RIOTS & DISTURBANCES — TRANSVAAL

1992

NOV. — DECEMBER

PWV ANC official recovers

(278)

ANC PWV general secretary Bavumile Vilakazi, who was gunned down seven weeks ago – allegedly by the organisation's returnees for denying exiles jobs – is still hospitalised and making a slow recovery. Argus 1/11/92

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said a commission was still investigating the incident.

Vilakazi's shooting, which raised suspicions of an assassination attempt by vigilantes or hits-quads, created shock in political circles at the information that it was an "inside job".

Vilakazi, who was critically wounded as he stepped out of a hardware store, was, according to information leaked to the press, shot to clear the way for exiles finding jobs.

Police Board accepts report on Boipatong

CT 7/11/92 (278)

PRETORIA. — The Police Board, comprising lawyers, academics, ANC and police representatives, has accepted recommendations of the Waddington Report which criticised SAP investigations into the Boipatong massacre.

The board will meet the top structure of the South African Police in January to forecast the responsibilities of a future police force and its community relations.

At a meeting on Thursday, "the board accepted recommendations regarding deficiencies indicated in the Waddington Report on the Boipatong shooting incident, to be submitted to the Minister of Law and Order", the SAP said in a statement from Pretoria a day later.

The Waddington Report was sharply critical of SAP action following the slaughter of more than 40 people in Boipatong on July 17.

The report criticised the police on their securing of the scene of a crime and for failing to take proper charge of the exhibits.

The SAP statement said the January meeting would be a joint planning session.

In another development, Mr J G J van Vuuren, a former chairman of the Krygkor Board of Directors, has been appointed new chairman of the Police Board.

He replaces advocate Mr Don Brunette, who resigned to accept a post in the Ciskei. — Sapa

Venue razed hours before DP rally

By ROSEMARY BROWN

A PIETERSBURG hall was destroyed in a blaze possibly caused by a bomb blast yesterday just hours before DP leader Zach de Beer was due to address a meeting there.

The ANC had also booked the hall in Seshego, near Pietersburg, for yesterday afternoon.

Members of the DP's northern Transvaal branch arrived at the Seshego Community Hall at 7.30am to make preparations for a rally, to find the hall extensively damaged.

Police have not yet begun their investigations, but Mr de Beer said that the damage — windows blown out, and the steel roof bent and buckled — appeared consistent with either a bomb blast or a fire. There was evidence that a door had been forced with an implement like a chisel, he said.

Chased

Local residents told DP officials they had seen several white men in the area at midnight on Friday, and claimed that the visitors had chased away the security guard from the hall. They alleged that an explosion had occurred soon after the men had left.

No-one has claimed responsibility for the damage.

The DP meeting went ahead yesterday in a side hall which had survived intact. Mr de Beer said he thought attendance — around 30 people — had been adversely affected by the blaze but he stressed that the incident would not upset the rest of his campaign to establish DP branches in the northern Transvaal.

DP vice-chairman for the northern Transvaal, Mr Philip Gohl, said the DP had 400 registered members in the Pietersburg area, 70-80 percent of whom were black.

Goldstone closes Boipatong inquiry

THE inquiry into the Boipatong massacre was declared closed by Judge R Goldstone on Friday, but could be reopened if the analysis of erased police tapes warranted such a move.

The tapes, which contained information relevant to events of the evening of June 17, were submitted to British government experts for analysis after the information was taped over by the Vereeniging internal stability unit of the SAP.

Closing proceedings, counsel for the commission J J du Toit asked the commission to consider recommending creation of a "crack apprehension squad" which could work closely with the internal stability unit of the SAP in townships. The unit's prime task should be the following up of attacks and the tracing of those responsible while the trail was still fresh.

Meanwhile, Flip Hattingh SC, representing the SAP, said in closing argument that massacres such as that at Boipatong could not be averted. "It is physically impossible to prevent attacks of this nature taking place. We do not have the manpower and vehicles to patrol every township 24 hours a day," Hattingh argued.

