

Black councillors continue to resign, despite calm

By Rohan Minogue

BLACK town councillors were continuing to resign, despite a lull in political activity over the festive season, the assistant general secretary of the Civics Association of the Southern Transvaal, Mr Cas Coovadia, said yesterday.

Mr Coovadia said that all but three councillors in the Pretoria township of Mamelodi had resigned.

A total of 11 councillors have now resigned in the township, the first being the former mayor, Mr Zikhali Ndlazi, in September.

The resignation yesterday, of Mr Peter Mphuthi, came after a CAST deputation had gone to the council offices, Mr Coovadia said.

A similar action had taken place in the Coloured township of Eldorado Park south of Johannesburg, but he did not know the outcome.

Over the past fortnight,

all councillors in Khuma and all but one in Ika-geng, both in the Western Transvaal, had also resigned, he said.

Locally planned actions would take place until mid-January, when CAST would reassess its campaign to force all councillors out of office.

Mr Coovadia estimated that 170 councillors of about 350 in the 50 townships where CAST was active had resigned.

Residents of Tokoza would boycott all businesses in nearby Alberton, the president of the Tokoza Civic Association and general secretary of CAST, Mr Sam Ntuli, said yesterday.

Mr Ntuli confirmed an earlier report that CAST and the TCA had called for the boycott, which would affect both White- and Indian-owned businesses, to protest at the disconnection of the township's electricity supply.

Township residents stopped paying rent and service charges in February, and Alberton Town Council disconnected the electricity supply last month.

Mr Ntuli, himself a resident of Tokoza,

blamed increased crime and violence in the township on the black-out and alleged collaboration between "the forces of violence, the Alberton municipality and the Transvaal Provincial Administration."

He queried what had happened to a R70 per household amount paid in September and October.

"This money was not used for what it was supposed to be used for — to pay for the electricity. It was used for other things, and we want an explanation of this."

The administrator of Tokoza, Mr Gert Muller, appointed after the councillors resigned in February, said on Wednesday that only 49 percent of households had paid the amount.

Mr Ntuli said the TCA had proposed an interim payment of R40 to get the supply reconnected but that negotiations with the Alberton Town council had broken down.

"They have refused to talk to us until the full electricity account is paid.

"We don't even know what the amount is. They are inconsistent with their figures."

Another Mamelodi councillor resigns

ANOTHER Member of the Mamelodi City Council, Mr Peter Mphuthi, yesterday announced his resignation.

His resignation brought to 11 the number of councillors who have so far resigned.

The first to resign was former mayor and the longest serving councillor, Mr Zikhali Ndlazi, in September this year. Nine more councillors resigned on Christmas Eve.

A spokesman for the Transvaal Provincial Administration said the TPA had not yet received resignation letters from the councillors who had said they were resigning.

Mamelodi Town Council liaison officer, Mr Veleleni Mashumi, said the Town Clerk, Mr J Nel, had also not received the resignation letters.

The move has now left the council with three members who include the mayor, Mr Simon Mokone, his deputy, Mr Edward Rammala and Mr Amos Mabotha. — Sapa.

91 police killed on duty in 1990

NINETY-ONE policemen have been killed in the line of duty during 1990; 65 of them in unrest-related incidents.

This shock statistic was disclosed last night by a spokesman for the Ministry of Law and Order, following attacks on 13 policemen during the Christmas period.

He said attacks on members of the force, from whatever quarter, were a matter for extreme concern.

There was reason to believe that in many instances the attacks against the police were orchestrated.

The spokesman said it was completely counter-productive and unaccept-

By Tony Stirling and
Cobus Oosthuizen

able to attack the police, which was an impartial and apolitical force there to serve all the communities of South Africa.

"An attack on the SAP is, therefore, an attack on the community," he said.

The SAP was a bulwark against disorder and chaos, and any attack against its members was senseless and against the interests of the country as a whole — particularly at the present, when the police were involved in trying to restore order in strife-torn areas.

Thirteen attacks against the police were reported during the Christmas period — nine of them on the Witwaters-

rand and four in the Eastern Cape.

A police spokesman was unable to give a breakdown of the individual attacks.

The liaison officer of the Witwatersrand, Captain Eugene Opperman yesterday said that persons pointing a firearm illegally at a policeman should expect that the member, fearing for his life, would take the necessary steps to protect him or herself.

"This includes the use of his or her firearm when necessary," Capt Opperman said.

Several attacks on policemen have occurred since Christmas Day.

Shots were fired yesterday with an AK-47 assault rifle at a police vehicle driving in Bekkersdal, Randfontein. The vehicle was hit but the policemen escaped unhurt.

Several houses were hit by the bullets but no-one was injured.

"Police did not have the opportunity to return the fire," Capt Opperman said.

He added that incidents where robbers, car thieves and other criminals shoot at police had escalated drastically dur-

91 police die

FROM PAGE 1

ing the past two years.

"The situation in South Africa was becoming more like that in the United States where law enforcement officers dare not even approach a vehicle which they had stopped for a traffic offence without having their firearms in the ready position," he said.

Certain police units have been issued with bullet-proof vests and/or

jackets to make use of during their duties.

The possibility of issuing each individual policeman with a bullet-proof vest or jacket was also being investigated.

"Certain security measures have also been taken in an attempt to safeguard the houses of policemen in Black townships," Capt Opperman said but added that for "obvious reasons" these could not be made known to the media.

TO PAGE 2

Natal Witness 28 Dec. 1990

by R.I. Jones

Stop quibbling about BST in milk

I REFER to your leader of December 8 on Bovine Somatotropin (BST), and the front-page report headed "Milk with hormone won't be sold" in the same issue. The use of this hormone has aroused irrational fears in the minds of people, merely because it is a kind of substance called a hormone, and because the popular media have chosen to pronounce on things they can or will not understand. Fortunately, more powerful lobbies than exist in this country have all but failed in their anti-BST campaign even in the U.S., where campaigning about food is a national sport. It's a luxury the overfed can easily afford to indulge in, there and here.

