

POLICING THE POLICE

High time for SA to lay down the law

COMPLETELY autonomous regional police structures, each under its own elected chief constable who is accountable to the electoral body that appoints him, must be created in South Africa, argues VICTOR NELL.

TODAY's headlines have a chilling message for South Africans: if we don't get our act together and stop the violence, the world will stand by and watch us going down the tubes like Mobutu's Zaïre and the Bosnian Muslims.

The train killings are the most puzzling manifestation of South Africa's political violence. There is no pattern to the deaths and therefore no indication whether the targets are members of a particular political party. And the attackers remain faceless.

How might the plan for regionalising the police function, put forward last week in this newspaper, address this problem?

Policing has two functions. One is to institute measures that stop crime before it is committed by such methods as maintaining a visible, uniformed police presence, exercising surveillance over known violence hot spots, and by stop-and-search methods.

Its second function is to identify criminals, apprehend them, marshal the evidence against them, and bring them before a court of law. This is where all police effort so far seems to have been concentrated.

This is the point of the repetitive police plea for "witnesses to come forward" and identify suspects — a life-threatening exercise in a system that has no witness protection programme and on occasion seems deliberately to expose witnesses to the danger of reprisals.

However, shifting the focus to prevention is unlikely to be an insuperable problem in police science.

What would the New York police, for example, do if half a dozen subway passengers were killed every week by masked gunmen? One thing is certain: the problem would not have been allowed to drag on for months and years!

Back home, as far as one can determine from reading the newspapers, police responses to suggestions for effective steps to counter the violence have been totally inadequate.

Somewhere there has been a

collapse of the political will to deal effectively with the problem. But no one knows where this collapse has taken place.

Police command structures are so centralised, and so intertwined with this country's political system, that it is impossible to establish whether a political agenda exists, let alone its purpose.

There is only one way to break this impasse: create completely autonomous regional police structures, each under its own elected chief constable who is accountable to the electoral body that appoints him, and to have strong, independent accountability procedures which would use outside experts as required.

Suppose, hypothetically, that this system had been instituted for the Johannesburg metropolitan area two years ago. Suppose that the chief constable was a powerful and incorruptible individual of stature — not a professional policeman, and not a politician, but an individual with a talent for command and a passion for justice.

Such a person and his deputies would not have tolerated the ongoing violence. Regardless of their cost or inconvenience, control measures would have been formulated and speedily put into place and the problem would have been dealt with. If not, the chief constable would have been out of a job very smartly.

The point is not that the chief constable is apolitical. The point is that the police political agenda, if it is taken away from the central government and made regional, again becomes plain and visible to ordinary people, who are in a position to do something about systems they don't like or that fail to protect them.

This country's salvation is going to be in strong local and regional democratic structures, with real power to change the way people live and improve their life quality.

There is no more important place to start than with the police now.

• The author is director of the University of South Africa's Health Psychology Unit.

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Saturday Star August 15 1992

Saturday Star

Amnesty and realpolitik

THERE is no need for despair, President de Klerk counsels. His advice and reassurances are worth heeding. They recall Franklin Roosevelt's aphorism: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

The ANC's decision to sever contact with the De Klerk administration for the second time in less than two months is hardly calculated to dispel despondency. Its depressing impact is increased by its timing: it came as optimism rose that a general amnesty and renewed negotiations were imminent.

Hopes that Government-ANC talks on political prisoners would lead to a general amnesty have been scuppered. The ANC insists there is no link between its demand for the release of all political prisoners and a general amnesty. It charges that Pretoria is holding the prisoners hostage so as to secure an amnesty for security force officials suspected of involvement in the murder of anti-apartheid activists.

The ANC argues that the "De Klerk regime" does not have the moral authority to grant an amnesty to its officials and that for it to do so would be "equivalent to a criminal pardoning himself for crimes he has committed". A general amnesty is "properly the province of an interim government of national unity", the ANC declares.

Against that, however, the remaining ANC prisoners are men who have been convicted of murder for killing unarmed civilians. Their status as political prisoners is disputed by the Government. By agreeing to release them, the administration is making a concession for which it seeks a quid pro quo: a general amnesty which will include crimes committed by security forces.

In the world of *realpolitik*, the Government stance is not extraordinary. It is acting in the interests of its men, in the same way as the ANC.