He conceded the police should have taken steps to enter and search KwaMadala Hostel sooner than they did after the Boipatong massacre. This could have resulted in the arrest of more attackers and seizure of evidence before it was destroyed, he said.

But, he told the commission, entry into the hostel shortly after the massacre would have met with resistance, violence and possible further bloodshed.

Louis Visser SC, representing Inkatha and the KwaZulu government, said in his closing argument on Friday that there had been no evidence that linked his clients to the massacre.

"No evidence has been submitted which in any way justifies allegations of any direct or official complicity in, or planning of, the attack on the residents of Boipatong by either the KwaZulu government or Inkatha," Visser said.

Although evidence showed residents of the KwaMadala Hostel had perpetrated the attack, "the fact that someone is a Zulu and lives in KwaMadala does not necessarily mean he is a member of Inkatha".

Visser told Goldstone the criminal trial which would follow in the near future would probably show the massacre was not preceded by a carefully considered, politically motivated plan.

SADF senior counsel Anton Mostert SC argued that the two SADF units in the area on the night of the massacre had conducted themselves properly.

STEPHANE BOTHMA

R8,7m passed for hostels in Transvaal

PRETORIA — An amount of R8,7m had been voted from the R196,6m made available by government to the TPA for the improvement of 92 hostels in the Transvaal, planning and development MEC John Mavuso said at the weekend.

It had been agreed that at 12 out of 14 towns in the eastern Transvaal, hostel accommodation should mainly be converted into family units.

Mavuso said co-operation between interest groups should serve as an example of what could be achieved when the needs of communities were put first.

Negotiations were in progress at a further 46 hostels on the process of upgrading and/or conversion.

Mavuso said in nine other cases, efforts were being made to identify all interested parties and to urge them to negotiate.

GERALD REILLY

11 killed in Alexandra violence

(278)

ET 2/11/92

JOHANNESBURG. — Eleven people died and four others, including a year-old baby, were killed in political violence in Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, at the weekend, Witwatersrand police confirmed yesterday.

They died mainly in attacks in the Beirut squatter settlement near Alexandra's Madala hostel.

A police spokesman said the body of a man who had been stabbed in the back and face was found in Alexandra yesterday.

A group of about 15 people armed with pangas, AK-47 rifles and 9mm pistols yesterday stormed into a shack and attacked the people inside.

A man was stabbed, hacked and shot dead.

Two 18-year-old women, a one-year-old baby girl and a seven-year-old girl were killed. All four had been hacked and stabbed in the head,

Baby hacked to death

face, neck and chest, police said.

Late yesterday morning, police found the body of a man with stab and hack wounds in the river near the township.

On Saturday morning a group of shacks were set alight, police said.

Police and firemen extinguished the fire, but found the bodies of a man and a woman who had been trapped inside a shack.

Earlier a man was hacked and stabbed to death in the same area, the police spokesman said.

A block away a man was stabbed in the face and stomach.

Another man was killed by a mob who hacked him in the head and chest.

The attacks continued late into the night on Saturday when a man was stabbed to death and another man was shot dead.

In other incidents reported by police at the weekend:

- At New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, a man was injured when he was shot;
- At Phola Park, Thokoza, four women and two men were arrested when a police vehicle was damaged by a stone-throwing crowd;
- At Dlamini, Soweto, a private vehicle was damaged by a group of people. The driver fired at the group injuring one man;
- At Angelo Station near Boksburg, a man was killed when he was stabbed and thrown from a moving train;
- At Katlehong near Alberton, a woman and two men were seriously injured when they were thrown from a moving train.

They were taken to the Willem Cruywagen Hospital. Police are investigating a case of attempted murder, a spokesman said.

NEWS Children - aged seven and one - shot and stabbed

Weekend of terror in Alex claims 11 lives

Sowetan 2/11/92

By Tsale Makam (2-78)

■ MOTIVE UNKNOWN Couple hacked and shot to death as group of armed men storm shack at squatter camp opposite cemetery:

A COUPLE was hacked and shot to death and two little girls aged seven and one year were seriously injured in an attack on a shack at a squatter camp in Alexandra Township yesterday morning.