The facts are briefly as follows. All cows' milk naturally contains BST. It cannot possibly have any effect on humans other than giving nourishment, since for us it is just another nutrient, inactive except in the bloodstream of the species which produces it; it is a *bovine* hormone. Any digestive system destroys it like any other protein before it can enter the bloodstream, so if it could do anything at all it would actually have to be injected. Attempts years ago to use it therapeutically in humans just flopped: it simply did nothing.

As stated in a recent American journal: "The critics cannot come up with any worthwhile response to the articles published recently that carefully define the reasons why BST can be called completely safe for humans. The conclusions are irrefutable, because the science is sound and presented completely to the public ... Critics tried to bluff consumers into thinking that BST ... was unsafe. This side of the campaign has been waged in the public media,

where it isn't easily challenged, where technical terms sound frightening because perspective and technical understanding are lacking ... Lone voices cannot challenge the chorus of scientists who can declare, in simple language, that BST poses no health threat to humans. These scientists have gone on record with their statements in prestigious journals," including *Science* and *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Besides being safe to use, BST that has been artificially given to cows cannot be detected. How, therefore, do Creamline, NCD, etc, propose to prove when a farmer has used it? An unenforceable law or regulation is a bad one, and it can be safely predicted that most rational farmers will eventually honour any ban on BST in the breach rather than the observance. For sheer economic reasons, farmers who adopt its use will be less likely to fall by the way-side, provided their management is up to it in other ways. Stand up the farmer who, if it comes to the push, will choose to go under rather than use BST. So BST will come, just like all the other advances that have made modern dairying the efficient process that it is.

Arguments citing the so-called surplus of milk as a reason for prohibiting BST are the fallacious products of uncritical minds. In the first place, other common yield-enhancing practices would also have to be prohibited in order to limit production. Who is going to ban artificial insemination, proper feeding of cows, control of mastitis by means of antibiotics, fertility control by injections of "real" hormones (i.e. those governing reproductive processes)?

Secondly, there is no surplus of milk other than in the heads of offi-

cialdom. Even before exporting any milk or milk products, or feeding any to our animals (cats, calves, etc), South Africa's present total milk production is barely sufficient to give every human just 1½ litres a week. The average black person in this country consumes only 13 litres a year. Do you, Mr Editor, agree that we have a surplus? The marketers of milk and the slaves of so-called health regulations need to open their unseeing eyes to this fact, which is both distressing and challenging.

Distributors should stop their seemingly shoving for an increased share of the shrinking first-world market — it is a bone with little meat on it — and address the needs of the broad mass of the people. "Surplus" milk is processed at great expense for sale at a loss on a glutted world market, while in your own backyard innumerable children die every year or suffer permanent brain damage from kwashiorkor, which a cup or two of milk a day would prevent.

The current excuse that "the unrest situation" inhibits the marketing of milk out there cuts no ice, because the position long predates the unrest. Instead of intimidating farmers into eschewing new ideas for producing more milk more cheaply, distributors need to face the real problem, that of a conventional mindset. They should modify their quaint notions that all milk must be extracted in a quasi-medical building, cooled, tanked in stainless steel, tested, pasteurised, homogenised, standardised, advertised, flavoured, packaged, refrigerated and otherwise rendered unpalatable, indigestible, unaffordable and locally unobtainable to the majority of our population.

I understand that most blacks would prefer their milk to be taken straight from the cow and allowed to go sour without any frills; and that only the children have a certain enzyme needed to digest fresh milk, which causes stomach problems in adults. It is accordingly not difficult to conceive a system in which most of the milk produced in this country would go warm from the cow into a tank or oversized goatskin with a recyclable plastic liner on the back of a bakkie, to be driven into a rural area and sold to anybody who has a handy container (the same one that would hold the stainless steel milk that she rarely or never buys in a shop). Costs of distribution presently take about 66 cents of the consumer's rand, if she can find a place to spend her rand on milk; the goatskin route will reverse the figures and put milk/maas on every breakfast table in the land. So easy; why so difficult?

If each of the 20 million black people in our land could exercise his right to a litre a day, there would be a huge shortage of milk: production would have to be trebled or more. The incipient bickering about BST would then be seen for the irrelevant, emotion-charged claptrap that it is. Let us hear no more drivel about the (vanishingly small) danger of BST, nor about the (even smaller) real surplus of milk. What we have is a surplus of uninformed prejudice and interference, and a dearth of imaginative distributors. Perhaps the breweries ought to handle milk, too: they know how to do a job of marketing, unrest or no.

Better continue to direct your editorial energies towards stamping out real sources of danger to mankind, such as lack of decent housing, bad driving, smoking, crime, kwashiorkor, pollution, soil erosion, and inter-

ference in our lives by do-gooders; there are more than enough real problems to address without trying to rake up new ones that have no basis in reality. The Housewives' League and others should pause for a moment, and think how they would feel if the availability of milk were curtailed to their well-fed kids, not just to the underprivileged, by more silly measures imposed by the powers-that-be. Trying to stop BST is as pointless as trying to stop the well-established use of hormone implants in beef cattle. There is more merit in campaigning to banish the filthy cigarette fumes in the restaurants we rich sometimes patronise.

If the shops label "BST milk" and sell it cheaper, I will not even glance at the "BST-free" variety (a biological impossibility).

Overseas funds for exile support group

PRETORIA — The Minister of Justice, Kobie Coetsee, has given the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Repatriation of South African Exiles (NCCR) permission to receive funds from abroad for the resettlement of an estimated 40 000 exiles.

In a statement yesterday Coetsee said Mike Bester had been nominated to co-ordinate and expedite within the Government context the return of exiles and their integration into the community as well as to act as liaison between the various departments and organisations concerning the issue.

In addition the Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, had provided information to the NCCR regarding the *modus operandi* to be followed in order to collect funds for returnees.

