

# Policeman tells of 'blood pact'

## Mercury Correspondent

**GRAAFF-REINET**—A second policeman yesterday testified in the Supreme Court about an unofficial foray into the Cradock black township by a squad of the Unrest Unit preceeded by drinking and a 'blood brother ceremony' and culminating with an 'execution'.

One of the squad, Const Michael Douglas Neveling, told the Court a colleague had also fired a rifle at a group of people. Nobody fell so he assumed he had missed.

Const Neveling spent nearly six hours recounting the events that led to two of his colleagues — W/O Leon de Villiers, 36, and Const David Patrick Goosen, 26 — being charged with two counts of murder, two of assault and one of attempting to defeat the ends of justice.

All the incidents were alleged to have occurred after a 10-man squad of the Unrest Unit under W/O de Villiers was sent to Cradock to keep order at a funeral on July 26 last year.

Const Neveling said the unit had collected liquor from shebeens before setting out on the trip. They had drunk during the trip and after their arrival.

He described a bizarre blood brother ceremony around the campfire to ensure that the squad would 'stick together', keep its secrets within the group, and

ensure that nobody would be 'dropped' by his colleagues if they got into trouble.

After hearing a police Casspir had been stoned in the townships in the early hours of the morning, the squad decided to set out on what he described as an 'unofficial operation'.

After arming themselves with a variety of knives, a spade and an axe, they went into the township. Almost immediately they spotted a man and went after him. Const Goosen and Const P Krans grabbed him while the rest ran past.

He saw Const Goosen stab the man in the chest with a diver's knife.

He described other incidents where he himself might have stabbed a man he tackled accidentally.

## Suffocated

The next morning they went on an official patrol during the funeral. They had been instructed to interfere as little as possible.

The squad made various arrests including that of a man in a shirt with 'Forward People's Power' written on the back.

Four black men were taken to a secluded spot where three were questioned while being hit and suffocated with plastic bags. He had helped in holding one of the men.

Three of them were subsequently released before the one who was ultimately 'executed' was questioned. This

was Mr Wheanut Mlungisi Stuurman.

He and the others were sent out of the van while the man was questioned by W/O de Villiers and Const Goosen.

When they returned he saw Mr Stuurman was bleeding.

## 'Taken out'

W/O de Villiers said: 'This boy must be taken out — he is too badly hit to detain.'

W/O de Villiers instructed him to drive to the Great Fish River. On the way, he again heard the term 'taken out'. He knew what it meant from his police lectures.

He described how he and others accompanied Const Goosen, Const Fourie, Const Booyens and Mr Stuurman to a canal and then turned back.

When they were at the van he heard W/O de Villiers say: 'I wonder why Goosen is taking so long to shoot that boy.'

Then there was a shot.

Const Fourie and Const Booyens returned silent and shaken. Const Goosen returned soon after, apparently normal.

W/O de Villiers asked what had happened and Const Goosen said he had shot the boy in the back of the neck and saw the bullet emerge through his left cheek and hit a sandbank.

After W/O de Villiers had told them to 'keep quiet about it', they returned to the townships and continued the patrol.

The trial will continue today.

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# Rival factions want talks, says Swart

NAIAC Mercury Oct. 28, 1987

THE violent struggle between Inkatha and the UDF in Pietermaritzburg continues to surge through the city's black townships, leaving a trail of dead and injured.



Sipho Khumalo

Calls for peace talks between the two organisations have so far brought no positive results.

The Mercury spent three days in the townships where terrified residents say they are 'preparing for anything'.

Police yesterday kept a close watch on the funeral of 10-year-old Sikhumbuzo Shezi who was decapitated last week by an armed gang.

On a fact-finding tour of the townships this week which culminated in meetings with the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), clergymen, UDF and Inkatha leaders, a Progressive Federal Party delegation was told 'it would not be enough for the leader of Inkatha, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi and UDF president, Mr Archie Gumede, to have peace talks'.

It was told that peace could only be achieved if negotiations took place at grassroots level between the local lead-

ership of both sides.

UDF affiliates in Edendale say they are suspicious of talks. They say the state of emergency makes it difficult for them to consult with their members and obtain a mandate from them.

Police say 60 people have died in township clashes in the past two months.

## Negotiations

Inkatha has blamed 'the UDF enforced membership drive' for the breakdown of law and order while UDF affiliates attribute violence to 'Inkatha's attempt to take over all townships and impose its will on the people'.

Both organisations say they have a right to defend themselves when attacked.

