

has of a 'Tamil boy,
Pd 18 months, whose
in was amputated
during an artillery attack
Indian troops closing in
the rebel town of
Jaffna, in north-east Sri
Lanka.
The Indian push on
Jaffna, symbolic capital of
Her Independence, has
been accompanied by
widespread charges of
atrocities and indiscriminate
killing by invading troops, as
Sirge vigorously denied by
the Indians.
Observer reporter Peter
More and photographer
John Reardon were among
the first journalists to tour
the beleaguered city.
They found strong evidence
of civilian casualties and an
ongoing will to resist
against the rebel Tamils, who
claim 90 per cent control
of the city and its
surrounding area.
(Underneath page 15.)
A SOUTH AFRICAN strolled
through London's Smithfield meat
market and into the nearby fourth-
floor offices of Lynx, a small British
security firm, with a proposition.
He said he was a salesman from
Clansman, a company in Pietermaritz-
burg; says the firm's director, Jeremy
Wetherell. Lynx had some South
African connections and was interested
in buying bulletproof vests.
After some preliminary talk about his
background as an Oxford graduate, the
salesman came to the point. He was
interested in the firm's surveillance
capacity: could it do what he described
as covert work? Wetherell says he was clearly a
professional intelligence officer. He
says he promptly reported the contact
to M15. . .
That was in the middle of 1986, the
earliest established date that M15 knew
for certain that Pretoria was mounting
another London operation. It did
nothing to stop it.
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.. , Maw, m". . .7 -. rvvww
the Africa had made the worldwide xiii: Life: wafoprfdon hotel
'We, harassment and assassination of '
by Pretoria if caught.
_ Tambo: Target.
Mbeki.
South Africa during
Africa .
ANC officials have
kidnapped .
white

apartheid activist,
. African army in 1981
been acting for M16.
, company
ANC leaders a key objective.
Using standard intelligence
agency 1 deniabilityl techni-
ques, they use foreigners, and
make attempts to leave a trail
pointing at some other culprit.
They have recruited Britons,
Scandinavians, Pakistanis and
Egyptians, Such people. can
travel freely. and be disowned
Last December a New
Zealander called Martin was
discovered in Lusaka with
weapons. He had gained entry
to the house of the ANCis
director of information, Thabo
Martin worked for
Rhodesia civil war; he had
been recruited from the French
Foreign Legion in , North .
In Swaziland, a succession of
been
assassinated, culminating in the.
gunning down this summer of
ANC national executive mem-
ber Cassius Make. Another
ANC leader, Lucas Seme, was
In May this year there was an
attempt to shoot a prominent
South African antia
Ronald
Watson, in Botswana. The hit
man was Stephen Burnett, a'
British-born former member of
the SAS, who joined the South
became a Johannesburg busi-
nessman in 1986. Burnett
initially claimed that he had
Another team was sent in
1982 to fire-bomb ANCioffices
in London. It was controlled
by- a South African security
police officer, Craig William-
son, who is connected with a
in South Africa,
Longreach. A Rhodesian-born
lavatory last July. They were
watching for homosexual
misbehaviour. Searches threw
up the haul of documents at
Larsenis house.
The 'Anti-Terrorist Squad,
led by Supt Alan Talbot, took
some time to disentangle what
was going on. It transpired that
the tMio blueprint, for 3
Seychelles coup was a forgery.
So, too, Were the letters of
support from British
politicians.
/ But were all the MoD
manuals and Foreign Office
documents forged? And how
had the plotters been able to
assemble forged warrant cards
so easily?
It is clearthat the answer to

these questions could be embarrassing. It is also clear that the 1 activities of the arrested group were far from a joke. '

After M15 was consulted, on 12 October, officers of the Director of Public Prosecutionsle special casework division, met Supt Talbot. They told him to drop the case and release the men.

A long list of reasons was produced; there was no evidence that the kidnap conspiracy had been active; the defendants were ipublicity-seekers , and llived in a world of their own 75 the Crown would look i ridiculous i during the trial; and the lesser charges - of forgery and impersonation _ were not serious enough for tl? Anti-Terrorist Squad to V aste its time with. j

The AntiA-Terrorist Squad clearly disagreed: as late as 15 October, its . officers were pressing on with inquiries, in the hope of reversing the decision. At the same time, the DPP was instructing his men to insist, against the wishes of the judge involved, on a're-trial of three anti-apartheid demonstrators who threw paint at the South African Embassy this year. '

On Friday the Attorney-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, defended in the Commons the decision to drop all charges against the three men, charged as Frank Larsen, Evan Evans and Jonathan Wheatley. The shadow Home Secretary, the and convinced. _

iFrank Larsen, was' last night being detained, pending deportation proceedings.

Additional reporting by Paul Lashmar, Martin Bailey, john Merrit, Robert Taylor.

Roy HatterSley, said he was not i 7 M

Behind the sudden dropping lot kidnap charges against three men last week lay a , 'classic South African intelligence operation. DAVID LEIGH reports.

In September last year, a second South African businessman appeared. He was Johann Niemoller, a wealthy man formerly in the South African military, who runs Adder, a clothing company in Upington, Western Cape, which supplies military equipment. Niemolletxvisited Evan Evans, one of the mengagainst whom kidnapping chzgies were dropped last week. Ev s, a middle-aged British ex-,

officer, had served in the South African army, but had returned in 1985 to run a post office in Anglesey.

Niemoller next went to the London house of a Seychelles exile politician, Pierre Ferrari, with whom he stayed for a week -

Accounts of this trip contradict each other. Niemoller said in South Africa that he visited Evans about an outlet for his clothing factory. t

Yesterday, in interviews with South African newspapers, he agreed that 'plots against the ANC had been discussed. He says he refused to help.

Evans, on the other hand, made a courtroom statement that Niemoller had demanded assistance with

' explosives to blow up the ANC?

Ferrari says that he was asked to put Niemoller up for a week because he would help to overthrow the nominally Marxist Seychelles Government and install Ferrari as Minister of Defence in a new regime. Later, to his surprise, he found bottles of poisonous drugs in the room where Niemoller had stayed.

Niemoller was accommodated at the request of a peculiar figure who had befriended Ferrari and other Seychelles exiles: his name was Frank Larsen, he wore military uniforms, and had a house near Aldershot. He was eventually to appear in court with Evans, accused of ANC kidnaps. t

Larsen claimed to work for British intelligence. He also produced a blueprint for a coup in the Seychelles which he said had been approved by British intelligence, and letters of support, apparently from right-wing British politicians. He also had a Ministry of Defence police pass and British MoD manuals.

Although the Seychellois did not realise it, Larsen's real name was Viggo Oerbak. He had served prison sentences in Norway for fraud and forgery and had served in the Rhodesian special forces before turning up in Britain in ' 1982 with an elaborate alias.

Ferrari and his colleagues also did not know that, at his Aldershot house, Larsen had another, more sinister document. It was a list of ANC members to be kidnapped or killed, with British home addresses.

Continued on page 3.