

## Three held on ANC kidnapping charges

THREE men were charged yesterday with conspiring to kidnap leading members of the African National Congress in London.

Frank Larsen 53, a psychologist, of Ashvale, Aldershot, Hampshire; his son, John Larsen 27, a computer technician, and Jonathan Wheatley, 28, of

Shalford, Surrey, were remanded in custody for a week at Lambeth magistrates court in South London.

The Larsens are understood to have come from Zimbabwe. All three have been held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act since their arrest last Friday.

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## Three held in kidnap case

THREE men accused of conspiring to kidnap unnamed members of the South African black opposition group, the African National Congress, were remanded in custody for a week by a London magistrate yesterday. They are John Terrence Larsen, 27, Frank Lyng Larsen, 53, and Jonathan Richard Wheatley, 28. Their addresses were not given in court. A fourth man has since been arrested.

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## Foiled, say police

A PLOT by South African secret agents to kidnap members of the African National Congress in London has been foiled, police believe.

Anti-terrorist squad detectives claim that agents employed by the South African Bureau of State Security planned to use Britain as a base for a series of attacks against the ANC.

The alleged kidnap campaign was uncovered by accident when one of the suspected agents was arrested for a drink driving offence earlier this year. Police searching him found

by JEFF EDWARDS  
Crime Correspondent

names and details of a number of members of the ANC, an organisation banned in South Africa.

The man was handed over to Special Branch who now believe he had been sent to London from Johannesburg with orders to kidnap key ANC members.

### Safeguard

A senior Scotland Yard source said: "The plan was to kidnap them and take them back to South Africa. It was a very organised group."

Labour MP Bob Hughes, chairman of the Anti-apartheid

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Movement, has asked for an urgent meeting with Home Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Mr Hughes says he wants assurances from Mr Hurd that the Government will safeguard South African and Namibian dissidents living in this country legally.

He said: "If it transpires that there is any official South African connection in this case, I believe any diplomats involved should be slung out."

A spokeswoman for the South African Embassy in London refused to comment on allegations that her government's Bureau of State Security might be involved in the alleged conspiracy.

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by FOREIGN STAFF

CAPETOWN: South African agents have been accused of mounting a campaign of death and abduction, spreading as far as Britain, against the outlawed African National Congress.

The claims were made yesterday despite a rare and specific denial from South Africa's National Intelligence Service of an alleged plot to kidnap ANC officials in Britain.

### Neutralise

An intelligence official said: "Should we be accused... then it is totally untrue. We are not involved at all."

However, ANC official Tom Sebina said recent attacks on members and sympathisers in South

Africa, Swaziland, Botswana and Britain were part of a campaign to "discredit and neutralise the ANC".

A report in the respected Johannesburg newspaper, Business Day, said that a campaign against ANC members both inside and outside South Africa had left hundreds dead and dealt a severe blow to the black opposition movement.

In separate incidents in places "as far apart as Swaziland and Britain", men suspected of being South African agents had attacked ANC members.

The movement appears to have been severely crippled in Swaziland, where up to 11 top members of the ANC's armed wing - Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) - have been killed this year.

Meanwhile, police

were standing by in the coloured suburb of Athlone, near Capetown, for the funeral of young ANC member Ashley Kriel, which will be attended by thousands of former schoolfriends.

School boycotts flared this week on a scale not seen since 1985 following his death in a shooting incident while police were arresting him.

### Riots

On Wednesday, 1,000 pupils gathered at Kriel's school and strung up placards saying "our school belongs to the ANC".

Police describe Kriel as a "ringleader" of the 1985 schools riots, who left South Africa to receive guerrilla training with the ANC in Angola. They say he returned to Capetown in April and was trapped in his hideout after a tip-off.