

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1990 ★

Whistling, then the township slaughter began

Rich Mkhondo gives an eyewitness account

JOHANNESBURG—The slaughter in my home township of Katlehong began to the sound of male residents whistling from house to house to warn of an impending attack by Zulus.

Whistling is the usual night signal for men to gather in an open area to protect their families and homes, and on Monday night it heralded a horrific new eruption of violence in the township conflict.

Battle

In one killing on Monday a businessman's brains were splattered by a heavy calibre automatic rifle as he sat in his car. In another, a hefty man used a home-made knife to hack a youth all over his body, starting with his head.

The whistlers alerted the township after they heard that Zulus, mostly supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party, had just held a meeting in a hostel square and decided to retaliate for

the stoning and burning of a colleague's minibus.

Within minutes men, boys and some women in the township armed themselves with pick handles, spears, knives, automatic rifles, stones and other weapons.

The Zulus emerged from Kwesine Hostel, on the edge of the settlement of half a million people, and advanced towards the township. Shots rang from both sides and the battle began.

I saw a hostel dweller chop at a youth with a panga, and finish him off with a gun.

Repelled

I had gone to the battle zone to rescue my sister and her family after she telephoned me to fetch her from a particularly troubled part of the township because she feared for her family's life.

Several lifeless bodies lay strewn on open ground separating the hostel and the township. Township youths repelled the Zulu attacks, barricading streets with rocks and sheet metal.

The Zulus counter-attacked strongly and the battle intensified as houses and vehicles were stoned, damaged and looted.

The next day police confirmed 22 people had been killed in the carnage and that more bodies were being found. Dozens were injured and residents said the death toll could be much higher. — (Sapa-Reuter)

NATAL MERCURY, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1990

Three suspect killers shot in weekend drama

Crime Reporter

THREE people believed to be involved in the killing of two policemen last week were shot dead by the SADF and KwaZulu Police at the weekend.

On Sunday night the army received information and went to a house at Richmond Farm near Kwa Mashu where, after a fierce gun battle, they recovered an AK 47 rifle and a 9mm pistol belonging to one of the dead policemen.

The policemen, Det-Const T M Zungu and T R Mbatha were shot dead at Richmond Farm last Thursday. A civilian, believed to be a brother of one of the men, was also killed during the attack.

A police spokesman said an operation was mounted on Sunday in search of suspects at Richmond Farm.

When the police approached a house, a man emerged and point-

ed a gun at them.

The man was shot dead and the pistol, found to be empty, was recovered.

At another house, a man resisted arrest and threatened the SADF and police with a home-made gun.

He was also shot dead and the gun and R1 ammunition were seized.

Another man, identified as one of the suspects in the same case, was shot dead while allegedly attempting to escape.

Police said they were still looking for more suspects and were following strong leads.

ANC wants R26 m U S taxpayer hand-out

WASHINGTON—The ANC has proposed that almost the entire \$10 m (about R26 m) Congress set aside earlier this year to promote negotiations on a new constitution be forwarded to its own treasury to enable it to 'harness the tremendous political support' it claims it already enjoys in South Africa.

The formal request, complete with a detailed budget breakdown, is one of several under study by the State Department and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the quasi-Governmental entity named by Congress as one of the principal distributors of the funds.

Although Congress intended the money to be spent over two years on a variety of projects, the ANC wants \$9 587 062 (about R24,3 million) for

By Simon Barber

just one year's activities and to the exclusion of all other political viewpoints.

The ANC also asks that the funds not be channeled through the NED, whose charter calls for the promotion of pluralism, but via the American Committee on Africa, the leading US sanctions lobby, and the strongly pro-ANC Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights Under Law.

Equality

The primary objective, it says, is to ensure that the ANC begins constitutional negotiations from 'a position of proportionate equality' with the Government.

Under the proposal, a copy of which has been obtained by the Mercury, the US taxpayer is effectively asked to provide offices, communica-

tions, transport, salaries and operating expenses for the ANC's negotiating secretariat, plus, separately, for its Department of Legal and Constitutional Affairs (DLCA) and Women's and Youth Leagues.

The negotiation office (rent — R13 000 a month) would be staffed by 10 'specialised resource personnel', 45 research assistants, 15 typists, one computer specialist, one clerical assistant, and a 15-member Press team including 'journalists', photographers and video cameramen, each receiving the same salary of \$12 000 (about R31 000) a year.

The office would be fully furnished by the US. Equipment would include 15 personal

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computers, 20 laptop computers, three laser printers, two photocopiers, five telephone lines, fax and telex machines and a paper shredder.

Attached to the office would be a fleet of 40 cars and 10 mini-buses, all fueled and serviced at US expense. There would be a R5 000 000 budget for foreign and internal air travel.