If the ANC has objections to the route taken to a general amnesty or the quid pro quo demanded for it, the "proper province" for those differences is the negotiating table. To withdraw, as a stratagem to increase its leverage, is to jeopardise the future of all South Africans.

The role of ordinary South Africans is to sustain steady pressure on all parties to resume negotiations and clear the obstacles to a settlement.

Sa. Star

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wale dismissed National Party calls for the dismantling of the SDUs in numerous PWV and Natal townships.

"Dismantling the SDUs would mean leaving the people of the townships undefended. The police are doing absolutely nothing to protect the people. There is no question that hundreds of lives have been saved by the presence of SDUs.

"The issue here is not defence units but repression and violence — increasing, incessant violence by police, by faceless elements who come under the cover of darkness and shoot and kill people anywhere.

"The townships are like a man who, under a barrage of blows, lifts both his arms and legs to protect himself — how can someone under attack like that defend himself in the wrong way?

"We must remember that the SDUs are legitimate structures agreed to by the National Peace Accord and the Carleton Conference — both signed by the National Party. They belong to the community and are not run solely by the ANC."

Sexwale also dismissed police statistics published in a local daily as "propaganda and a figment of their imaginations".

Trenches

"This is yet another example of the cynical use of the police by the National Party to carry out their propaganda involving them in political matters that should rightly be answered by their Cabinet ministers. Police are civil servants who are supposed to serve the whole public and not become an extension of a particular party."

After the political storm, an uneasy quiet reigned in most of the troubled Vaal townships this week. Most of the barricades have been removed and the trenches that were once a feature of every second street in most of these townships have been filled up.

The police too are maintaining a respectable presence, but it is probably the cold weather that is primarily responsible for the desolate, crime-free streets.

Sat. Star

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Manning the barricades

LATE one night last week, Anna Mokwena, manageress of a Sharpeville Chicken Licken franchise shop, watched four youths enter her shop and demand two family boxes of chicken.

They were coming from patrol, they said, and they were hungry.

One of them flashed an ID card to prove he was indeed part of the local self-defence unit (SDU). A few minutes later, when Anna demanded payment, one of the youths pulled out a pistol.

"Do you want me to use this on you?" he threatened.

Frightened, Anna kept her mouth shut while another youth demanded a R5 donation "for bullets". They left after taking a round of soft drinks.

Two nights later, ANC Youth League deputy vice-chairman Gaula Dineka and another youth, both from the local SDU, were on guard at the same Chicken Licken outlet after receiving a complaint from the owner.

Moments after their arrival, another attempted theft took place. This time the would-be thieves jumped on the counter and shoved their hands in the till. The two guards, with the help of the staff, fought them off, but in the ensuing scuffle, the suspected thieves got away. Whether they belong to the SDU is not known.

However, on the other hand, at the Dorothy Nyembe camp near Sharpeville, members of the local SDU are raising money to restore the burnt-out house of a policeman's parents

after it had been fire-bombed in the first wave of attacks after the Boipatong massacre.

These two examples clearly demonstrate glaring anomalies: the need communities feel for protection against the kind of arbitrary violence that has seen hundreds of township people killed, on the one hand, and the numerous complaints, some of a very serious nature, that residents have made against youths who "man the barricades" at night as part of the SDUs.

One of the most frequent complaints in the Sebokeng area came from motorists who were routinely dragged out of

their cars at roadblocks and often assaulted or robbed.

In many parts of Soweto, retailers fear for their lives and refuse to enter certain areas, even under escort. Municipal workers, branded and attacked as sellouts, have stopped working and huge piles of rubbish lie uncollected.

Another aspect of this breakdown in the townships is contained in police statistics this week stating that 173 SDU members have been arrested and charged with a variety of crimes ranging from murder to fraud, rape and illegal possession of arms.

The majority of these ar-

rests, the report says, came from the SDUs operating out of Vaal Triangle townships. To the police, this is proof that the "ANC's SDUs are out of control".

The ANC, for its part, has launched a full-scale internal inquiry into the activities of SDUs after its president, Nelson Mandela, complained there had been incidents of some SDUs "getting out of hand".

The controversy started when SACP general-secretary Chris Hani was quoted in a Sunday newspaper as saying "ANC SDUs were running riot and committing atrocities". Hani denied parts of the re-

ports and spoke again this week to the Saturday Star about his view of the SDUs.

