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_SUNDAY TN ;
Her thali was all that was left

The ANC had a duty to accept responsibility for the bomb which claimed the life of a Durban couple. It had never apologised for killing the innocent, radio journalist Gary Govindsamy told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

hen a freelance photo-

journalist dashed to the

scene of Durbanâ\200\231s first

bomb blast to capture the carnage of a massive TNT explosion he was unaware that his brother and pregnant sister-in-law were victims.

The couple had never stood a chance. The powerful car bomb exploded just metres from where they had been walking hand-in-hand down the esplanade.

It took a long time for him to .

identify his brother Anamalaiâ\200\231s body, Gary Govindsamy told the Truth Commission. The only way he was able to identify his sister-in-law Leelavathi was by the thali she wore around her neck. Three people died and 22 were injured when a massive charge of TNT and plastic explosives packed in the boot of a stolen car exploded on Durbanâ\200\231s Victoria Embankment in April 1984.

The deaths of Anamalai and Leelavathi destroyed an entire family, says Gary. Their six-year-

old son Terrance was orphaned and six months after the blast Anamalaiâ\200\231s father died of a stroke. â\200\234My father was a humble man who worked for the railways,â\200\235 Gary told the Commission. â\200\234Several times a day his job forced him to cycle past the scene of the bomb. He could not handle passing this spot; it killed him.â\200\235

" Their mother cried for her dead child every day until she too died of a stroke. â\200\234She was shattered by the death of her eldest son at the hands of another person, she was a helpless women.â\200\235 .

Today, 12 years later, Gary and his family are still waiting for someone to come forward and say sorry. â\200\234We want to know the person who planted this bomb, he must tell us why he did so. He must tell us why he did not warn bystanders to flee the area. He knew the bomb was lethal. He must apologise for what he has done.â\200\235

Gary is angry that the ANC has never contacted him or any members of his family. â\200\234I have no doubt that the ANC planted the bomb that killed my brother and sister-in-law. It has a duty to accept responsibility for the blast. One accepted the political arena of the time but the perpetrators werenâ\200\231t blowing up bridges, or army barracks - innocent people were being killed.â\200\235

He is equally angry with the

Nationalist government of the time because, he says, if they had talked instead of banishing people underground and â\200\230into. exile bomb blasts might nÃ©ver â\200\230have occurred. Â¥

Gary adopted Terrance but says he has not been able to afford to send the boy to universityâ\200\230or college and that angers him. â\200\234Had his parents been around he could have gone to varsity, now he is doing a menial job.â\200\235 :

Terrance, who works shifts at Durban airport, was initially reluctant to testify before the Truth Commission because he wasnâ\200\231t sure he could forgive and reconcile. â\200\234He said to me he wanted to kill the people who had killed his parents but I told him to go away and think about it and when he came back he said he was ready to forgive.â\200\235 ; ;

Terrance told the Tribune that his change of heart had come about when he realised that killing someone wouldnâ\200\231t bring his parents back. â\200\234Hatred . . . won'â\200\231t bring them back.â\200\235

He hoped the Commission

would encourage the perpetrators to come forward and apologise so he could forgive them. All he wanted was a memorial to his parents and perhaps, he asked Archbishop Tutu, money raised through the Commission could be given to the previous witness, Mrs Seipei. She was poor.

Bomber's mother makes plea

TONI YOUNGHUSBAND

The weeping mother of a convicted bomber drew groans of anguish from spectators at the

KwaZulu-Natal hearings of the -

Truth Commission as she begged Commissioners to be allowed to visit her son's grave.

Lephina Zondo's 20-year-old son Andrew was sentenced to death five times for the 1986 bombing of an Amanzimtoti shopping centre, a blast which killed five innocent people including an eight-year-old child. He was hanged in Pretoria.

Many tears have been shed for the victims of his violent actions but few expected to cry for his mother. It was her family's endless litany of hardship and heartache that wrung sympathy from the Truth Commission audience.

Testifying on the last day of the commission's Durban hearings, Mrs Zondo said it was her cultural tradition to see the body of a loved one before they were buried and then to conduct a proper mourning ceremony at home in KwaMashu.

"They would not allow us to see his body and they buried him in Mamelodi. Why didn't they give us the body because they had already hanged him? Our hearts were heavy," she said.

Mrs Zondo revealed she had suspected but never known for sure that her son was a UDF supporter. He left home at 16. "We searched for him, we didn't know if he was still alive."

She never tried to excuse her son's actions; her words were those of someone deeply hurt and

confused by a process of law she did not understand.

â\200\234We had a memorial service at home in KwaMashu and while it was happening the police came in and broke the furniture and assaulted everyone. There was a lot of blood and dishes were broken. Two children were attacked and killed as they left the service. My other son was severely assaulted and he .. ad epileptic attacks for a long time afterwards.â\200\235

The boy later died.