Coetsee said any funds received from abroad for the return of the exiles may be managed by an organisation such as the NCCR, subject to the control measures "applicable to every one". — Sapa.

NATAL Witness 28 Dec. 1990

Liberal journalism: the defence of press freedom

SC: Your credentials label you as a "liberal journalist".

PL: I am quite comfortable with the pigeon-hole of liberal journalist ... I'm committed to the free flow of information and to an open society.

In the past such a position automatically put one in opposition to the Government. Is the prospective change of government going to find the liberal journalist up against people originally perceived as allies?

It shouldn't, because the liberal journalist should be committed to values, and to maintaining those values in the face of opposition from any quarter — including quarters which the liberal journalist in a different situation may in fact be sympathetic to.

But what you are really asking me is how do I feel about the prospect of having to defend liberal values against an ANC Government? Well, one has to soldier on, and if we have an ANC Government, and it's likely that the ANC at the very least will be a major component of any future government if not the Government itself, and it will probably feel the same temptations governments all over the world feel — of trying to control and manipulate the press. It's the duty of the press to

protect its freedom to its fullest ability irrespective of the source of the threat. How will the press fare under an ANC Government?

The ANC has stated it is in favour of a free press but I think one has to be cynical about people in power, irrespective of their ideologies, and prepare to defend press freedom. My prediction is that the press will have to be vigilant, and may have to be more vigilant. Because an ANC Government would be in a position to claim, with greater validity, that it

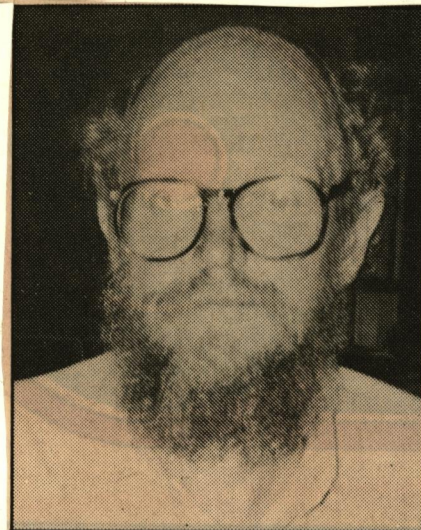
represents the majority of the people and that any curbs it may wish to place on the press have a greater authority or greater justification.

What curbs on the press have had a direct effect on you in the past?

I was prosecuted in 1973 for attempting to interview Robert Sobukwe and trying to send an article overseas. So my immediate and direct experience of the limitation of press freedom relates to that particular prosecution. I was sentenced to 18 months' jail, which fortunately for me, was suspended for three years. Consequently I'm very well aware of the curbs on press freedom which were imposed under the old Suppression of Commu-

The writing of veteran South African journalist Patrick Laurence commands respect both here and overseas. He has worked for the Star, the Weekly Mail and the Rand Daily Mail, where he became political editor. He spoke to STEPHEN COAN during a recent visit to Pietermaritzburg.

nism Act and which can be re-imposed under the Internal Security Act, which an ANC Government may inherit — so that's an argument for campaigning



Patrick Laurence — veteran liberal journalist

against the Internal Security Act.

During the high tide of the state of emergency under ex-President Botha I found that one could write between the

lines and, provided that you were writing for a reasonably politically-literate readership, I think the message got across.

Press censorship is crude. It doesn't stop the information from getting out — it may even aggravate the very problem which the Government is trying to overcome. The Botha Government was trying to eliminate what it called either "negative reporting" or "incitement to violence" or "incitement to resistance". It achieved none of its objectives. "Negative reporting" was in fact enhanced by the Botha curbs because journalists could write about the curbs. Where they felt constraints they could hint they had a real horror tale to tell but that they were prevented from telling it by curbs. The

reader was left to make all kind of deductions, some of which might have been much more unfavourable to the Government than the actual truth that was being hidden.

What are your feelings about the demise of the Rand Daily Mail?

I have primarily regrets. I think that a daily newspaper committed to liberal values is essential in South Africa and that the Rand Daily Mail fulfilled that need

with a high degree of vigour.

Some opponents of the Rand Daily Mail will tell you that in its last days it was only a shadow of itself. That may or may not be so. If it was so it is partly because the newspaper was being starved of funds and because the threat of being closed down was a demoralising factor in the lives of many journalists.

Those very critics were very often the people who were angling to destroy the paper.

And what of the fate of the Daily Mail?

I suspect two primary reasons — they didn't raise enough money and they almost certainly underestimated the difficulties of launching a new newspaper.

They made other mistakes too. Perhaps it was too political, perhaps the timing was bad. A more opportune time to launch the paper might have been eighteen months earlier, when people felt there was a need for the alternative press, when they felt the established press was not providing the full news — that it was too timid, that it was cowed by P.W. Botha. But after February 2 that fell away ... a new Daily Mail may have been the unintentional victim of De Klerk's reform.

our readers write

The facts? 2

IT is disturbing to note that in your article entitled "Why is political violence reduced to mere ethnic warfare?" (*Echo*, December 13), you severely criticised the SA Police for allegedly not disclosing what type of firearms were found in the vehicle. One might arrive at the conclusion that you are not prepared to accept the official police version that no firearms were found. The only items found by police in the kombi were bloodsoaked lunch packets, two umbrellas, one traditional knotted stick, a few ordinary sticks and a short bolted stick. It was obvious that the kombi was transporting commuters from Table Mountain to their work places in Pietermaritzburg.

A list of the addresses of employment of the occupants together with clock numbers and where to contact their supervisors was handed to your reporter Heidi Gibson. These facts prove contrary to the allegations that the kombi contained Inkatha members armed with firearms on an attack mission.

Also, my report to your reporter regarding the incident was that "it is obvious that the source knew who the attackers were" and not "that the source knew what he was talking about". The latter wording may indicate that credibility was given to the allegations of your reporter's source, which wasn't the case.

Incidents such as these show how difficult the task of the SA Police can become, and their efforts to achieve stability should be endorsed by everyone — including the media.