"I certainly never wanted to create the impression that SDUs have run wild and that they're running amok or that they are a law unto themselves — there is no evidence of such. What I said is that in certain areas there are reports of such a thing.

"There have been perturbing and mysterious killings of shop stewards belonging to the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa and certainly there are unproven allegations that some units of MK were responsible.

"We made an initial investigation, which resulted in the appointment of a commission, to investigate the problems of the Vaal and to report back to the ANC national executive committee.

"We need the SDUs, there is no question about that, particularly in the climate of State-orchestrated violence. Certainly, the SDUs, by their nature as organs of defence, have been targeted by the instruments of the State because they have neutralised the activities of hit squads, of the CCB and certain elements within the security forces."

ANC spokesman Tokyo Sex-

Exile leader retracts ANC assassination

S/ News 15/8/92

RETURNED Exiles Committee chairman Pat Hlongwane yesterday retracted statements about plans to assassinate African National Congress leaders.

Mr Hlongwane said the statements were made because of all the publicity the ANC received, and the REC decided to put into practice what the ANC had taught them — disinformation.

It worked, said Mr Hlongwane. Within hours the organi-

sation had international coverage.

He said the committee had no intention of killing the ANC hierarchy unless provoked to do so. It merely wanted the world to take notice and the ANC to answer for alleged atrocities in ANC detention camps.

His announcement came a few hours after the South African Police announced it had completed an investigation into al-

leged assassination threats against African National Congress leaders by the REC.

A spokesman for the SAP, Captain Bala Naidoo, said the SAP had forwarded television recordings of Mr Hlongwane's statements on SABC to the Attorney-General.

Mr Hlongwane had threatened to assassinate those ANC leaders which his organisation holds responsible for the torture

VASANTHA ANGAMUTHU
Political Reporter
and Sapa

of ANC dissidents imprisoned in ANC camps if an independent commission of inquiry did not bring these leaders to justice.

The ANC said in a statement yesterday that Mr Hlongwane and his group "did not have the capacity to carry out its threats alone".

ANC spokesman, Mr Dumisani Makhaye said Mr Hlongwane was a smokescreen for the security forces of which the REC was an integral part.

"They (the security forces) needed somebody to publicly claim that he is planning assassinations so that when the security services carry out these assassinations, the public attention will focus on that somebody. It has to be somebody

claims

with some connection with the ANC so the regime can claim it is squabbles within the ANC emanating from its exile past," Mr Makhaye said.

Police have repeatedly denied any links with Mr Hlongwane.

Meanwhile the Inkatha Freedom Party has denied that it has any links with the REC.

"However this is not to suggest we are unsympathetic to

their stance regarding alleged maltreatment by the ANC of political prisoners. We regard the matter of their complaints as legitimate," IFP spokesman, Mr Ed Tillet said.

The IFP has also slammed the ANC for refusing the media access to its investigation into alleged abuses in its detention camps and reaffirmed its demands for an independent commission of inquiry.

16/1/11

Four killed in AK-47 attack on E Rand squatters

By Sapa, Hugo Hagen and Carol Hills

FOUR people were shot dead and seven others — two of them children — were wounded when about 10 men armed with AK-47 rifles attacked the Ivory Park squatter camp near Tembisa on the East Rand early yesterday morning, an investigation by the SA Police has disclosed.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Lieutenant Dave Bruce said in a statement police arrived at the squatter camp shortly after they received a report from a resident at 3.55 am that shooting was going on and houses were burning.

They found four houses had been set alight and came across four wounded people. Shortly afterwards, they came across a wounded man and two injured children. All seven were rushed to hospital.

He said police and de-

tectives later found four bodies on the scene. There was evidence that they had been shot with heavy-calibre firearms.

Further evidence showed that a group of about 10 men armed with AK-47 rifles had been responsible for the shooting. There were also indications linking the shooting to the ongoing taxi war in the area.

"It has come to light that while detectives were obtaining statements from witnesses on the scene, the witnesses were forcibly removed by people who appeared to be ANC supporters," Col Bruce said.

"These actions, together with the Press statement issued by the ANC, which is not based on accurate and substantiated information, is viewed by the police as a further attempt to drive a wedge between the police and the community.