Mrs Zondo asked the Commission to help her replace the broken dishes and furniture which had belonged to the communityâ\200\231s church.

They could also obtain a death certificate for her and perhaps they could assist her in visiting her sonâ\200\231s grave. 3

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THE NATS NOW'... 1996 is a time of crisis for the new-look National Party. The final cons -
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party. NP leader FW de Klerk, seated next to NP secretary general and chief constifipral FE
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Government of National Unity on Thursday.

Over the past few years, the NP has gained inside knowledge of the ANC and it will also bring to the task of opposition its own experience in government. These factors could help it

become a formidable

He wants to shake up the political scene, but he is not considering alliances with existing parties. Any movement which takes on and beats the ANC in an election will need the support of millions who vote for the

ANC. A merger of

able opponent and for the first parties only brings in

he forecast fire-
Works in parliament.
All the same, the
opposition will be .
responsible and constructive. He said he
would not continually rake up the past
and that he had
never been impressed by opposition parties which
opposed as a matter

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against

government, support the NP

their existing support
- and they might even
lose some of it.

We have to bring
in people who are
unhappy in the ANC,

have not reached the
stage where they can

because of its past
and the propaganda
from the Klerk which focuses on it

of principle.)
. The NP will target the ANC's performance from now on. The challenge
for them now is to stick to the agreements which were reached and we will
be watching them very closely.

The party will also focus on economic growth, effective management of the RDP, crime, justice, education as well as balanced and correct affirmative action. â\200\234I believe the ANC is vulnerable on all of these, not so much on policy, but on management and control.â\200\235

The NPâ\200\231s opposition will be

and not the inner renewal.

â\200\234We are not going to wait for it to happen; we are going to make it happen.â\200\235 .

He believes a new political movement could be in place by the next election if there is sufficient momentum.

He would like to construct co-operation between parties on issues where they agree.

â\200\234My main fight is with the ANC in the democratic sense of the word.

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Philosophically, we and they are natural opponents.â\200\235

Asked whether this country would

ever have another white president, and whether it could be him: â\200\234I would sincerely hope that our commitment to non-racialism will bring us to the point where we actually become non-racial also in our hearts. . .â\200\234If we succeed in our vision that party politics will become value based and value driven, then the quality and not the colour of the leader will be theâ\200\231 issue. ; .

â\200\234Surely it is possible (for him to be president again). It will be dependent on my health. It will depend on my party. It will depend on how long it takes us to achieve our vision. If it

. takes too long, then I won't be there. If

it happens relatively quickly, then I might be there.â\200\235

He admits the time spent in the unity cabinet lead to him being humiliated at times: â\200\234One such incident became public when I nearly walked out more than a year ago. There have been situations where, for the sake of South Africa and until we got a new constitution, that we had to restrain ourselves.â\200\235

Now he is raring to go. â\200\234I am deeply convinced-we are doing the right thing. There-were many advantages in staying on, not for us but for the country, but what is needed more than anything now is a dynamic democratic process

Anger a

t ANC

and our continued participation would have undermined this.

â\200\234We need sharp contrast between options and effective watchdog politics by a motivated and strong opposition and only we can provide this. I really feel good. There is no bxttemegs.

I am not cross with anybody. We did not leave' in a huff.â\200\235

He has warned the country might suffer because the ANC rejected NP policies for consultation mechanisms in government. The price is that with the complexity of our problems and our nationâ\200\231s make-up there is a constant threat of

| am not cross with anybody. We did not leave in a huff.

Mandela now gives effect to his many undertakings, that he will continue with a consultative style of government.â\200\235 :

Asked about how he felt about his personal loss of status as deputy president, he said: â\200\234I am looking forward to living under myâ\200\230own roof, sitting on my

; own chair and driving - I love driving - and the greater freedom of not being surrounded by security guards.â\200\235 -

Proof that Mr de Klerk did not lead the NP out of governmentâ\200\231 as a devilish plan lies in the fact that he has let his own house in Pretoria until 'next' March and he will need it soon. g

He said the debate

FW de Klerk

volatility which can be best managed with a culture which will see us rising above party differences on issues of national importance and seeking the support of the entire nation, not just counting heads, but bringing in all factions and uniting them for common goals.

He said the lack of such consultation could lead to confrontation and sow seeds for dissatisfaction, â\200\234which might

under certain circumstances develop
into resistanceâ\200\235.

â\200\234This all depends on how President

on whether to leave
government had been going on for
about 18 months and the acceptance of
the constitution brought the party to a
natural watershed.

He listened toâ\200\234the entire executive
committee, concluded that the deci-
sion was one to quit and there was .
immediate and unanimous accep-
tance. When it was announced in cau-
cus there was a standing ovation.