Major P.C. KITCHING

South African Police, Pietermaritzburg

Echo editor Khaba Mkhize replies: It is a fact that when police issue their "unrest" reports there is a hardly a mention of the make or origin of the weapon used, save for an AK47 or a "cultural/traditional" weapon. My concern over the description of weapons is generated by the desire for a balance of facts, that's all.

Heidi Gibson says she never received any list containing the addresses of employment of the occupants together with clock numbers and where to contact their supervisors.

Lastly, let me respond to the paragraph dealing with sources. I have no problem as the two points suggest a healthy democratic principle. Everybody has a right to be heard whether he or she is a policeperson or a sweeper.

• Both letter and reply shortened — Assistant Editor.

Natal Witness 28 Dec 1990

Policemen targeted in holiday attacks

JOHANNESBURG — Policemen were the target of a number of attacks over the festive season, while there was a drop in politically motivated unrest in Reef townships.

Nine policemen, one security guard and one black town councillor were the targets of attacks nationwide since Christmas day, according to police.

Commenting on the attacks on several policemen in the last two days, police liaison officer Captain Eugene Opperman said police would show no mercy to the perpetrators of violence or to anyone who threatened the lives and property of policemen.

In Natal, a policeman is in a critical condition in hospital after being stabbed on the beach at Amanzimtoti yesterday.

Police said Constable Gavin Storrier, who was on patrol duty, was walking on the beach at about 1.15 am when he was confronted by two white men.

Storrier was stabbed in the chest and has been admitted to the Kingsway Hospital. His condition has been described as serious.

Police have arrested two brothers in connection with the stabbing.

In the Cape, four policemen were wounded

on Wednesday night, one seriously, in a shootout in Zwijbe, Port Elizabeth.

Suspected car thieves opened fire with "more than one AK rifle" on two police patrol vehicles in Tonjeni Street at 11 pm, a police spokesman said yesterday.

One of the policemen, Warrant Officer L.J. McLaren, was operated on in the provincial hospital yesterday. He had bullet and shrapnel wounds in his stomach and legs. The other policemen were slightly injured.

"At 11pm," the spokesman said, "a number of policemen, all of the dog unit, kept under observation a car that had been stolen in the Humewood Beach area on Christmas Eve ... Later, in Tonjeni Street, a police patrol pulled this car off the road."

"Several men jumped out of the stolen car and opened fire with more than one AK rifle on two police patrol vehicles. They also lobbed an explosive device at the patrol and the device exploded."

The shoot-out occurred "in the same street where two riot squad policemen were shot dead on November 19 at 12.45 am."

No arrests have been made. The police dogs were not injured. — Sapa.

Ministers in

secret talks about exiles

By Rohan Minogue
THREE Cabinet Ministers had held two secret meetings with a delegation of the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Repatriation of South African Exiles (NCCER) on the return of political exiles, the Department of Justice announced yesterday.

Health and Population Development, Dr Rina Venter, represented the government in talks with the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Rev Frank Chikane, and NCCER officials.

A Justice Department liaison officer, Ms Marie Pienaar, refused to disclose the date and venue of the talks.

Indemnity regarding minor statutory offences, including leaving the country without valid documents and from

points other than the accepted ports of exit, had been finalised, she said.

A list of 787 names of those eligible for indemnity had been published on December 20.

Ms Pienaar said she did not know how many exiles there were. Estimates by the African National Congress and the SACC run as high as 40 000.

In a Press statement, Mr Coetsee said that several issues raised by the NCCER had received attention before the discussions.

Dr Venter had indicated she would introduce programmes for those exiles in need of assistance and Mr Louw's department was processing the necessary documents, he said.

Mr Louw had named two officials, a chief director, Mr Mike Bester, and his assistant, Mr Piet Hartzenberg, co-ordinate the exiles' return and their integration into the community, to liaise with interested organisations and to identify any problems and bring them to the attention of the appropriate departments.

Dr Venter had given information to the NCCER on the fund-raising methods to be followed for needy exiles.

Consultations would continue, and any funds received from abroad for the exiles could be managed by the NCCER subject to the normal control measures, the statement said.

OAU head praises democratic trend

ADDIS ABABA. — The head of the Organisation of African Unity yesterday praised the growing trend towards multi-party democracy in Africa, saying it ensured full participation of people in government.

OAU secretary-general Mr Salim Ahmed Salim welcomed as en-

couraging, steps taken by some African governments to make their societies democratic.

"This acceptance... is rooted in the need to ensure the full participation of the people in the process of government as a means of liberating their creativity and industry and applying

them positively to development," he said.

He said Africa was ready for institutions that promoted democracy, ensured government accountability and protected human rights.

"I hope in the coming year more energies will be expended to sustain this new political direc-

tion," he added.

In 1990, leaders of Benin, Gabon, Ivory Coast and Zambia bowed to popular pressure and introduced multi-party democracies in varying degrees.

Mozambique and Angola have indicated pluralism could be the remedy to settling long-run-

ning civil wars, while Tanzania, once the vanguard of African socialism, has said in principle that multi-party democracy is acceptable.

Mr Salim blamed Africa's economic crisis on external debt, soaring prices of major imports and a drop in prices of Africa's exports. — Sapa-Reuter.

ANC member refused bail in East London

EAST LONDON. — An East London magistrate has refused bail for ANC member Thando Vinjiwe, who was arrested on December 14 on a charge of contravening the Civil Aviation Act.

Mr Vinjiwe, a returning ANC exile aboard a scheduled flight to East London, is alleged to have demanded that the aircraft be diverted to

Umtata because he feared arrest by South African authorities.

He was charged with endangering the lives of more than 45 airline passengers.

Magistrate H F Hannan said he had turned down the request for bail on the grounds that the applicant had jumped bail in 1985 in a case involving public disorder.

Mr Vinjiwe's application for indemnity, he said, covered only political activities and the main charge of contravention of the Civil Aviation Act had no political overtones.

