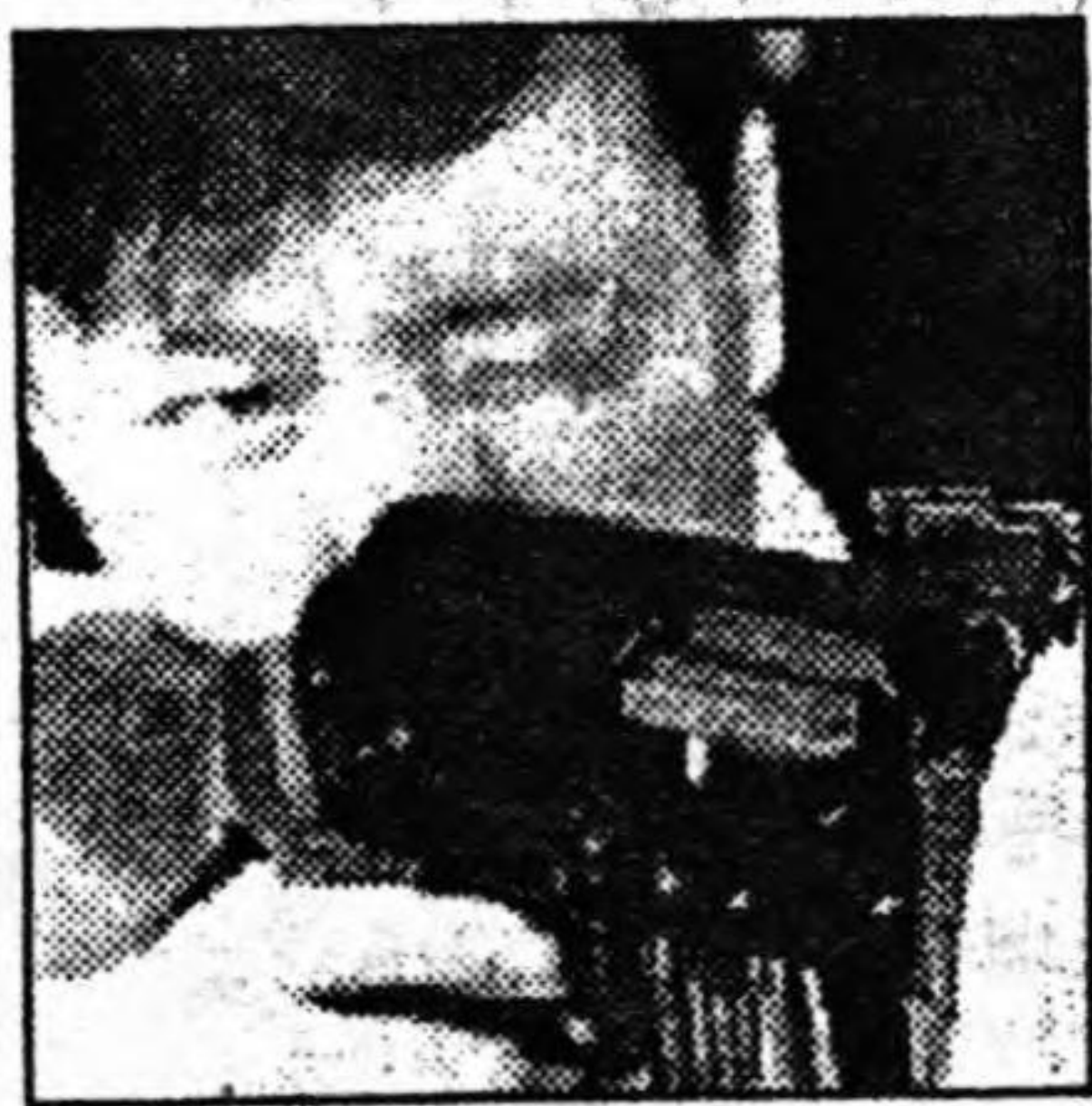


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ANC warned De Klerk leaders' lives were at risk 'Protect Hani' plea

David Beresford
Johannesburg

A POLITICAL storm was brewing in South Africa yesterday over the disclosure that police had not provided protection for the assassinated ANC leader Chris Hani or other key black political figures, despite protests to the government.