Similar establishments would be funded for the DLCA and Women's and Youth Leagues, involving a total of 19 headquarters and regional offices, 60 more vehicles, 44 salaried officials and staff, plus funds for travel, seminars, conferences, 'commemoration meetings', mass rallies and the 'production of slogan-bearing consumables', including bumper stickers, leaflets and buttons.

Directions

This would assist the two Leagues in 'educating the most numerous strata of the South African population on the tactical issues of constitution making, the demand for a constituent assembly and the strategic aim of creating a unitary, non-racial South Africa'.

One of the Youth League's chief responsibilities is said to be 'guiding the militance of the youth in the new directions required by the current state of political life in South Africa.'

What the US would be getting for its money would be 'a strong, mass-based ANC, which would be in a position to effectively harness the tremendous political support that it enjoys in South Africa today'.

US officials have said privately that the ANC can expect to receive 'less than half' the \$10 m (about R26 m) for 'infrastructure' purposes, and none of it for vehicles.

ANC concern at failure to stop violence

Peace process

NATAL MERCURY

12 SEPT. 1990

under threat

JOHANNESBURG—ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela last night warned that negotiations would be jeopardised unless full powers of state were used to stamp out violence which has claimed the lives of more than 600 people in the past month.

As he was speaking East Rand township residents were barricading roads and forming watch committees to stand guard throughout the night in case of further attacks.

Speaking at the Union Buildings Mr Mandela sounded the strongest warning yet that the ANC leadership was finding it difficult to resist demands from supporters for arms to protect themselves.

A total of 32 people have been killed on the Witwatersrand since Monday night. At the time of going to press a gang from Vosloorus had moved into the Phola Park squatter

Mercury Correspondent

camp in Thokoza, setting fire to shacks and firing shots.

Violent orgy

In Johannesburg yesterday evening terrified Soweto commuters swelled taxi queues rather than board trains following violence yesterday morning when a panga-wielding mob hacked and stabbed passengers on a train travelling between Braamfontein and Johannesburg stations. One person was killed.

Mr Mandela yesterday led an ANC/Cosatu/UDF delegation which discussed violence in Natal with President de Klerk, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee and Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok.

The orgy of violence on the Witwatersrand also came under the spotlight.

Speaking after the meeting Mr Mandela said the Government had the capacity in a well-equipped army and police force to stamp out violence. 'I want them to use this capacity.'

Violence, he said, was threatening the peace process. The ANC would do everything in its power to keep peace talks on track, but if the Gov-

Eyewitness tells of slaughter:

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ernment continued to 'drag its feet' the process would be under threat.

At the Johannesburg station last night commuters who had witnessed the early morning attack described how people had leapt from the train to escape.

A middle-aged Sowetan identified only as Mandla, said he had seen a man's body at the end of platform 1 when he came into Johannesburg station about 7 20 yesterday morning.

As the sun set yesterday on Katlehong and Vosloorus, township residents were seen barricading not just main access roads but back streets in a bid to slow or halt Inkatha vehicles, police Casspirs and other patrolling security force vehicles.

Shoot-out

This morning local authorities in Vosloorus will demolish part of the Sotho hostel where Inkatha supporters three weeks ago gained a stronghold.

'There is concern among residents that the hostel dwellers are using the block as a hideout when launching attacks on them,' Vosloorus town council

spokesman Sydwell Mofokeng said last night.

Police liaison officer Capt Henriette Bester said 24 people had died in Katlehong, Thokoza and Vosloorus since Monday night.

Another person died and four were injured including a policeman after a shoot-out between police and other people in a private vehicle.

Two pistols and a revolver were seized by police after the incident.

Vosloorus residents said they witnessed police confiscate three AK-47 assault rifles from the hostel dwellers yesterday morning after about 2 000 residents converged on the Sotho hostel demanding its demolition. According to

the official police report one AK-47, a .38 special revolver and a .22 pistol were confiscated at the scene.

They said the inmates attacked and burnt out a water lorry from Sandton outside the Sotho hostel. Police last night confirmed this.

Impassive

Shortly after 2 25 p.m. Inkatha supporting hostel inmates set upon a house opposite the Zulu quarters of Vosloorus Nguni hostel, smashing windows and setting the house on fire.

Mrs Sophie Phiri managed to escape with her life but lost everything she owned in the blaze that swept through her house. Police, SADF troops and a group of hostel dwellers watched impassively from across the street as Mrs Phiri saw the remains of her home smoulder in the late afternoon sun.

Her daughter, Miss Ellen Phiri, said the incident had been reported

to the local police who told her they 'would only come out if there was a dead body involved'.

Reporters were stopped from taking photographs by a policeman carrying a machinegun and who refused to identify himself. 'You are not allowed to take pictures of policemen carrying weapons,' was his explanation.

ANC, Government clash over causes of ongoing violence

Peace process in the balance

By Peter Fabricius,
Political Correspondent

The peace process is facing its severest challenge as the townships descend into bloody chaos while the Government and the ANC bicker about the causes.