Mr Vinjiwe will remain in custody until January 11 when his case will come before the court again. — Sapa.

Five police wounded since Christmas

CITIZEN 28 DEC 1990

PORT ELIZABETH.

Four policemen were wounded on Wednesday night, one severely, in a shootout in the same street in Zwide, Port Elizabeth, in which two policemen died in similar circumstances five weeks ago.

Another policeman was stabbed on Amanzimtoti beach.

Suspected car thieves opened fire with "more than one AK rifle" at 11 pm on two police patrol vehicles in Tonjeni Street.

One of the policemen, Warrant Officer L J McLaren, was operated on in the provincial hospital on Thursday. He had bullet and shrapnel wounds in his stomach and legs.

The other policemen were slightly injured, apparently only by shrapnel.

"At 11 pm," the spokesman said, "a number of policemen, all of the dog unit, kept under observation a car that had been stolen in the Humewood Beach area on Christmas Eve, when four men were seen in the stolen car."

"The police chased this car but lost it. Later, in

Tonjeni Street, a police patrol pulled this car off the road.

"Several men jumped out of the stolen car and opened fire with more than one AK rifle on two police patrol vehicles. They also lobbed an explosive device at the patrol and the device exploded.

"The police returned fire and the men in the car fled on foot."

The shootout occurred "in the same street where two riot squad policemen were shot dead on November 19 at 12.45am," the spokesman said.

In that incident at least one AK semi-automatic rifle was used against the police.

The bodies of Sergeant Johan Gerber of Algoa Park and Constable Cornelius de Wet of Walmer Downs were found slumped in the cab of a police vehicle, riddled with AK bullets.

The other policemen injured on Wednesday night were Sergeant J Gruss, Constable J Neethling, and Constable G Horn.

They were treated for shrapnel wounds at the provincial hospital and discharged.

No arrests have been made. The police dogs were not injured. The police vehicles were not extensively damaged.

In Durban a policeman is in a critical condition in hospital after being stabbed on the beach at Amanzimtoti on Thursday.

Police said Const Gavin Storrier, who was on patrol duty, was walking on the beach at about 1.15 am when he was confronted by two White men.

Const Storrier was stabbed in the chest and has been admitted to the Kingsway Hospital. His condition has been described as serious.

Police have arrested two brothers in connection with the stabbing. — Sapa.

28 December, 1990

THE CITIZEN

OAU regrets erosion of sanctions against South Africa

ADDIS ABABA. — An organisation of African Unity official yesterday expressed deep concern over what he termed the "gradual erosion" of the international consensus on sanctions against South Africa.

"In the recent past, we have witnessed actions by countries, both within and outside Africa, that tend to undermine the collective position decided upon by the international community and the Organisation of African

Unity, said OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim.

In a New Year message, Mr Salim said that until there was evidence of an irreversible move to dismantle the apartheid system of racial segregation, sanctions against South Africa should be maintained.

Mr Salim did not name any country or cite the ac-

tions he claimed had undermined the international consensus.

South Africa says it now trades with every OAU member, despite the ongoing calls for sanctions, and the European Community has lifted a voluntary ban on new investment.

Recent events in South Africa have generated A

"mood of optimism hardly imaginable a few years ago," said Mr Salim. But he expressed "deep concern and regret" at the continued township violence and urged the anti-apartheid forces to put an end to the bloody fratricidal conflict. — Sapa-AP.

LETTERS

The Citizen PO Box 7712
Johannesburg 2000

We Blacks are destabilised

OF late, anybody can see for himself that people are scared out of their wits and therefore cannot express themselves even through the Press, through fear of the comrades.

I sympathise with them because even for that matter some newspapers are afraid to publish letters that criticise the ANC.

I therefore through The Citizen, which it seems, is the only newspaper on the Reef that is not scared, appeal to the government that it must do something about this gross intimidation and bloodshed.

Even Black members of the SAP are scared.

Most of the people, because of this are even

scared to report serious cases to the police because, rightly or wrongly, they believe instead of getting help from the police, the police inform the comrades.

If the government does nothing about this anarchy, we shall see worse bloodshed in 1991.

The ANC/SACP/Cosatu/Cast alliance is there not for democracy, but merely to take over the government and apply failed Stalinist policies. The recent Consultative conference proves this.

The government should also stop subsidising the Transkei so that the MK regime of Holomisa and Hani can collapse soon.

I, also appeal to the government to negotiate with those political par-

ties that wish to negotiate. Those that do not want to do so should get out.

The government has nothing to fear from the ANC because the Soviet Union, which used to sponsor the guerillas, cannot afford that anymore.

All I can ask from the other political parties and organisations and churches — I mean those that are not being controlled by the ANC — is that they should help bring back the exiles.

Mr De Klerk, I implore you to do something now about this anarchy. We Blacks are really destabilised in our communities.

RAMAILANE MASH-
WABADA

Evaton

**Always be
manipulated
by Whites**

THE Citizen's front page, December 17, "ANC delegates had neglected what they saw as government attempts to continue White domination under a new constitution".

The ANC have been dominated by Whites ever since Russia aided and abetted them.

I would be most surprised if Joe Slovo does not control the ANC's complete bag of tricks.

It has been from the beginning and it will be to the end — the Black man will be manipulated by the White man.

JAN ALLAN

Pretoria

Two ticking timebombs

Natal Witness 28 Dec. 1990

SO the Iraqi fuhrer has sent home most of his hostages. Nevertheless, Saddam Hussein must be stopped, we are told, because he is about to get — and maybe use — an atomic bomb. But it is strange that so few voices are raised against the traditional rogue elephant's atomic weapons, namely Pretoria's bomb.

True, the South African Government has dramatically cleaned up its act in 1990. Nonetheless, double standards are at play. The Iraqi strongman is said to have caused thousands of deaths by gassing Kurds and pillaging Kuwait. Whereas apartheid, over 42 years, has caused, directly and indirectly, millions of deaths throughout the southern African region. The carnage in Natal is one of the most obvious legacies of divide-and-rule apartheid.