He emphasised there was no stand-
off, no splits and â\200\234there is no internal
problem within the partyâ\200\235.

NEW LIFE:

Gary
Govindsamy has
adopted his
nephew,
Terrance, left,
whose mother
was killed in the
blast on the
Victoria
Embankment in
1984.

Picture:
ANTHONY
McMILLAN

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TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Deputy' President FW de Klerk swung into action as leader of the opposition yesterday, accusing the ANC of being racist and vowing his own party would woo ANC voters.

In one of his first public appearances since announcing the NP's withdrawal from the

believe in the same values.

In an interview with the Sun-
day, when in Pretoria he said
he was already working on
strategies to capture the votes
of some of the millions who sup-
ported President Nelson Man-
dela but had become disaffected
with the ANC.

He also believed he was not
the country's last white presi-

Watch me, says

N E W S

government of national unity on
Thursday, he said the ANC was
constantly reviving the bitter-
ness of South Africa's past.

That is because they are not
fully a new racial party in their
suits, he told a youth rally in
Pretoria.

You just hear them talking
black and white, black and
white all the time, except when

dent and could even make a
come-back.

Mr de Klerk stressed he did
not want to fight with the ANC.
But from July 1, I become the
leader of the opposition and
then I won't have one hand tied
behind my back any longer.
Watch me then!

Members of the ANC and
other opponents against apart-

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teeth into opposition roleâ\200\235

they campaign in the Western
Cape, then brown comes into it
as well.â\200\235

Mr de Klerk said the NP on
the other hand had become a
truly non-racial party, a policy
which was reflected in the:
hearts of party members.

â\200\234We are no longer a whites-
only party. I am white and
(General Services Minister)

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John Mavuso is black and

(Welfare and Population Devel-

opment) Patrick McKenzie is .
brown, but the blood in- our :
veins is all red and it is all"
_South African blood,â\200\235 he said to .

loud applause. S

â\200\234This country needs a new
political movement that brings
together South Africans from
all populations groups who

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heid, had in the past been
united by a common will to
end minority domination, he
said. '

â\200\234Now in the new South
Africa, they've lost this cause, it
no longer exists.â\200\235

B For the full story, see pages
18 and 19.

FIGHTING TALK: FW this week

De Klerk

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Political Correspondent JOHN

MacLENNAN spoke to him
yesterday at Overvaal, his official
residence in Pretoria.

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political career. Right

We will soon no longer be answer-

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against opposition. For the first time I

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Mandel

MAY 12, 1996 :

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even make a come-back.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar meets with Truth Commissioners this week to formulate hearings for political parties.

The National Party and the ANC have indicated their parties' willingness to testify before the Commission.

It is expected that their testimony will broadly outline the political motivation behind incidents of violence committed during the apartheid era.

The TRC also has the support of the Democratic Party, but is not being recognised by the Inkatha Freedom Party which questions the validity of

its composition and its credibility. The -

IFP says the TRC's membership weighs too heavily in favour of the

ANC which makes it impossible for the IFP to receive impartial treatment. However, the organisation says it will utilise the TRC to get amnesty for its members who are in jail and for reparation for IFP victims of violence. It has also proposed submitting its own dossier of evidence to the TRC. Amnesty applications require full disclosure which may conflict with the IFP's opposition to public scrutiny. The first amnesty hearing begins in Rustenburg on May 20 where two assassins opposed to the appointment by former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope of a tribal chief will testify about their role in his murder. The Commission is also expected to issue its first subpoenas shortly follow-

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ing pleas by families of victims of violence in KwaZulu-Natal. Several witnesses appearing at the hearings in Durban asked the Commission to subpoena individuals believed to have information which could solve mystery assassinations in the province.

On Friday, the Commission ended four weeks of testimony on human

rights violations, with more than 140 witnesses appearing in East London, Cape Town, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Orange Free State.

The hearings looked at some of the most prominent political assassinations in the country including the murders of the Cradock 4, Swapo activist Anton Lubowski, Dr David Webster and at some of the worst bomb blasts

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in South African history, including the Pretoria bomb, Magoos bar in Durban and the Amanzimtoti blast which killed five people, including an eight-year-old child.

At the close, TRC chairperson Archbishop Desmond Tutu said he believed by now all were convinced that the Commission was fair and impartial. â\200\234The lack of bias and evenhandedness must be patent to all except those who are patently blind.

Â«We believe in the process in which we are engaged, we believe it is possible for our country to be healed.â\200\235

The Commission hopes to present an interim report on its workings to President Nelson Mandela within the next few weeks.

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Withdrawal â\200\230untiesâ\200\231 hands of ANC_,

BRENDAN SEERY

he withdrawal of the Nats

from the Government of National Unity has â\200\234abolished uncertaintyâ\200\235 and should allow the ANC freely, without having to look over its shoulder to its left wing, believes economic analyst Azar

to operate more criticism from

Jammie.