"These actions are highly irresponsible and can only serve to increase suspicion against the police in an already volatile climate. Already these actions have caused potential witnesses not to co-operate with the police and can only hamper the investigations."

Col Bruce said it would be appreciated if the ANC came forward with evidence to substantiate their "wild claims" that the police had fired tear-gas to "clear the roads of so-called marshals before the attack".

"Police are in possession of several sworn statements made by residents in which they clearly state that the SA Police was not involved in the attack," he said.

"It is very clear that the ANC will not hesitate in making statements to discredit the SA Police before even verifying the facts. It appears that every time a tragic situation arises the ANC are quick to use the suffering of the victims for political gain."

Col Bruce said the investigations were proceeding "at full speed" and assured the community that the police would do everything in their power to bring the perpetrators to justice.

A senior detective, Colonel William Benn, was heading the investigation, while the head of Randburg's District Criminal Investigation Service, Colonel Gert van der Linde, was in charge of preliminary investiga-

tions at the squatter camp, he said.

In a second statement issued late yesterday, the ANC claimed that five people had died at Ivory Park and not 18 as it had reported earlier.

According to information gathered by the ANC, residents had started patrolling the streets in Ivory Park.

At about 3 am yesterday a group on patrol saw a minibus full of men enter the township. They tried to stop it, but failed and the bus parked some distance from a house and was joined by another three to four minibuses.

"As the residents' patrol approached the Kombis, a police Casspir arrived and cast a spotlight on the residents, not the Kombis. The residents withdrew and the Casspir then joined the Kombis.

"Shortly thereafter the group marched towards the houses escorted by the Casspir. Whenever residents tried to approach the group, the Casspir's spotlight was directed at them. Residents then alerted the township by sounding a warning whistle," the ANC said.

A group of residents who responded to the whistle found the taxi group assembled in the soccer grounds separating two sections of the area in which the attack later took place.

However, the residents were not sure if the group of men they saw on the soccer field was part of the township patrol or not — Sapa

The Citizen 15/8/92

Counsel calls for news report probe

COUNSEL for the SA Police, Mr Flip Hattingh, yesterday called on the Goldstone Commission committee inquiring into the June 17 Boipatong massacre to investigate a Vrye Weekblad newspaper report on this week's proceedings.

Mr Hattingh suggested the report could contravene the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation Act.

He said the report's claim that an SAP special constable had testified he had seen a Casspir in Boipatong "loaded with impis and murderous intent" on the night of June

17 was completely incorrect.

"We have heard no evidence so far of Casspirs loaded with impis," said Mr Hattingh.

Mr Hattingh said he feared the statement of a SAP special constable, whose evidence has yet to be heard by the Commission, had been leaked to the newspaper.

This constituted a contravention of the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation Act of 1991.

Acting Commission chairman Neal Rossouw said the committee would consider the report and

decide on what action to take.

A decision had not been taken by the end of yesterday's proceedings.

This is the second time a newspaper has come under the Commission's spotlight.

Earlier this week, Commission chairman Justice Richard Goldstone ruled that certain aspects of a Sunday Times report on the commission's proceedings had been incorrect and requested the editor, Mr Ken Owen, to print a corrected version in the newspaper's next edition. — Sapa.

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The Citizen 15/8/92

ANC wooing of UN went wrong: NP

Political Correspondent
CAPE TOWN. — The ANC's attempt to gain the support of the United Nations and the international community had boomeranged against it, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, secretary-general of the National Party, said yesterday.

The ANC's reaction to the government acceptance in principle of the recommendations of UN secretary-general Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and to proposals for a general amnesty,

showed it was not acting in the interests of even its own members, said Dr Van der Merwe.

The refusal by the ANC to talk to the government was predictable but also extremely regrettable.

"It is clear that the ANC feels itself at a disadvantage, in spite of the effort to boost its image through mass action.

"Regardless of the damage done to the South African economy and the prospects of job opportunities for the unemployed, the mass action did not live up to expectations.

"Furthermore, the attempt of the ANC to gain international support through an appeal to the UN Security Council has clearly boomeranged.

Dr Van der Merwe said the report by Mr Cyrus Vance and the government's reaction to it showed that the ANC had lost more than it gained.