It could not be established yesterday whether the children were daughters of the slain couple.

Nine other people died violently in separate incidents in the township over the weekend.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer said the unidentified man and his family lived in a squatter camp opposite the Alexandra Cemetery.

He said they were attacked by a group of 15 men who stormed the shack armed with pangas, AK-47 rifles and 9mm pistols at about 8am yesterday.

The motive for the attack was not known, but other reports indicated it was political.

The man died on the spot after being hacked and shot in the back by the attackers.

His wife died on the way to hospital after receiving emergency treatment at the Alexandra Clinic.

Nurses at the clinic, where the children were also admitted for emergency treatment, said the condition of both children was serious.

They said a bullet had gone through the seven-year-old's temple and expressed the fear that she may not be able to lead a normal life in the event of her surviving.

The children were later transferred to the Johannesburg Hospital.

The hospital superintendent and the public relations staff were not available for comment.

However, nurses at the hospital confirmed the children's admission and said their condition was critical.

By late yesterday no one had visited them and their names had not yet been established.

"We have registered them as unknowns," said a nurse.

A woman who survived the attack was admitted to the Tembisa Hospital and her condition was said to be stable.

When *Sowetan* visited the squatter camp yesterday residents refused to be interviewed, saying they feared for their lives. They told the *Sowetan* team to leave the area immediately.

The bodies of two people were found burnt in a shack at the corner of Fourth and Roots avenues on Saturday night. Police said arson was suspected.

Another body was found on the corner of Third and Ruth avenues, while another was found at Fourth Avenue the same night. Both had stab wounds. A third body with bullet wounds in the chest was found in Eighth Avenue.

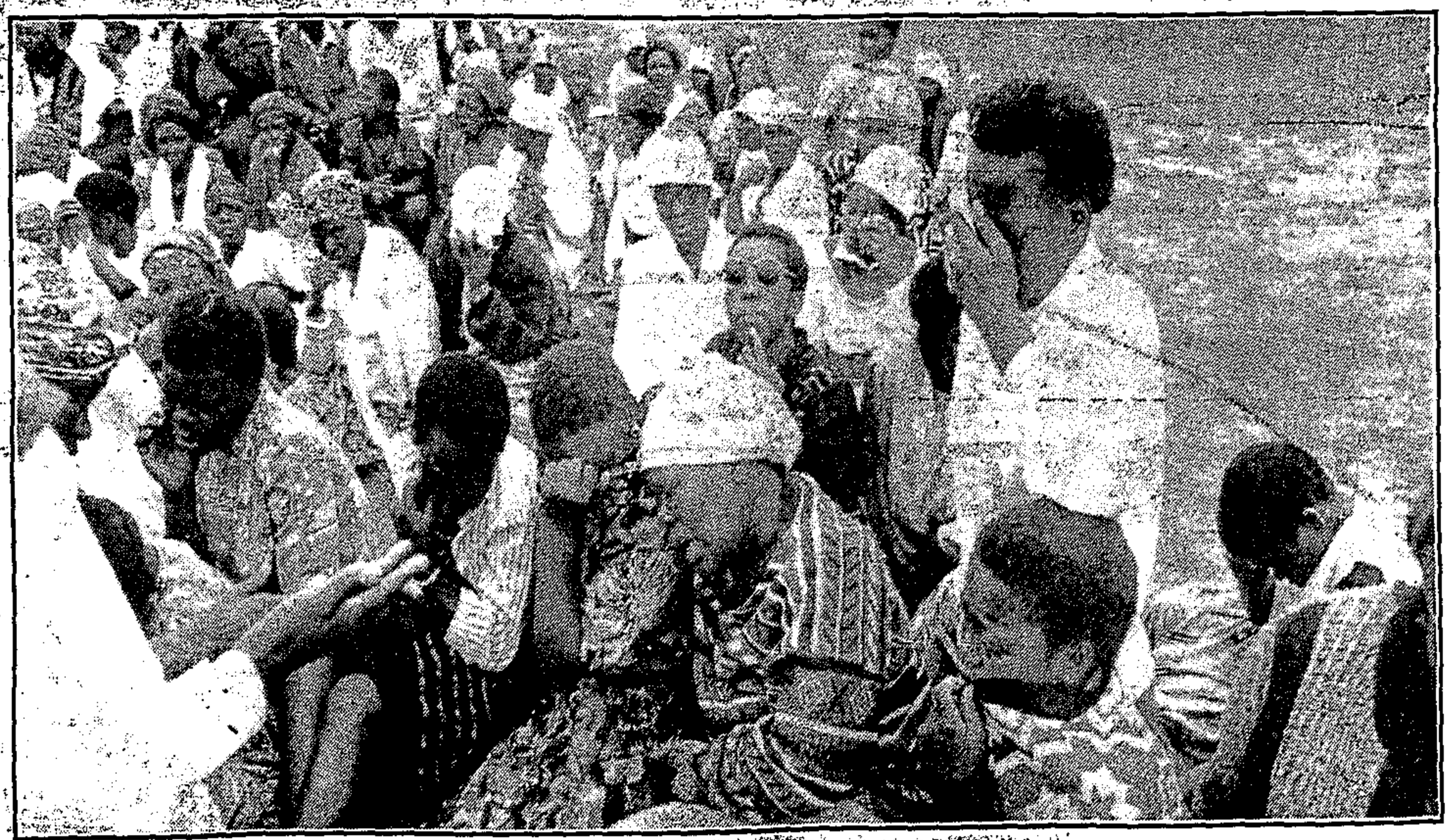
Two more bodies were found on Saturday night in the township.