The Natal leader of the PFP, Mr Ray Swart, after meeting both organisations this week, said there was a desire to participate in negotiations.

'I believe that if the groups

are brought around the negotiation table under neutral conveners there could be positive results for ordinary township folk, who are the real sufferers in this conflict,' said Mr Swart.

Pietermaritzburg's townships are scattered on the west of the city. Unlike Durban townships, there are a mixture of four-roomed houses, big houses and scattered mud houses.

On the bridge before the Edendale Hospital hangs a massive linen advert for a play staged by Gibson Kente called *Sekunjalo*, which means 'things are happening'.

Graffiti welcomes the newcomer to 'Angola', 'Maputo', 'Moscow' and 'Tanzania'.

On Sunday several meetings were held at venues ranging from modern church halls to mud buildings at which there was no mention of peace talks.

One agenda dealt with the need to patrol the streets at

night and to set up communication systems in case of attack.

When journalists questioned the speaker about talks he said: 'It will be stupid to talk of peace when you are under attack. That is why we are putting more emphasis on the formation of defence units and civic organisations.'



# Task force bid to stop Pmb carnage

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38/10/87-

AN ADDITIONAL police task force is expected to move into the troubled Pietermaritzburg townships following talks yesterday between Law and Order Minister, Mr Adriaan Vlok, and the KwaZulu Chief Minister and Inkatha president, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

A total of 60 people have died violently in the area in the past two months according to official figures.

Although the content of the talks in Ulundi yesterday was not released by either party, it is thought the 'goodwill' talks dealt with increased violence in the trouble-torn townships.

Reliable sources said extra police would be moved into the townships within a few days to sort out the problems there.

Mr Vlok's Press secretary, Brig Leon Mellett, who attended the talks, confirmed the discussions last night but would not elaborate on them.

A spokesman for Dr Buthelezi's administration said a statement was expected to be released today.

The meeting, attended also by high-ranking policemen, comes in the wake of the call this week by Mr Velaphi Ndlovu, the Pietermaritzburg

## Mercury Reporters

Inkatha chairman, for the area to be policed by the KwaZulu police instead of the S A P.

Mr Radley Keys, director of the PFP's Natal inland region, who was part of the delegation which met community leaders in the Pietermaritzburg townships this week, said the conflict was brought about by the lack of credible political structures which left a vacuum causing a power struggle between Inkatha and the UDF.

## Negotiate

Mr Keys said, however, that both sides now wanted to negotiate and end the violence.

'Groupings within the UDF are unable to hold open meetings to discuss this with their membership because of the emergency regulations,' he said.

'Consultation in the UDF takes much longer than through the Inkatha structures, but there is a willingness on all sides to stop this murder.'

Local UDF leaders in Pietermaritzburg have also called for a lifting of the state of emergency to allow them to meet with their members.

Mr Keys added that an additional aspect of the conflict was that people did not want to be forced to join either organisation.

'The people seem to have had enough and want to stop it.'

He said the police had taken action, but that because of the vast size of the area it was impossible to police every township and there was no real sign of the violence abating.

The idea of a mediator was acceptable to both sides he said, but added that the choice of such a figure would be a difficult one.

'This is not merely a black-on-black conflict, but actually has to do with the lack of credible political structures in the black community,' he said.

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*For Chief Minister's information  
(Natal Mercury main lead 28/10)*

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# Two suspected terrorists held

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## Crime Reporter

POLICE are holding two suspected terrorists and two 'collaborators' in connection with bomb blasts in Natal, including one at the Empangeni Post Office earlier this month and an attack on the Esikhawini Police Station on September 16.

The arrests were announced yesterday by the Commissioner of Police, Gen Hennie de Witt, who said grenades and other Russian-made weapons had also been seized during the weekend round-up.

## Injuries

Two similar swoops in the Cape Peninsula and the Transvaal recently netted a total of 27 suspected ANC terrorists.

Gen de Witt said five people were injured and dozens fled in terror when a bomb rocked Empangeni's post office on October 14.

The bomb, planted in a rubbish bin near telephone booths, seriously injured a man and left a further four with minor injuries.

There was also an explosion at the Sanlam Centre in Empangeni on October 6, he said.

Earlier this month, 11 suspected ANC terrorists were arrested and arms seized. Police linked the arrests to 14 terror attacks

since July last year.

Days later Gen de Witt announced that a further 16 arrests had been made in the Transvaal, smashing an underground terrorist cell linked to activity in Mamelodi, Soshwanguve and Soweto.