi

Vosloorus.

Inaccurate report about Zulu patron

YOUR report regarding Mr John Aspinall (Sunday Star, June 2) incorrectly stated that he had "personally financed" a R2.5 million "round-the-world trip" for KwaZulu Chief Minister and Inkatha Freedom Party president, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Furthermore, that Dr Buthelezi has "repaid" him by inviting Mr Aspinall to speak at a packed rally of Inkatha supporters in Soweto recently. This too was untrue.

Mr Aspinall, who has studied the history of the Zulu nation for many years, was invited to speak at the gathering (imbizo) by His Majesty the King of the Zulus, not Dr Buthelezi. Both are friends of Mr Aspinall and the king asked him to speak to his people about the past.

Dr Buthelezi did travel to London, Zurich and Toronto as the guest of Mr Aspinall, Sir James Goldsmith, Mr Conrad Black, and a German industrialist.

The purpose was to enable him to speak about the Inkatha Freedom Party to prominent people in politics, business and in the media at dinners that were hosted by Sir James Goldsmith in London, Mr Conrad Black in Toronto and the German industrialist in Zurich.

Mr Aspinall paid for airline tickets to Toronto and Sir James provided transport from London to Zurich. Donations to the IFP of nearly R100 000 were raised on this trip. In the past Mr Aspinall has given donations to the KwaZulu Conservation Trust and to our scholarship fund. His love of the Zulu people is highly valued.

Suzanne Vos
Press/Information
Inkatha Freedom Party

Johannesburg.

Review Star 9 June 1991

Joe Slovo still dreaming of a socialist Utopia

Patrick Laurence

JOE SLOVO, general secretary of the South African Communist Party and senior member of the African National Congress national executive, admits to being an "unrehabilitated utopian."

He remains convinced that socialism provides the path to Utopia, where "one person does not live off the labour of another". If socialism is not the answer for the "wretched of the earth," there is no answer, he avers.

Faced with the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe and the crisis threatening the Soviet Union, Mr Slovo has thought long and hard about where socialism in these countries went wrong.

His diagnosis, as outlined in his discussion paper "Has Socialism Failed?" and in an article in the latest edition of "The African Communist," is that socialism lost its bearings there because it became separated from democracy.

Hence, as Mr Slovo makes clear in an interview, he is determined to ensure that the SACP is a guardian of democracy in SA. By democracy he means multiparty democracy.

It has meant excising Stalinism from the SACP. He succinctly defines Stalinism as "socialism without democracy." But in his search for a surer path to the socialist millennium, Mr Slovo goes a step

further: he rejects Leninism or what passes as Leninism.

"I believe that a sizable portion of the diet of so-called Leninism on which we were all nourished is really repackaged Stalinism," he says in "The African Communist." "It is Stalinism in search of legitimisation."

A pivotal Leninist concept which Mr Slovo critically questions is the "dictatorship of the proletariat."

While a proletarian dictatorship — like a state of emergency — may be temporarily necessary during "unique moments of revolutionary chaos," it cannot be elevated to a permanent prescription for socialist government.

Mr Slovo is thus trying to strip Marxism of its Stalinist and cruder Leninist accretions.

Re-emphasising his and the SACP's commitment to multi-party democracy during an interview, he says that the concept of a one-party state will not be found in the writings of Marx or Engels. It has, as he puts it, no pedigree in the "classics of Marxism".

But — and it is a very important "but" — Mr Slovo's commitment to democracy goes beyond his quest to see the establishment of a multi-party democracy based on one person, one vote. It extends to economic democracy.

Minority control in South Africa, whether of the political process or of the commanding heights of the



Joe Slovo, general secretary of the South African Communist Party and a leading member of the ANC's national executive committee, believes socialism is the only answer for 'the wretched of the earth'. He will appear on 'Agenda' on TV1 tonight at 8.15.

economy, must be brought to an end, Mr Slovo says.

As he sees the situation from his perspective as an interlocutor for the ANC in negotiations with the ascendant whites, government and big business are reconciled to the advent of political democracy but they are nervous of — and opposed to — economic democracy.

Democracy, in its fullest sense, means empowerment and that implies more than the enfranchisement of all South Africans; it necessitates breaking the stranglehold of a handful of companies on the economy and addressing the racial imbalances in the distribution of wealth.

"A future South Africa in which all adults have the vote and can cast a ballot once every few years for a party of their choice, but in which the present economic realities cannot be changed, will be a profoundly undemocratic South Africa," Mr Slovo says.

He goes on to spell out the "eco-

nomic realities" which would, if left unchallenged, make a mockery of political democracy.

