

: ' / A WORLD CAMPAIGN

against military and nuclear collaboration with
MMQ O n; 5Q5o L93 . South Africa

meme 155mm x EAcsmihg

'Q tian Document 36692 Eage 1 Of 4

This is an article from the forthcoming (July) edition of Mayibuye. The
ANC is releasing it early in this form as an item of interest in the
present political climate. (22 June 1992)

- _____.__ ..U...t_..._____ _ _.

:aumm'm-muummz:::_:_._____u_nun:ILLELA"w...-...uuz:m::E_:u_z_.am":::%#::

. SPRINBEDK IN A THUNDERSTORM

3mg...-

From Source: within government circles and the ANC55 Intelligence
Department. MAYIBUYE has unearthed a chilling two-pronged plan of the NP
regime for the transition.

Operation Thunderstorm and Operation Springbok. These are the official
names of the regime's two-pronged strategy to thwart democracy. We need not
to deal with the most-February 1990 period. the final aim is to force the
ANC into an entrenched coalition with, at least, the NP.

Operation Springbok is complex, but simply stated, it aims to prevent the
ANC from forming a government on its own. Normally this would not be
aimed at. It would be fair competition where a party strives to attain
maximum advantage in a democratic dispensation.

The difference in this case is the existence of Operation Thunderstorm. As
its name suggests, this operation seeks to devastate the country in 18
months. It is meant to wreak havoc in order to force the ANC to accept
Operation Springbok.

Describing the core of Operation Thunderstorm, a senior official of the
ANC Intelligence Department says: "Every plan and action, particularly on
the question of violence, is aimed at weakening the ANC so that it is
eventually forced into a constitutional coalition. At the heart of the
plan is the NP goal to be the main partner in a future QDVEFHEH.
controlling all levers of power, particularly the army, police and
intelligence." The process of change, according to NP calculations, should
be controlled, contained and regulated by the government. This is with the
understanding that the status quo, with limited adjustments, would remain
intact and protected.

Operation Thunderstorm is designed to weaken the ANC physically through
violence and create a climate of uncertainty. The unbanning of the ANC and
the release of its leaders would then appear, in the eyes of blacks in
particular, as the cause of their terrible suffering. According to the
plan, when the NP finally forces the ANC into a coalition, the people
would only be too happy to see an end to the violence even if their
socio-political conditions are not addressed.

mummm .

Abdul S. Minty P.O.Box 2 Lindebarg Gaard, N-1007 OSLO, Norway - Tel: 4 72- 30 13 45 - Fax
: 472- 303381

#_____._____E

23/06 '92 12:25 347 2 303381 WORLD CAMPAIGN , a; C, 00. __I21_o&3__

. i

n
23/06 '92 12:26 1E47 2 303381 WORLD CAMPAIGN e .004
FORCES BEHIND THUNDERSTORM

M

The whole upirotation to pilot Thunderstorm was left in the hands of the Department at Militnrv Intelligence (DMI). The National Intelligence Service (NIS) was informed about the operation but does not carry out any ground operations. Sources that have been in contact with the oovornment on security matters allege that it is prepared to discuss most arms of the South African Defence Force. but presently it will not brook any discussions on the DMI.

The most astonishing factor is that NIB. 4 body responsible for domestic and Foreign intelligence. has apparently not tabled a report on its findings about the causes o\$ the violence and the highly unstable conditions in the country.

"There is no way that NIS can sav that it hes not investigated the highly volatile situation. Neither can it cook up a runort that exonerate: the DMI. the police and the army. N18 is composed of supposedly intelligent people who know that they could never put together a plausible story about he present situation without burning their fingers in the process. Their imple solution has 'been to present no report." says one intelligence 17151 der 1

But a report was presented to the State President concerning the role of the security forces in the violence. according to one MAYIBUYE source. It contained NIS's assessment of the allegationne that the security forces were behind the violence. The report was never made public.

ELEMENTS OF THUNDERSTURM

h__&__t_____

The main strategy of Operation Thunderstorm is to unleash violence using secret networks of the DMI and the "tormer" Security Branch of the SAP.

This is backed by intensive anti-ANC propaganda involving:

X Blaming the ANC and particularly Umhhonto we Sizwe for the violence. This would also include a deliberate camoaion of character assassination directed against selected ANC leaders.

3PK Fomehting divisions within the ANC and the alliance by trying to isolate the South African Communist Party and saucelled radical ANC elements. especially the Youth League. On the other hand. efforts would be made to portray the regime's response to violence positiVely. For this purpose. the South African Broadcasting Corporation and the regimels network in the printed media would stand it in good stead. In this way. the high-hahded actions of the SAP and SADF as well as their lack of resolve in deeling with oponents of the AND accused of violent crimes would receive as little criticism as possible.

Other measures envisaged as the plan matures are:

t gelective arrests of cadres of the RNC and its allies: and
x possible restriction of newsmapehs highly critical of the government.

I

The (irst and most important phase at Operation Thunderstorm has long been in operation. This is reflected partly in the support given to activities of organisations like Inketha. Another aspect is the'erming and deployment of criminal gangs, agent provocateurs. Askeris. Renameq Koevoet and others. The aim is to unleash random violence in black areas in order to dissuade people from openly supporting the ANC. For this purpose. both hit squads and armed bands from hostels are used.