About 4pm yesterday a man died of stab and hack wounds after he was attacked by a group of men in Roots Avenue.

Most of the attacks occurred in and around the "Beirut" area of the township - a dusty squatter settlement near the Madala Hostel.

Earlier this year squatters fled their homes in terror as marauding men, apparently from the hostel, attacked the settlement.

A nursing sister at the casualty section of Alexandra clinic said several people had been brought in with hack wounds throughout the day yesterday. She said the area was still tense and people feared another bloody night.



Family members mourning at the funeral of 11 victims who were among 23 people killed when gunmen armed with AK-47s opened

Pic: LEN KUMALO

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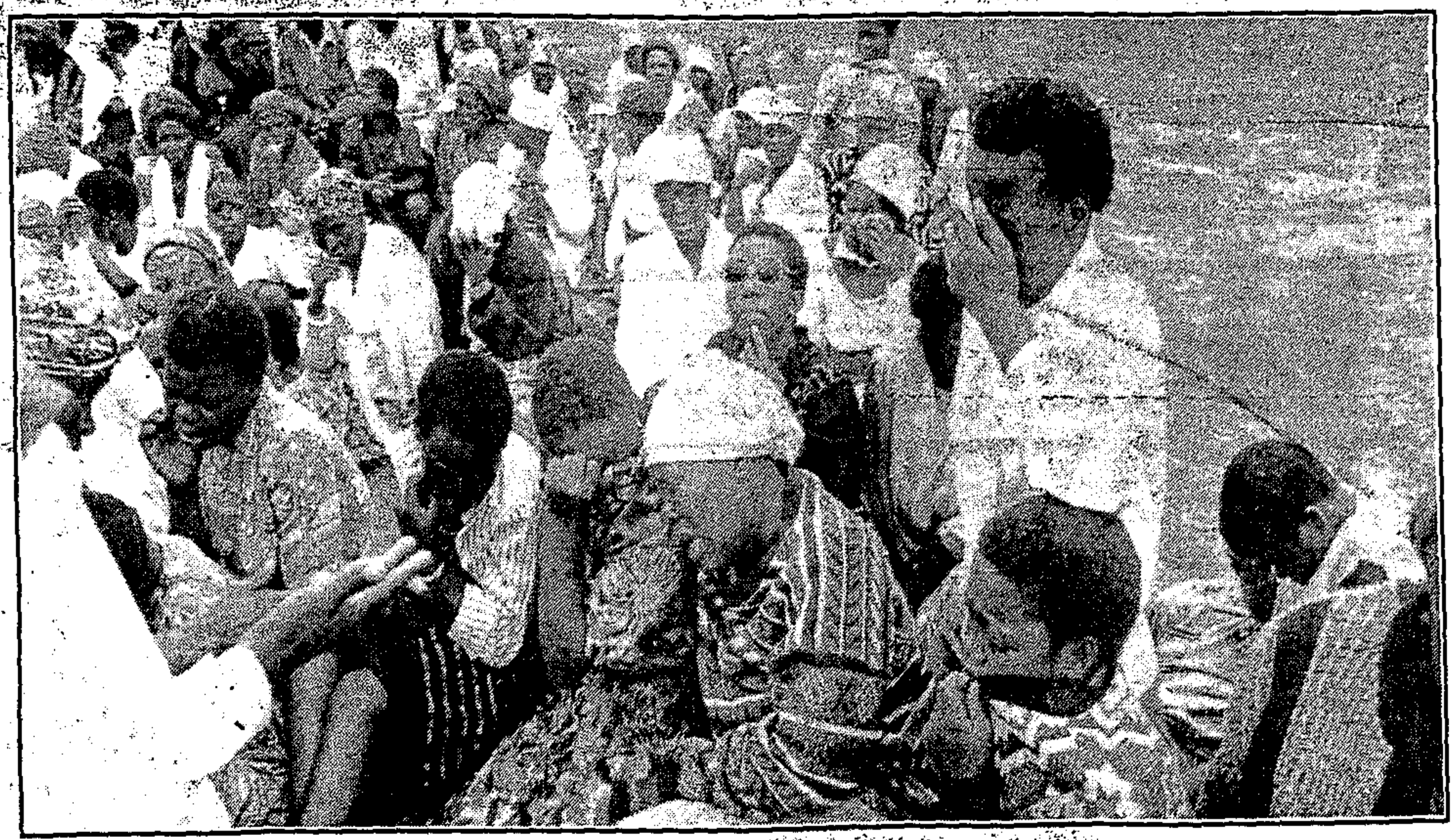
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Family members mourning at the funeral of 11 victims who were among 23 people killed when gunmen armed with AK-47s opened fire at a ceremony of traditional healers. Pic: LEN KUMALO

Alex on the boil

278

Sowetan 2/11/92

■ BLOODY WEEKEND Couple hacked to death in cold-blooded murder in Alex squatter camp:

ALEXANDRA Township was again plunged into violence yesterday when a couple were shot and hacked to death, their seven-year-old daughter shot through the head and a one-year-old girl stabbed.

The killings occured at a squatter camp in the township. Nine more people died violently in separate incidents.

Story on page 2

Govt reluctant to fence off hostels

WILSON ZWANE

SEVEN Reef hostels, which have been identified as sources of violence, have not yet been fenced off in terms of the record of understanding reached by government and the ANC in September.

In terms of the agreement, seven hostels — Mzimhlophe, Dube, Nancefield, Merafe and Dobsonville in Soweto, Madala Hostel in the West Rand township of Kagiso and the Sebokeng Hostel in the Vaal Triangle — should be fenced by November 15.

But deputy Law and Order Minister Gert Myburg said in Soweto yesterday after visiting Mzimhlophe, that difficulties were being experienced.

While the fencing of hostels could be "beneficial" from the police point of view, it was difficult to erect and maintain fences around some of the hostels.

Fencing hostels to which calm had returned would spark tensions, he warned.

Myburg, who was scheduled to visit all the seven hostels yesterday, said he would meet Local Government and National Housing Minister Leon Wessels on Thursday to discuss the programme.

They then wanted to meet Judge R Goldstone, on whose recommendations the record of understanding was based, to discuss the matter further.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said his organisation expected government to honour the agreement and was willing to iron out difficulties experienced.