"In South Africa today the richest 5 percent of the people own 88 percent of the wealth. The white population, constituting 14 percent of South Africa's population, earns 80 percent of the monthly pay packet, while the remaining 88 percent earn 40 percent."

Quoting economic analyst Robin McGregor, Mr Slovo says four huge conglomerates — Anglo-American, Sanlam, Old Mutual and Rembrandt — control more than 80 percent of all shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

The enormous wealth and power of these companies was built up under apartheid or what Mr Slovo calls "racial capitalism." There can be no question of leaving "their race-based economic privileges" intact if democracy is to be implemented in South Africa.

He is emphatic on another point: apartheid and capitalism in South Africa have not been incompatible or dysfunctional; they have supported one another historically.

"You cannot separate capitalism and apartheid in South Africa," Mr Slovo says. He dismisses as fallacious the idea that capitalism is antithetical to apartheid, arguing that all the requisites for apartheid — native reserves, pass laws, migrant labour and the compound system — were in place, courtesy of big business, before Hendrik Verwoerd took power.

The proposed remedies to the concentration of economic power are still being considered by the SACP and its ally, the ANC. They cover a wide spectrum of options, Mr Slovo says.

They include rigorously enforced anti-trust laws, "fiscal devices" meaning, presumably, higher taxes for the corporate rich, joint enterprises between the state and big business, and "nationalisation in some cases". On the last point, Mr Slovo says pointedly: "I don't exclude that."

The ANC has published discussion documents on its economic policies. The SACP is working on a major position paper offering a socialist perspective on a post-apartheid economy.

Mr Slovo is concerned, too, over the concentration of "control" in the

newspaper industry. The print media, he says, are basically controlled by four conglomerates: Argus, Times Media, Naspers and Perskor.

"These huge print-media conglomerates are in turn controlled by bigger monopolies," he adds, naming them as Anglo, Sanlam and Rembrandt.

Mr Slovo contends that control of the newspapers by these companies distorts the flow of information, with inimical consequences for democracy.

"Having a choice is one thing. But if the choice is based on limited or highly distorted, prejudiced information, the quality of democracy is diminished."

While these newspapers today quote the SACP and ANC leaders, every word they utter is countered by a hundred words of polemical attack from their opponents, Mr Slovo maintains. For the ANC-SACP alliance "every game is an away game".

He wants to see a situation where all social forces have access to the media. "We have to work to undermine the monopoly," he declares. He does not say how that should be done.

He is, however, against nationalisation of the newspaper industry. "I would personally oppose a policy of nationalising the print media," he remarks.

Sunday Star June 9, 1991

Jacob Zuma set to be ANC deputy president

Sefako Nyaka

ANC Intelligence chief and southern Natal regional chairman Jacob Zuma will succeed deputy president Nelson Mandela when the organisation holds its national conference in Durban next month.

Mr Mandela would in turn succeed an ailing Oliver Tambo as the movement's president, sources close to the ANC revealed this week.

The decision, which follows intense behind-the-scenes lobbying has the backing of all the 14 regions and virtually assures Mr Zuma and Mr Mandela of the two top posts in the ANC.

Mr Zuma, described by Government sources as "a man of absolute integrity", led the advance party of ANC officials

that came into the country in March last year to pave the way for talks with the Government.

He later emerged as the key backroom strategist preparing the ground for the historic Groote Schuur talks between Government and the ANC.

Besides being a skilful negotiator, his nomination is also seen as an attempt by the ANC to dispel allegations it is a predominantly Xhosa movement.

The only other position with no clear contenders is that of treasurer-general. The experienced Thomas Nkobi is tipped to retain his position.

Although most of the 14 regions nominated Alfred Nzo for the post of secretary-general, some of the branches have put

forward the names of Eastern Cape ANC executive member the Reverend Arnold Stofile, PWV executive member Popo Molefe and the miners' leader Cyril Ramaphosa.

The nominations of Mr Nzo, Mr Ramaphosa, Mr Molefe and Mr Stofile, coupled with that of Mr Mandela and intelligence chief Mr Zuma, are seen as an attempt to present a top-four executive that is not heavily dominated by members of the SA Communist Party.

The expected showdown between the present NEC and branches seems to have been defused after agreement was reached that the executive be trimmed down to 100 instead of the suggested "unwieldy and mass-meeting-like 126".

Sunday Star 9 June 1991

'Hostel a base for Inkatha attacks'

Sefako Nyaka
RESIDENTS of Boipatong this week claimed the disused and dilapidated KwaMadala hostel on the edge of Iscor's Vanderbijlpark steelworks was being used as a springboard for Inkatha attacks on residents in the Vaal and the western Transvaal. Police said this week

that during a three-hour raid on the hostel recently only one man was arrested for unlawful possession of ammunition. According to residents of the nearby Boipatong township the hostel was closed in the '70s but Inkatha members broke in and took occupation in July. Many of the people living in the hostel are

unemployed and have been bussed in from Natal recently.