He said: â\200\234Now the ANC will be able to apply its policies having to hedge things because it fears attacks from Cosatu about

pandering to the Nats.â\200\235

s without

the long term,

-{ament as an opposition to the

And, while the ANCâ\200\231s hands would be â\200\234untiedâ\200\235, the move also made sense for the Nats who, said Dr Jammie, were â\200\234becoming totally impotent in the GNU any-

ayâ\200\235.

He said he believed that while some NP supporters might be angry at the perceived damage the withdrawal had done to the economy - and they would experience it through the declining rand and possible interest rate hikes - in the NP could become â\200\234a rallying pointâ\200\235 in Parl-

ANC and could attract whites, coloureds and some blacks. DrJammie said the recovery of the rand this week, after the withdrawal of the NP, had proved international markets and investors were â\200\234not as close as they like to believe to what is actually happening in this countryâ\200\235. It didnâ\200\231t take long for them to realise life would go on and this â\200\234country would not collapse because of the NP move, and hence the randâ\200\231s fight back. _ â\200\234There is no doubt much of the movement on the currency has

been motivated by racism - this weekâ\200\231s news and the previous appointment of Trevor Manuel are good indicators of this.â\200\235 However, he added that underlying uncertainty about the scrapping of exchange controls and the fact that â\200\234big players appear to be trying to force the governmentâ\200\231s handâ\200\235, meant the rand would continue to decline in the short term. He predicted the currency would settle at around R4,80 to R4,90 to the dollar, although there would be periods when it would â\200\234go past R5". ;

SUNDAY T RIBUNE

MAY 12, 1996
MAY 1e

It was a matter of do or die,
â\200\234says political commentary

DEON DELPORT

he National Party had no

cÂ¢choice but to leave the Govern-
ment of National Unity to avoid a
split in the party and serious dam-
age to the leadership of Deputy
President FW de Klerk.

This is the view of Professor
Willem Esterhuyse of the Depart-
ment of Social Philosophy at the
University of Stellenbosch and
professor of Business Ethics at
the Stellenbosch School of Busi-
ness. He is a respected political
commentator with good contacts
in the GNU.

Â«It was not as a matter of princi-
ple. The divisions within the NP
are not only wide but very deep,â\200\235
he said. The move is an attempt to
bridge the divisions in the party
and avoid open conflict.

He said after speaking to NP
politicians his view was that Mr
De Klerk was trying to glue the
party together and avoid risking a
threatened referendum on the
new constitution. In the dying

SUNDAYTRIBUNE Lot MAY 12,1996

hours of negotiations the NP gave
way on the clauses on education,
property and lockouts.

He believes the party would
have been crushed at the polls.

Mr De Klerk also wanted to gain
some prestige and regain support
from the NPâ\200\231s traditional support
base. His leadership was being
threatened by emotional criticism
against him.

â\200\234people have been saying he
sold Afrikaners down the river
and is not pro-Afrikaans. Open
criticism of the NP has also sur-
faced much more strongly in the
â\200\23190s than in the '80s.

â\200\234The NP had no option but to
withdraw. It was a matter of sur-
vival,â\200\235 Professor Esterhuyse said.

In his view, recently the NP has

created the impression of an extended shipwreck and this has not been changed by this week's developments. :

A long haul lies ahead for the party. It must convince voters and take policy positions that indicate concern for the poor people of the

country. No party that is exclusively middle-class will ever be able to mobilise enough voters to challenge the ANC, which is a mass movement with a history and good organisation, he said.

NP leaders would have to find a .

way to balance being representative of the entrepreneurial class and adhere to a soft socialist position.

Another drawback the party faces is that it has not really succeeded in shrugging off the label of being the party of the past. The Truth Commission hearings have reactivated those perceptions.

Leadership within the party did not inspire confidence that they had people who would lead the party into the next century. Young leaders like Leon Wessels had left. There are still members of the old guard that the Nats had to get rid of. These people were obsessed with the ANC. You cannot win the day by being anti-something. You have to have your own message.

Playing the role of opposition could be done in one of three ways, he said.

First, by making a lot of noise, playing on principles and values and picking on mistakes.

Here the NP could play an important role with the Democratic Party and Inkatha Freedom Party.

By leaving the GNU the Nats had limited their capacity to effectively change policy directions and here the business community will be much better than the combined parliamentary opposition. '

Finally, the chances of the NP positioning itself in such a manner that it can mobilise and get

people to back the party is
extremely limited.

On a more positive note Prof-
essor Esterhuyse said the NP's
withdrawal from the GNU would
speed up the process of re-
alignment in politics. 'This will be
a 10-to-15-year process and' is
inevitable after Mr Mandela goes

but the ground is being prepared.