Police confirmed that evidence suggested a 40-year-old man of Polish origins, Janus Walus, carried out the killing, and he is expected to appear in court on a murder charge tomorrow.

South Africa remained comparatively calm after repeated appeals by Nelson Mandela, President F. W. de Klerk and others not to play into the hands of the killers by precipitating a backlash.

Gunmen fired automatic rifles at two cars driven by whites on a road east of Johannesburg without causing injuries. Police said the attacks appeared to be in retaliation for the Hani murder.

One person was reported to have been shot dead when police fired on a memorial service in Soweto. Police said they had exchanged shots with a gunman who had fired on them, but denied any deaths.

A black policeman was found shot dead in another incident in the township. Sporadic rioting was reported in the Cape.

The government faces allegations that the ANC specifically asked for police protection for Hani late last year, after at least two incidents which suggested attempts were being made to kill him.

Mr Mandela said his deputy, Walter Sisulu, had written last year to the minister of law and order, Hernus Kriel, protesting at the lack of police protection for Hani, who was regarded as a prime target for assassination. There had been no positive response.

The ANC secretary-general, Cyril Ramaphosa, said none of the organisation's leaders — including Mr Mandela himself — had been given any police pro-

"This act of senseless violence cannot dim the memory that the world will carry of him as a man committed to justice and equality."

US secretary of state, Warren Christopher

"Those responsible for this terrible deed are demented enemies of justice, democracy and peace."

ANC leader Nelson Mandela

"Deeds such as this . . . place all South Africans in danger and undermine the work of people of goodwill."

President F W de Klerk

"Someone doesn't want us to have a new South Africa."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

tection. They had not sought personal police bodyguards but expected that their homes at least would be given security protection.

Leaders of the Tripartite Alliance — the ANC, the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions — stressed their determination to press ahead with the negotiating process.

But the assassination gave rise to renewed tensions between the government and the Transkei when the homeland's leader, Major-General Bantu Holomisa, issued a statement accusing the government's covert forces of responsibility.

A government spokesman reacted angrily, describing the statement as an "irresponsible outburst," warning that "the instigation of violence from any quarter" would not be tolerated and that "appropriate steps" would be taken "to address any threats in this regard."

Details about Mr Walus's personal background suggested he

had rightwing political links, but there was still no hard evidence last night that the killing was part of a conspiracy.

Unconfirmed reports said a "hit list" was found in his home in Pretoria, but that the wide spectrum of targets — ranging from a judge to a Afrikaans political correspondent — suggested it might have been the work of a deranged mind.

At the same time ANC officials reported that there were indications a second vehicle and gunman might have been involved in the assassination.

The killer shot Hani in front of his teenage daughter as he got out of his car at his home in the town of Boksburg on Saturday morning.

A neighbour took the registration number of the gunman's car and Mr Walus was arrested in central Boksburg shortly afterwards. Two guns were found in his car and police said yesterday that ballistic and chemical tests indicated one was the murder weapon and that Mr Walus had fired it.

Local newspapers reported that Mr Walus, who immigrated to South Africa from Poland in about 1981, was a rabid anti-communist. But both the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) and the rightwing Conservative Party denied claims that he was a member of their organisations.

There was speculation that he might have been linked to a militant, purportedly break-away faction of the AWB which is said to have been preparing a civil war campaign.

The car Mr Walus was driving has been traced to the ownership of a Pretoria businessman who is a veteran of the Rhodesian bush war. He is reported to have left South Africa for Zimbabwe on Saturday.

President de Klerk said the authorities were preparing charges against Mr Walus. In remarks taped for a national television broadcast, he said justice had to be done as quickly as possible to reduce the tension created by the assassination on Saturday.

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Ring of fire . . . Police remove barricades erected by