The ANC and the Government clashed head-on again yesterday when ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela said the Government's failure to stop the killing was threatening the peace process.

Mr Mandela urged the Government to use the full force of its security apparatus to end the violence. Constitutional Development Minister Gerrit Viljoen, however, accused the ANC of inconsistency in calling for security force action on the one hand, and accusing the security forces of prejudice.

Full force

Mr Mandela said the Government "has a very strong, effective and well-equipped army and police force and can easily use it. If it does, the violence will be something of the past."

Dr Viljoen and other Government officials shot back: "All along there has been an inconsistency in what Mr Mandela and other ANC leaders have been calling for. On the one hand they ask for the full force of the security forces to be brought to bear. On the other hand, the moment their supporters are in any way affected, those leaders say the security forces are prejudiced."

"There is an apparent unwillingness to admit any fault on the part of the ANC and its leaders."

President de Klerk said after meeting an ANC delegation under

Mr Mandela yesterday that he would consider the suggestions made by them to end the violence in Natal. But he pointed out that a solution to the problem depended as much on political initiatives as on steps by the Government.

He urged the ANC delegation to continue with the political initiative between itself and Inkatha.

Mr Mandela said yesterday the ANC would do all in its power to keep the negotiations on track.

But if the Government continued to "drag its feet" it would be difficult for the ANC to resist the call from its supporters for arms.

Mr Mandela said the ANC would continue to support the Government's security forces to it.

● A high-level working group should be established to help restore order.

● The security forces should remain impartial.

● Effective liaison and monitoring mechanisms should be set up between the Natal central command structure and the ANC.

● The state of emergency in Natal must go.

● The amendment of the Natal Code on Zulu Law regarding "cultural weapons" must be reversed.

Meanwhile security sources said they believed Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok would issue a statement today pointing to ANC involvement in the township violence.

Suggestions

The ANC published a memorandum yesterday of suggestions to end the Natal violence — which Mr Mandela said had been presented to the Government two weeks ago.

It recommended that:

● The central Government should establish a central command struc-

Plas 12-9-90

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Mandela's warning

PRETORIA — ANC deputy-president Nelson Mandela warned yesterday that the peace process could be in jeopardy if the Government failed to stem the violence in Natal and Transvaal, and said that security forces should be used to quell the fighting.

Ongoing violence in East Rand townships has claimed the lives of 24 people since Monday and police confirmed violence was continuing in Katlehong, Ennerdale and Phola Park last night.

Mandela told a news conference after a top-level ANC meeting with a Government delegation headed by President F.W. de Klerk that the ANC would do everything possible to ensure the peace process remained on track.

"No doubt the peace process is in distress," Mandela said.

"The Government came under heavy attack (during the meeting) for its failure to take visible measures to deal with the situation," he added.

A statement made by the President's Office after the meeting said De Klerk reiterated his deep concern about the conflict in Natal and gave the delegation opportunity to motivate their suggestions towards the alleviation of the problems. The input of the delegation, together with the documentation provided by them, would now be considered by the Government.

"The President also stressed that in handling the situation in Natal it is imperative that the Government must be seen to act impartially towards all the parties involved in the conflict. Bearing this in mind, the recommendations made by the delegation will be considered," the statement said.

Mandela said that the Government was told it should use its "very strong, effective and well-equipped army and police force" to stop the violence.

The central Government should take full charge of law and order in the entire Natal province and a central command structure to oversee all security forces in the area should be established so that there was a central point of reference.

'Peace process is in distress'

N/Wet news
12-9-90

- Effective liaison and monitoring mechanisms between the ANC and the central command of the province must be established;

- Prosecutions must be mounted against individuals where evidence of the commission of crimes exists;

- The state of emergency in Natal must go;

- Special courts and prosecutors must be established. An effective witness protection programme must be instituted in order to restore the system of justice in the province;

- The amendment of the Natal Code (on Zulu Law) on "cultural weapons" must be reversed, especially in view of rallies planned for Natal this coming weekend; and

- Protection should be given to chiefs who will address hostel dwellers and urge them to stop fighting.

Mandela said the Government "expressed no opinion" when the ANC pointed out there was a wide-spread demand from its people to be armed in order for them to defend themselves.

He confirmed he had said several times that the Government was conducting a war against the ANC.

Mandela said if the Government failed to end the violence the ANC would find it difficult to oppose demands that the ANC resume its armed struggle.

The ANC said in a statement after the meeting that other proposals included:

- A high-level working group between the Government and the ANC must be established in order to help with the restoration of law and order;

- The security forces must be impartial;

- The Azanian People's Organisation yesterday blamed the continuing violence on the Government, saying it was an orchestrated campaign to destabilise the black community and create the impression they were tribal conflicts. — Sapa.

16/11