Both nasty regimes have inspired world hostility and sanctions. But Kuwait exports oil. So does Saudi Arabia. That is more important than Pretoria's gold. Hence the need for real action: massive military intervention. And the risk of World War 3.

Saddam's secret atomic programme — whether or not he has actually now built his bomb — could be judged by future historians to have been the major *casus belli* of the looming Gulf war. Some U.S. estimates of when Iraq will "go nuclear" have been revised dramatically from five years to two months. And, as George Bush observed ominously of Saddam Hussein: "He has never possessed a weapon he didn't use."

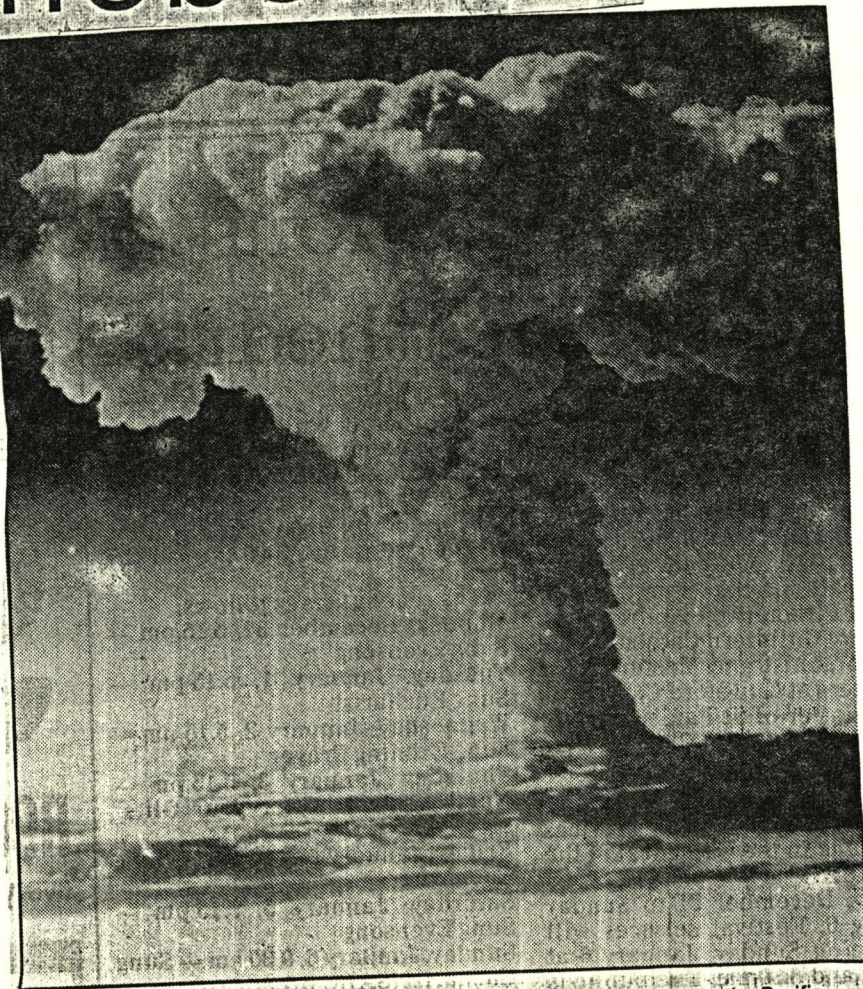
Is Saddam Hussein fanatical enough to use the bomb if his forces are driven back to Baghdad? Few question publicly Israel's atomic weapons which would be used — presumably — if Arab

"The end of apartheid may yet cause massive international trauma; not least is what to do about the first possible triumph of a guerrilla movement in a nuclear-armed state. In short, what happens to Pretoria's real or potential nuclear arsenal if the African National Congress takes over? Or what happens if the country slides into an African variant of Lebanon? Which tribal warlords will end up toting nuclear-tipped missiles?"

forces swept towards Jerusalem. It is striking how strongly President Bush supported nuclear deterrence between America and Russia, but shrinks from allowing the Arab world a similar counter to Israeli power.

In one sense, it might boil down to a form of racism. Saddam with a bomb, or Robert Mugabe? "No, no." But Israelis and Afrikaners? "So what?" There is an implicit assumption that the last two groups can be trusted not to go collectively haywire. That is the only logical explanation for the world's media screaming about Baghdad's bomb but whispering, occasionally, about the more immediate nuclear arsenals available to Pretoria and Jerusalem.

The rape of Kuwait is considered a more serious threat to the international economic order. The industrialised countries are too concerned with Gulf oil and events in Eastern Europe and the USSR to worry over-



The dreaded mushroom cloud ... on this occasion a French test in the Pacific. much about Third World struggles — and so our Western consciences are eased. "Leave them to it" is the current mood. Such thinking may be very dangerous. The end of apartheid may yet cause massive international trauma; not least is what to do about the first

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28 Dec 1990

TWO TICKING TIME BOMBS

From pg 1

possible triumph of a guerrilla movement in a nuclear-armed state. In short, what happens to Pretoria's real or potential nuclear arsenal if the African National Congress takes over? Or what happens if the country slides into an African variant of Lebanon? Which tribal warlords will end up toting nuclear-tipped missiles?

The ANC has good cause to worry about the so-called "irreversibility" of President F.W. de Klerk's reforms. Negotiation may well break down. Either pacesetter lawyer, Mandela or De Klerk, might fall victim to rivals within their own camps... or to an assassin's bullet. De Klerk, like that other reforming lawyer in a tight spot, Mikhail Gorbachev, might be toppled in a military or police coup. The securocrats could return to centre stage. In short, Pretoria's *perestroika* may well be a Prague Spring.