005

23/06 '92 12:27 1347 2 303381 WORLD CAMPAIGN P
BEEFING UP THE ARSENAL

...e

The regime's plans have been adjusted from time to time to meet new realities. The general: behind these plans are said to be eerily concerned with: '

x campaigns of mass action:

t the euphemistic newspapers:

1 failure to substantially weaken the ANC: and

t the creation of viable self-defence structures in some communities.

As a result, a number of these general: and some senior NP leaders find the temptation to resort to more repression difficult to resist. The recent call-up and De Klerk's threat to declare a state of emergency reflect this tendency.

What is also alarming are the Bill: that the NP has rushed through Parliament. The Bill which will allow the regime to tap telephones and violate privacy is directed primarily at the ANC and its allies. "Recent exposures of its activities and plans by newspaper: have sent shock waves about the intelligence capacity of the opposition. The regime now aims to neutralise and destabilise this threat." says: an intelligence source. Related to this are 81119 an "direct and indirect intimidation". SADF conscription, detention without trial and so-called private armies. Can Fw de Klerk credibly claim not to know? No One outside the highest government circles seems to be privy to what the N19 report submitted to the State President contains.

But even if NIS chose to fudge the issues, the reality is that Operation Thunderstorm, in its sheer scale, funding and political objective (Operation Springbok), could not imaginably be conducted without at least the tacit involvement and knowledge of the head of state.

How Operation Thunderstorm works

Operation Thunderstorm aims to rent the idea of "black-on-black violence" in local and international public opinion.

Remembering, which appear not to be linked to any political rivalry, form part of this strategy. To continue matters further, the professional hit-Squads are provided with arms of Soviet origin, weapons previously associated with the ANC. The train and vigil massacre and, more recently, the murder of 18 people on the eve of June 15 are an example. All the murders were random and the police were quick to let that fact sink in.

Of the structures used in Operation Thunderstorm, remnants of the COB and others are supposed to act "independently". They also operate within Inkatha Freedom Party. Then there are Battalions 31 and 32 (mainly Angolan mercenaries), Reece 5 (mainly Mozambicans), Keesvoet (Namibians) and Reece 3 (former Rhodesians).

Training and support for elements within Inkatha and criminal gangs is crucial for the operation. Inkatha and other revelations about the collaboration of DMI, COB, Inkatha and the KwaZulu Police in the Mkhuzi training camp and other activities in the Eastern and Western Transvaal are only the tip of the iceberg, says a security operative. Tani wars in the Western Cape, Transvaal and other areas also form part of this strategy.

o

Haltele used as berrncku

In the PNV. huetele such as Mzthldphe. Alexandra, Mndala. Nhlezene, Jeppe. Denver and Thokoza are used as barracks and training centres. They also eat me place: 94 retreat 4dr #orces that have attacked townships. With otticiel uehctien. many former occupant! of hoetels have been driven out to be replaced by people who are oberativee of Operation'Thunderstorm. A number of Judge: and human rights groupe have protested at the release of ucomman criminals" lung beiare their jail term: expire. Sources within the security eateblichment say the reasen is not difficult to find: many of them have been recruited to take part in the violence. The operation elem reliea heavily an infiltrating agent: into AND structures. "The amaunte of money and other perks. including cnre. premised some of the agents have been regularly increased." says an AND security operative. Depending on the location of an agent, their brief. include the gathering at general intelligence and uphratanel information of immediate use in the violence as well as provocative actions aimed at discrediting the ANC. A special and very small DMI unit has been assigned to operate within and antral the activities of the extreme right-wing. "Because at the unreliability of some elements in the rightewing. the selection and recruitment Of persons to pilmt the right-wing campaign of terror lhd intimidation is considered as primary." says an AND eeniar intelligence aftieer. "By keeping some right-wing armed groups operational and their activities regulated, the regime would be able to force the ANC to accept the inevitability of a coalition with the NP."

Opspoor en Uitwisyf

The Nmrthern Transvaal Plan

Ae part at Thunderstorm. a special plan #or the Northern Transvaal has been worked out. One hf its central themes is "Dpspoor en uitwis van vyandelihe strukture" CTracking dawn and eliminating enemy structures). It is esSentielly beeed en the approach bf the Joint Management System. The plan involves examining the governmentis own fereee in this area and selecting individuale ta be given specific leadership tasks. .19 unit is to be - car- has been - created to mobilise the forcee necessary te carry out the plan. Propaganda is at the centre of the strategy, and it include; controlling media reports to discredit "radical" organisations. The plan Aims to influence the pbpulatiOh as follows:
 # Infiltratiun Of "enemy structures" to help eliminate them. Special targets will be the ANC. "radical" church leaderu. trade unionists. wmrkere' utructures in factories. etc.
 # Play the "Cherteriste" (ANC) egeinet the Black Cunecieuenese groupinge and tmment ethnic tensions.
 x Select certain coloured and Indian leaders from all levele ef society - business. religion. education. sports and medlcine - and cunvince them that the aovernment is right and realistic and that their tuture lies with the NP.

X Create a climate in which pru-NP farce: 1n Lehowa and Bazankulu can Operate freely.

MAYIBUYE enurCee are unable to enplain why this particular region has been singled Out. "We can only surmise that the strength of the extreme right-wing might have led to its eelectioniun as a pilot area." says an intelligence analyet. "However, the plan is applicable in any part of the country."

End