"It is a pity that the ANC continues to put its own interest above those of South Africa, and that it continues to hold the poor and the jobless hostage by its refusal to reopen negotiations.

"At the same time the ANC prevents complete indemnity from being given to ANC cadres who are still in possession of illegal arms, and those who may have committed serious offences such as the killing of civilians," said Dr Van der Merwe.

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THE CITIZEN

'Boipatong in darkness on night of attack'

A POLICEMAN yesterday told the Goldstone Commission investigating the June 17 Boipatong massacre that the powerful township floodlights, by which witnesses claimed to have seen police vehicles assisting attackers, were off on the night of the massacre.

Lt Marthinus Kruger, a Vereeniging Crime Prevention patrol officer, told the commission on the night of June 17 he was called out to a petrol garage on the outskirts of Boipatong.

He was told on his arrival at about 11 pm that there were groups of men in the veld and that the security guards considered them a threat to the garage.

He said he could see the groups of men about 100 metres away dancing in the veld and blowing whistles. He also heard a number of gunshots from the direction of Boipatong.

He later watched the men crossing the road and heading in the direction of the "Iscor hostels".

Plain-clothed police who had arrived on the scene advised him to take the security guards to a place of safety, which he did.

He took the two security guards and the petrol pump attendant, Mr Meshack Theoane, to nearby Baldwin Steel.

He told the commission that it was then that he realised the tall Apollo floodlights were off and that Boipatong township was in darkness.

Senior counsel for the ANC, Mr Denis Kuny, put it to Lt Kruger that it was impossible to see the township from Baldwin Steel as the view was blocked by buildings.

Lt Kruger agreed, but said it was possible to see if the township was lit or not.

"We'll have to see about that," replied Mr Kuny.

Contradicted

Lt Kruger also alleged he had seen two Buffel armoured vehicles in the vicinity of the garage. This evidence apparently contradicted evidence given earlier by Mr Theoane, who last week told the commission two Casspir armoured vehicles were present when groups of armed men crossed the road towards Boipatong before the attack. He said security

force members manning the vehicles had done nothing to stop the men.

The Buffel is an SA Defence Force vehicle and is apparently not used by the police.

The commission also heard yesterday that an initial evaluation by an independent agency investigating the erasure of information pertinent to the massacre inquiry from police tapes appeared to confirm police claims that it was done in error.

Police claimed the recordings, containing all radio conversations of security force members between about 2 pm on June 17 and 3 am on June 18, had been accidentally taped over because operators were not aware of how to use the equipment.

The equipment uses ordinary commercial tapes, but only one side could be used, or information would be taped over.

On June 18, the day after the Boipatong massacre, police had turned over the tapes in the machine resulting in the destruction of all information pertaining to action taken by security forces on the night of

June 17.

Counsel for the Commission, Mr J J de Toit, read the initial findings of Grinaker Electronics Agencies, which has been charged with finding out how the information was erased from the tapes.

The company found the tapes "were not bulk erased per se".

It confirmed on completion of recording, the tape was turned around for further recording.

"Under these conditions, recordings made on side A of a tape, for ex-

ample, would be erased before being written over by the new information."

The company said further investigations were being undertaken to determine whether any of the lost information could be recovered.

Lt Kruger was the commission's last witness for this sitting.

The Goldstone Commission committee inquiring into the Boipatong massacre adjourned yesterday and will resume sitting on November 2 in Vereeniging. — Sapa.

The Citizen 15/8/92

Govt call to ANC: End talks boycott

THE South African Government yesterday said it had smoothed the path for the resumption of political negotiations, and called on the African National Congress to end its boycott.

A day after the ANC reiterated it was not preparing to go back to the talks, Constitutional Development Minister Mr Roelf Meyer also denied ANC charges the government had dragged side issues into their talks on Sunday.

"Many aspects that have led to the deadlocks in the negotiation process have been effectively dealt with by the government in the past weeks, and there is really no reason for the ANC to stay away from the negotiating table any longer," Mr Meyer said.

"The remaining matters must be resolved further by means of negotiation," he added.

The ANC said on Thursday it had gone into the meeting on Sunday hoping the government would offer a response to its 14 demands it drafted when it withdrew from Codesa in June.

The ANC said the government had dragged into the bilateral talks the thorny issue of political prisoners.