Residents claimed that the attackers who killed 13 people with AK-47 rifles at the Sebokeng hostel beerhall were staying in the hostel. They claimed they recognised one of the gunmen as an Inkatha warlord resident at the hostel.

Police liaison officer Captain Piet van Deventer confirmed that information about the alleged warlord and the car seen at the attack was given to the police.

"The car was traced by the police. It was stopped and searched but no weapons could be found which could be linked to the attack. There was no witness or any evidence linking the occupants of the vehicle to the attack," Captain van Deventer said.

A few weeks ago police had to intervene when Inkatha members from the KwaMadala hostel stopped an ANC march and tore up posters and flags. The demonstrators were marching to the local Boipatong police station to present a mem-

orandum to demand, among other things, the scrapping of the hostel system and a ban on traditional weapons.

KwaMadala hostel inmates were involved in an attack on the Sebokeng hostel last year, residents claimed. They said that since July, National Union of Metalworkers members have been the target of more than 24 attacks resulting in the deaths of more than 100 people.

Two buses, ferrying workers from the KwaMasiza hostel, were machine-gunned last year, allegedly by KwaMadala hostel inmates.

Local residents claimed that in the past weeks several busloads of Inkatha members were seen entering the hostel

in the dead of night.

The most horrific attack in which inmates were implicated was the night vigil massacre on January 12 when 39 people were mowed down by AK-47s and blown up by hand grenades.

All the accused in the trial, on applying unsuccessfully for bail, gave their address as KwaMadala hostel. They were not Iscor employees.

The leader of the Inkatha local committee, Fanyana Zulu, claimed permission for the accused to live at the hostel was given by Iscor's housing manager Solomon Basson.

This was denied by Mr. Basson who said only Iscor workers were allowed to live on the premises.



The aftermath ... A merry-maker lies dead amid the debris at Erika Tavern in Sebokeng on Sunday night. Pic: LEN KUMALO

Vaal mourns

SOWETAN 9 JULY 1991

once

again

FIVE more people have died under AK-47 bullets in Sebokeng as police continue in their struggle to unravel escalating acts of terror in the township.

The five men died at the Erika Tavern in Zone 7, Sebokeng, when two gunmen sprayed AK-47 bullets at about 100 patrons on Sunday night.

Four of those who died were Jabulani

By **THEMBA MOLEFE**

Sithole, Whitey Zenzi, Teboho Tladi and a man from Welkom known as Ghana.

Police said no one had been arrested for the carnage. Of the 10 people who were admitted to the Sebokeng Hospital, nine were discharged on Sunday night.

One man, a notorious local mobster, has been linked by witnesses and the police to Sunday night's slaughter as well as to other

● To Page 2

Vaal mourns once again.

SOWETAN Tuesday July 9 1991



Mrs Sister Mfene, owner of the Sebokeng house of death, trying to comfort her daughter Jeanette yesterday. Pic: LEN KUMALO

Five die in AK attack

From Page 1

acts of mayhem in the township.

Witnesses told *Sowetan* that the mobster and his girlfriend, who is also known, were seen in the area before and after the attack on the shebeen.

He was also allegedly spotted in Boipatong before the attack on an ANC official's house where three people were killed under the same circumstances last Wednesday.

Last Thursday, a man was charged with intimidation and released on R1 000 bail after the slaying of three members of the Sotsu family in Boipatong.

The complainant in the intimidation case, Mrs Constance Sotsu, was one of those killed, together with her daughter Margaret and grandson Sabata.

She was killed after she had complained to the police about the same man now linked to the attack on her house, the latest carnage at Erika Tavern and to the February 23 vigil massacre which also took place in Zone 7.

Vaal police spokesman Captain Piet

van Deventer confirmed the same suspect was released on bail after Mrs Sotsu's complaint.

The man, a notorious car thief and mobster, was among eight people released on bail in the vigil massacre case in which 28 people were killed when gunmen opened fire at the funeral wake of ANC supporter Christopher Nangalembe in Sebokeng earlier this year.

Some of the survivors of the Erika Tavern onslaught yesterday described the events of the latest carnage.

Mr Jacob Sithole (36) said he saw a balaclava-clad black man open fire with an AK-47 rifle at unsuspecting patrons at about 9.35pm.

Mr Lazarus Mfene (24), who manages his parents' tavern, said: "The whole thing lasted about 10 minutes. The first attack lasted about five seconds."

"It was when I tried to switch off the stereo set, which was blaring as he fired on my customers, that he began shooting again."

The two attackers fled in a brown Cortina, police said.