A peaceful settlement might be conjured up if the future South Africa depended solely upon a polite duet between Mandela and De Klerk. It doesn't. Chief Buthelezi is a serious contender for power. So is the Pan-Africanist Congress. But more crucial are the numerous black rivals to Mandela within his own movement. They are now murmuring about his having "fallen prey to De Klerk's sweet talk". Many on the military wing, led by Chris Hani, would prefer to continue the armed struggle. Just as Mandela may play Kerensky to Hani's Lenin, so too could De Klerk be used as a stalking horse by an Afrikaner police general.

Because the security forces are so strong, a black-led revolution is unlikely in South Africa. But a settlement soon is equally unlikely. And, meanwhile, despite an improved PR image in the world, South African society is beginning to implode. In this unsettled interregnum, each conflicting party is likely to arm itself. Hence the danger of degenerative collapse and warlordism. Not all is gloom and doom. Amid much bloodshed, there is genuine movement to the inevitable: black rule. But could the international community ease the pain?

A small force from the Commonwealth (or the recently rejuvenated United Nations) could monitor a future one-man, man-vote election or referendum that could accompany a settlement. If that proved elusive because of Pretoria's stubbornness, or ANC ineptitude, then a very small international flotilla of warships — much smaller than in the Gulf now — could blockade South Africa's few, and vital, major ports. Unlike Iraq, the insignificant South African Navy could not seriously challenge a foreign fleet. A brief naval

"quarantine", always a better and quicker nutcracker than hypocritical sanctions, would be an extreme manoeuvre. What is not are the quiet, behind-the-scenes moves to denuclearise Pretoria. Nobody in London or Washington wants the ANC to take over the Afrikaner "nukes". Mandela is a world saint. What if Hani, let alone another Gaddafi or Amin succeeded him?

If internal negotiations fail and Pretoria's current holding operation begins to unravel completely, Afrikaner security chiefs might intervene. (There could also be a brief armed riposte from the diehards if there were a settlement). A right-wing, police-led coup would be a disaster, but that does not mean that the SADF, less discredited than the police, could not help the transition. In this context, external assistance may be given to maintain the South African Defence Force's influence, with — initially — token integration of some guerrillas. (The British Army guided this process in Zimbabwe and is doing the same now in Namibia.) The idea would be that as Afrikaners — very reluctantly — permanently hand over political power, military power is temporarily retained in white hands during the transition period. This is what happened in Rhodesia.

If South Africa's fractious politicians cannot settle among themselves, then great power intervention, including a second Lancaster House, may be highly beneficial. Failing this, the Lebanon rather than Rhodesian scenario beckons.

And these are merely the minor hiccups of the transition. Just wait till the politicians come to grips with the real problems of land, housing, jobs, health and tribalism. Yet there is also hope that a revived South Africa could become the breadbasket of Africa, not another basketcase; the engine for continental renaissance, not its holocaust. But nobody dares to mention the very atomic bombs which could cause such a holocaust. Who has talked seriously of sending an allied force to crush what the U.N. has always called the biggest abuse of human rights: apartheid? So Pretoria's white leaders will continue to haggle. Meanwhile, the world is conveniently distracted by the similar stalling tactics of Saddam Hussein. Bomb in hand, or at hand.

• Paul Moorcraft's latest book, *"African Nemesis: War and Revolution in Southern Africa, 1945-2010"*, has just been published in South Africa by MacDonald Purnell. Dr Moorcraft, who taught politics at the University of Natal, is currently a visiting lecturer in journalism at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

He's hobbled by his prejudices

CITIZEN

28-12-1990

I REFER to your correspondent R Commins's letter of December 24 wherein he goes overboard to trumpet his support of the State President's reforms, at the same time decrying the dark days of Malan, Verwoerd, Strydom and Vorster.

Mr Commins is so hobbled by his prejudices that, like so many liberals, he cannot see the wood for the trees. His knee-jerk anti-Afrikaans bias is so manifest that it clouds his vision: When someone can call the sixties and seventies "dark days" at the same time extolling today's South Africa, politeness denies us a succinct description of this type of thinking.

When separate development was at its peak, the country sustained a 3 percent inflation rate. Consumer goods were reasonably priced and foreign investors were queueing to get a piece of the South African economic cake. There was

nothing like the interne-cine warfare which fills our newspaper pages today.

Mr Commins's new South Africa is a travesty. Mr De Klerk and his so-called National Party have brought this country to its knees. Even the liberals are getting out. We have become a bit of a joke in serious international political circles, notwithstanding what our peripatetic Foreign Minister and much of the liberal Press tell us.

Nobody believes that we are better off today than we were 20 years ago, not even Mr Commins. He is beating a drum, like a toy soldier which has been wound up.

If he believes that sport on Sunday is worth the price of a destroyed and ravaged country, then his values are skew. And if he thinks that television

today is free compared to yesteryear, he is living in a time warp.

When did you last see a member of the Official Opposition on TV, Mr Commins? Or even a member of the Democratic Party? Do you support your party's ruthless control of this country's electronic media?

If Mr Commins, like his leader, is prepared to serve under Nelson Mandela in the new South Africa. He is welcome to it. But then he must pay for it. He will see his culture destroyed, his land devastated, his economy sucked dry as the locust-like demands of the Third World make themselves felt.

At that stage he might consider "Afrikaner domination", as he puts it, a relatively pleasant alternative.

MRS GAY DERBY-LEWIS Krugersdorp

Incompatible with real democracy

CITIZEN

28 DEC 1990

JOE SLOVO said after the recent ANC conference: "It was wonderful. Real democracy in action".

What Mr Slovo would know about "real democracy" is anyone's guess, but it really is appalling that the SACP is using the term "démocracy" as if Communism has anything to do with it.

Communism could be defined as "undemocratic" because it uses violence to create a revolutionary atmosphere and intimidation to control the so-called "masses". It then used the one-man one-vote system to gain power and turns democracy into a sick joke by denying future generations of voters the chance to de-throne its

power-hungry leaders.

My definition of democracy would be that a person can help vote a government in and then, if he or she chooses, can help vote them out again.