"Likewise, no indication was given by the government that it was prepared to meet mass action demands. This is still the government's stance. The government is not prepared to negotiate in the face of demands," Mr Meyer responded.

He said the meeting on Sunday had not been uni-

laterally initiated by the Government.

"The discussion was exceptionally constructive, and the government representatives were under the impression that both sides experienced it in this way. The spirit that prevailed was one of a search for solutions."

"It is clear to the government that the ANC negotiators have meanwhile been rapped over the knuckles. The Government regrets this state of affairs. The sooner negotiations are continued, the better."

Mr Meyer added the government endorsed United Nations secretary-general, Mr Boutros Boutros Ghali's view that negotiations should resume as soon as possible.

— Sapa.

Sa. Star 15/8/92

Ex-officers, agents flock to help ANC on Goniwe

SINCE the publication of the "Goniwe signal", former Military Intelligence officers and operatives in the eastern Cape have rushed to the ANC for protection or payment.

In the past three months former security force members have approached the ANC's intelligence department — some promising, in return for cash, more information on the 1985 murder of Matthew Goniwe and three colleagues.

Large amounts of money have allegedly been mentioned in the course of the ANC's attempts to pursue leads on the murders, under investigation by eastern Cape Attorney-General Michael Hodgson.

A former SADF officer and member of the security force "Hammer" group in the eastern Cape was one of those who crossed over — but now he has threatened to "take out" ANC officials who had "stuffed him around" for two months.

Attempts

The operative asked the Saturday Star not to reveal his identity as there had already been three attempts on his life. He said a few weeks ago the entire magazine of a 9 mm pistol had been emptied at him. He accused his former colleagues in Hammer of trying to eliminate him.

He said a group of men had subsequently

threatened to attack him: "I pulled out my Bowie knife and said to them I would take at least two or three with me. They backed off."

He offered to investigate the Goniwe murders for the ANC, in return for R5 000. "They agreed to finance my investigations, but I have not heard anything of them again. The ANC has breached a situation of confidence. The bastards owe me money."

The willingness of former eastern Cape security forces members to deal with the ANC seems to stem from fears that the exposure of the alleged military signal — in which it was recommended that Goniwe and others be "permanently removed from



society" — may lead to prosecutions.

A former officer in Military Intelligence, Colonel Gert Hugo, confirmed recently that he had been co-operating for some time with the ANC and human rights organisations on the Goniwe murders, and on military operations in Ciskei and the eastern Cape. He said his involvement with the ANC

arose from desperation and a shortage of money, but added that he had not been paid much by the ANC.

Hugo said the last time he had seen the ANC was a month ago. He had initially been debriefed by the organisation in a house on the East Rand. He said he now suspected there was a leak in the ANC's intelligence department.

ANC sources said Hugo promised to recruit a Special Forces officer for the organisation, but he had not been heard from again.

While co-operating with the ANC, the Hammer operative said he knew an eastern Cape policeman who claimed to have witnessed the killings. Now he has cut off contact with the ANC and is assisting Hodgson's investigation. Saturday Star understands he has offered his services to a human rights organisation.

The operative and Hugo have been accused by former military colleagues in the eastern Cape of "betrayal". A former member of Hammer, John Scott, said in telephone conversation:

"He's the oke who's dropping all sorts of people in the shit." The former officer threatened to "tramp" and "f... up" the operative if he got hold of him.

Scott added that Hugo was causing trouble and looking "for favour with the ANC".

Protection

Saturday Star also understands that Commandant Lourens du Plessis, a Military Intelligence officer whose name and signature appear on the Goniwe message, has been approached by the ANC, which apparently offered protection in return for information. Du Plessis has not been available for comment. His wife said he was not

at home and she had not seen him for some time.

In addition, Jennifer du Plessis, a former police undercover agent has over the past months been in contact with the ANC. She claims ANC intelligence officials offered her R40 000 to get former Hammer member John Scott to confess involvement in the Goniwe killings.

In June, Du Plessis had meetings with an ANC official known as Morris. She said he tried to recruit her.

Three days later, she met two officials who, she claims, offered her R10 000 for information about the Goniwe killings.

ANC sources said they had been in contact with Du Plessis.

Sa. Star

15/8/92

Arms runner knew ejected IFP man

JACQUES PAUW and
SHAUN JOHNSON

BRUCE Anderson, the deported Inkatha Freedom Party member at the centre of a row over alleged arms-smuggling into South Africa, was well known to self-confessed gun-runner and former police informant Jennifer du Plessis.

Du Plessis, who has broken cover to tell The Star's investigating team of gun-running among former security force members, claims she met Anderson in Swaziland at the premises of a well-known "middle-man" in the weapons syndicate operating between Swaziland and Mozambique.

Anderson (47) was deported from South Africa last month. No reasons were given, but Saturday Star understands the move followed representations by Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano to President F W de Klerk in Maputo during July.

Chissano allegedly told De Klerk Anderson had



DU PLESSIS: The gun runner.



BRUCE ANDERSON: Deported.

long-standing links with the Renamo rebels, and was involved in smuggling arms to South Africa.

IFP spokesman Suzanne Vos said yesterday the organisation would have "nothing to do" with illegal arms trading.

The Weekly Mail claimed this week that Anderson had acquired about 40 AK-47 rifles and "a few anti-personnel mines" from contacts in Mozambique and then arranged, through a middle-man in Swaziland, for the arms to be dropped off at KwaMashu, Natal.

Anderson is also thought to have links with a former CCB member on whose behalf Du Plessis had bought weapons in Swaziland.

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Anderson

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The man, whose name is known to the Saturday Star, has his own security company in South Africa. According to information, he recently clinched a deal to provide security for the Cahora Bassa hydro-electrical scheme, gaining free access to Mozambique.

A top ANC official told the Saturday Star the organisation had evidence that Anderson had bought arms from Renamo and brought them to South Africa.

Sources say Anderson has been a long-standing associate and confidante of Renamo president

Afonso Dhlakama.

In South Africa, Anderson became involved with Inkatha. He represented the IFP at CODESA and was a member of the Interim Dispute Resolution Committee in Alexandra township.

The Saturday Star understands that Chissano decided to ask the SA Government to act against Anderson in the light of the Frelimo/Renamo peace initiatives. Comment from De Klerk's office had not been forthcoming at the time of going to press.

Sapa reports that in a telephone interview from London, Anderson said he did not want to "comment or speculate on un-informed and inaccurate allegations".

Sa. Star 15/8/92

Squatter camp carnage

A VIOLENT week-long taxi war between two rival companies from Alexandra and Tembisa, fought out at the sprawling Midrand Ivory Park squatter camp, left four people dead and six wounded early yesterday.

The feud was reportedly sparked when angry residents complained at having to pay double on some trips. Ivory Park Taxi Association operators allegedly took residents only as far as nearby townships; commuters were then forced to catch a second taxi — and pay again — if they wished to go further.

Residents had decided that the Tembisa Taxi Association should be allowed into the squatter camp to operate alongside the Ivory Park Taxi Association.

According to witnesses, yesterday morning's violence was confined to the eastern segment of the camp. Shooting started at about 3 am when three groups of men armed with guns, spears and petrol bombs

JOE LOUW,
CAROLINE HURRY
and SAPA

attacked the camp.

Residents said they were awakened by the sound of gunfire and screams. Some shacks had been set alight, and people in their nightclothes fled in all directions.

"They were attacking at random, shouting 'Where is Mandela?' and kicking doors and firing," said Taylor Moga-kana, a camp resident. Most of the camp residents interviewed claimed the police, patrolling in Casspirs, had transported the killers to the camp. One, who gave his name as Japhtha Dizeni, produced a matchbox on which he says he had scribbled the number of one of the vehicles which he claimed accompanied the attackers.

Simon Muisa, a resident of Ivory Park and one of about 19 men who were "manning the barricades" with the local self-defence unit, confirmed he had seen the same police vehicle at about the time the shooting started.

An elderly man who identified himself only



THE KILLING FIELDS: Three Internal Stability Unit policeman guard one of the corpses found after an attack on Ivory Park near Tembisa on the East Rand.
● Photograph: GEORGE MASHININI

as "Mpho" said: "Ivory Park people have a small pool of taxis called Khatimbani which was supplemented by taxis from Tembisa."

"Some two weeks ago,

the Alexandra taxis showed up to carry people from Ivory Park and this is where trouble began. Tembisa objected and last Monday five people were killed. Our

association had a meeting with the taxi groups and an agreement was reached about who is to use what routes.