Communism is incompatible with real democracy because it seeks to change a system totally so that the "masses" have no choice in the matter, and then intimidation and brute force keep them in power.

South Africa has not been democratic under NP rule because only Whites could vote. Everybody should be given the vote, but Communism is unacceptable even if a majority vote for it.

This may sound strange, but the rest of the world knows, or has

come to realise, that Communism is not a viable and fair system. Many South Africans may be conned into believing that the SACP is somehow different from Russian Communism but effectively it remains the same.

Ebenezer Elliot (1781-1849) wrote an epigram: "What is a communist? One who hath yearnings for equal division of unequal earnings". This to me sums up Communism in one stroke. An ideal that is fanciful and does not work in reality because it does not take into account individuality, talent, imagination and creativeness.

STRANGE BUT TRUE
Hennopsmeer

11 more die on the roads

28 DEC 1990 CITIZEN

By Annette van Zyl,
Cathy Thompson,
Antoinette Hoffman
and Sapa

ELEVEN people have died on the roads since Wednesday, a significant reduction to the carnage experienced over Christmas, bringing the total to at least 227 deaths since the start of the holiday period.

Natal had one death, the Orange Free State four, the Transvaal one, and five in the Cape Province.

A Cape Provincial Administration spokesman said yesterday that 62 people had died since last Friday and there had been 286 accidents between December 21 and 26 — 13 more than during the same period last year.

Orange Free State police liaison officer, Major GE Moorcroft, said two men and a child died after the minibus in which they were travelling overturned after its tyre or tyres had burst.

The accident took place on the Hobhouse/Wepener road about 18 km from Croft.

A second fatal accident took place on the same road about 10 km from Wepener at 8.30 pm on Wednesday when a bakkie also overturned after one of its tyres burst. An unknown man was killed during the accident.

A grandfather was killed and his son-in-law and grandson were seriously injured on Christmas Day when the bakkie in which they were travelling overturned on the Bothaville road, outside Orkney.

Mr JR "Seun" Lotriet (38), a boiler-maker from Odendaalsrust died at the scene after being apparently impaled in the chest by a pipe from a carrier which had been strapped to the roof of the bakkie, a police spokesman said yesterday.

His son-in-law, Mr Ockert Harmse, a Klerksdorp businessman, has undergone a seven-hour operation in the Johannesburg Hospital after his hand was crushed in the accident.

Mr Harmse's seven-year-old son, Michael, is being treated in the

Klerksdorp Hospital for suspected concussion, fractures and a serious laceration in his leg.

A family member, Mr Groeg Stamatiadis, said yesterday the family had been returning to Klerksdorp after visiting Mr Lotriet and his wife, Susan, in Odendaalsrust, when the accident happened at about 2 pm on Tuesday.

Mr Harmse's wife, Tula (29), his mother-in-law and Michael were travelling in the cab of their bakkie — with Mrs Harmse driving — and they were towing a trailer.

Theft by stealth

COMMUNIST industrial production since World War II has been heavily weighted in favour of armaments. This was intended to retain martial superiority over the West. Obviously such a "success" came at a terrible price to the USSR economic infrastructure, specifically that country's transport and distribution system, which have for all practical purposes ceased to function.

Food shortages to a great extent also a result of the latter, now confront Gorbachev with his most serious challenge to date.

The potentially good harvests of the past summer were, moreover, left to go to waste on the land or were sharply reduced because of the USSR's decrepit distribution mechanism. Added to this, the Russians now face ethnic turmoil from many sides.

Since the Communists have only been able to keep abreast of technological developments in the West by espionage and industrial theft, they now lack a technological infrastructure of their own and are incapable of producing even a minimal standard of living for their subject nations.

All this is common currency in the West, but Messrs Mandela, Slovo and ANC company have not as yet grasped the essential lessons which flow from this Marxist catastrophe.

They insist on sending the "new" South Africa towards a similar fate by their policies of nationalisation, redistribution of wealth and all the other thinly-disguised mechanisms of theft by stealth.

ECONOMIST

Pretoria

Eating well

LOOKING at Joe Slovo on TV he seems to be eating very well.

I wonder how well he would be eating these days if he were in the Soviet Union!

H COHEN

Johannesburg

16/1/11

CAPE TOWN: ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela could have had the decency to explain why he declined an invitation to the Labour Party's 25th annual congress, LP leader Mr Allan Hendrickse said yesterday.

"We need not share the same viewpoints, but for decency sake he (Mr Mandela) could have said he did not want to, or could not, accept the invitation."

The ANC and Pan Africanist Congress were among the organisations invited to the two-day congress at the Goodwood Showgrounds.

Mr Mandela had not given his response, despite repeated inquiries, said Mr Hendrickse.

PAC general secretary Mr Bennie Alexander had written to the LP, explaining why they would not attend.

He also said the question of political alliances would be discussed at the Labour Party's 25th annual congress today.

Addressing the Labour Party's Congress yesterday, President de Klerk

Mandela should have explained why he declined our invitation: LP



STATE President F.W. de Klerk and leader of the Labour Party, the Rev Alan Hendrickse, arrive to address the party's annual congress in Cape Town yesterday.

said the Government and the National Party were ready to negotiate the speedy establishment of the new South Africa.

He warned, however,

that the present disruption, especially of local government and essential community services, was a serious obstacle to real constitutional nego-

tiations.

He again committed the Government to intensifying measures to deal with violence.

In a new dispensation the importance and the aspirations of the majority, however it was composed, had to be acknowledged.

Mr de Klerk added:

"By the way, I plan to be part of that majority. I am sure you are too."

At the same time there had to be protection for minority interests.

Addressing "fellow South Africans" he said his appearance at the Labour congress was visible proof that South Africans could rise above old differences, bury the hatchet and build a truly South African nation.

"It is in this spirit that I reach out a hand of friendship and understanding."

"There is no vacant land left to fight over."

There is nothing to be taken or withheld from one another.

"There is, within our borders, no-one to conquer or to rule over but ourselves."—Sapa