"That Thursday morning, when people wanted

to go to work, the Alexandra taxis had disappeared. Shortly thereafter a Tembisa taxi was ambushed, the driver was shot dead and a young girl riding in the

back was seriously wounded.

"Alexandra taxi people came here and started threatening us, saying they were going to send Madala hostel people to attack us. Shortly afterwards police, with whom we had no problems up to then, started sjambokking people and throwing teargas at us."

"Mpho" says he saw the same Casspir previously described with about "50 to 100" men squatting near it just before the attacks.

Most other witnesses told similar stories. By mid-morning the bodies of four adults were still lying outside their shacks when ANC officials Saki Macozoma, Tokyo Serwale and Gill Marcus arrived.

Sapa reports that the National Peace Committee (NPC) intervened in the feud yesterday.

In a day of drama, residents alleged SAP complicity in the attacks, a war of words broke out between the police and the ANC, and various transport organisations held an urgent meeting to resolve the issue.

Democratic Party MP Rupert Lorimer, of the NPC's Wits/Vaal Regional Dispute Resolu-

tion Committee, who visited the area, said he would submit signed statements by witnesses to the Goldstone Commission.

Yesterday's attack followed warnings issued last month by a Goldstone Commission committee that violence might flare in the area again.

Denying allegations of police involvement, SAP spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce said the charges were a typical ANC ploy to gain political mileage.

"We have several affidavits in which residents swear there were no police involved in the violence. In fact, at one stage the ANC forcibly removed residents who were making statements to the police."

"Such actions are highly irresponsible as they serve only to increase suspicion against the SAP. The registration number of a Casspir allegedly involved proves nothing. Firstly, all police vehicles have three letters and three numbers and, secondly, if a Casspir was there it could have been a vehicle that is routinely in the area on a daily basis."

16/11/11

UMkhonto weSizwe ushaya phansi ngonyawo ngoHani

ILANGA - 15-17/08/92

ETHOHOYANDOU (eVenda). - Uphiko lwezempi lwe-African National Congress (ANC), olwaziwa ngeloMkhonto weSizwe (MK), engqungqutheleni yalo ebise-Nyuvesi yaseVenda ngeмпelasonto, luthathe isinqumo sokwenqabela uMnuz. Chris Hani, umkhuzi walo ukuba ashintshelwe kuSouth African Communist Party (SACP).

Kodwa uMnuz Hani ekhuluma emsakazweni wethelevishini uthe yena usazolindela isinqumo sesigungu sikazwelonke se-ANC, wathi yisona ayosemukela, okusho ukuthi uma bethi akaphume kuMk uyokwenza lokho abakushoyo. Eminye imibiko yangempelasonto ithe amalunga eMK amsongele uMnuz Hani athi uyolutheza olunenkume uma engahambinanga nesinqumo sawo sokuba ahlale engumkhuzi wawo.

I-MK ibuye yanquma ukuba kubunjwe uphiko oluzophenya ngokuthi ungakhiwa kanjani umbutho wezokuvikela we-South Africa entsha. Okunye okuzokwenziwa yilekhomishane wudaba lokuphathwa kwalemibutho ehlukahlukene ekhona, ngesikhathi kusalungiselelwa uhulumeni omusha. Lokhu kuhlanganisa iSADF neSAP.

Lengqungquthela ibihanjelwe ngamalungu eMK abalelwa ku-240, kukhona nezikhulu eziphezulu ze-ANC. Ingqungquthela ibuye yezwakalisa ukungahambisani nesenzo sikaHulumeni sokubamanqikanqika ekukhululeni amalungu aloluphiko asaboshiwe. Kubalwe phakathi kwawo oRobert McBride, Mtheleli Mncube no-Euclide Nondula.

Lengqungquthela yavulwa nguDr. Nelson Mandela, oyiCommander-in-chief kuMK. Abanye abethule izinkulumo kulengqungquthela kubengababusi bezabelo ezimbili esezathatha uzimele-geqe kwathi bona bayihlwetha leyomibuso ngezikhali. Labo ngoMajor-Gen Bantubonke Holomisa obusa eTranskei noBrigadier Gabriel Ramushwana wasebuVenda.