● Picture: Page 2

Erasing of Boipatong tapes 'deliberate'

ALAN FINE

AN INVESTIGATION by British government experts has found that the Boipatong tapes may have been "hurriedly and deliberately erased with the object of obscuring the contents". 8/Pty 3/11/92

Details of the findings are scheduled for public release today by the Goldstone commission. They were released to the SAP's legal advisers and other legal teams involved in the hearing on Friday to enable police to consider their response.

It is understood the police have questioned the validity of the UK findings.

The tapes in question were those which recorded radio communications between police in the field and the Vereeniging internal stability unit on the night of the June 17 Boipatong massacre. It had been hoped that they would throw light on allegations of neglect of duty by the police in failing to prevent or halt the massacre, or even of complicity.

Police told the Goldstone inquiry on August 11 that the recordings had been wiped clean accidentally because of a procedural fault.

The tapes were then handed for analysis to a local firm, Grinaker Electronics.

It later emerged that the firm, which found no evidence of deliberate erasure, had links with the security services. The commission requested the British government to analyse the tapes independently.

British Embassy First Secretary Geoffrey Adams said yesterday the results of the analysis and the tapes themselves had been handed to the commission. The tapes had arrived from London on Sunday.

Commission spokesman Glen Cuthbertson said yesterday Judge R Goldstone received the report late last week.

Neither was willing to comment further.

The Boipatong inquiry was officially closed on Friday but Goldstone said it could be reopened if the analysis of the tapes warranted it.

7 Reef hostels not yet fenced

CT 3/11/92

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Seven Reef hostels, which have been identified as sources of violence, have not yet been fenced in terms of the record of understanding reached by government and the ANC.

In terms of the agreement, seven hostels — Mzimhlophe, Dube, Nancefield, Merafe and Dobsonville in Soweto, Madala Hostel in the West Rand township of Kagiso and the Sebokeng Hostel in the Vaal Triangle — should be fenced by November 15.

After visiting Mzimhlophe, deputy Law and Order Minister Mr Gert Myburg said while the fencing of hostels could be "beneficial" from the police point of view, it was difficult to erect and maintain fences around some of the hostels.

He admitted the hostels should be fenced in terms of the agreement between government and the ANC but warned that to do so at hostels to which calm had returned would spark tensions.

They would then meet Mr Justice R Goldstone to discuss the matter further.

An ANC spokesman said should there be difficulties in fencing the hostels, they would be willing to iron those out with government.

Alex killings 'not political'

JOHANNESBURG. — The weekend's violence in Alexandra, which claimed at least 10 lives, appeared to be criminally rather than politically motivated, Law and Order Deputy Minister Mr Gert Myburgh said in Soweto yesterday.

● Three people, including a policeman, were injured on the East Rand on Sunday. Also on Sunday, a large arms cache was seized in Nelspruit. — Sapa

news

in brief

Sowetan 3/11/92

CCB man flees the country

A WARRANT for the arrest of former CCB managing director Joe Verster, who failed to appear in court yesterday, was issued by Mr Justice Michael Stegmann in the Rand Supreme Court.

The court was told that Verster, who was subpoenaed to appear yesterday to testify at the inquest into the May 1 1989 killing of Wits University academic Dr David Webster, had left the country.

Agreement to disagree

FOOD and Beverage Workers Union of South Africa official Mr JT Mdlalose yesterday contested an attorneys' statement on Friday that two union officials had been reinstated as members of the union's executive committee in terms of an order granted in the Rand Supreme Court. He said the return to FBWUSA administrative affairs of the two officials was the result of an agreement reached in court, rather than an order as reported.

Sowetan 3/11/92

Security boost for Natal

AN ADDITIONAL 250 policemen left for troubled areas of Natal from the Transvaal yesterday, Law and Order Deputy Minister Gert Myburgh told Soweto. He said they formed part of 600 policemen who would be deployed in the province as part of the Government's plan to curtail violence there.

Sowetan 3/11/92

Alleged necklacers on trial

LEGAL argument in the trial of five policemen, alleged to have attempted to murder a man by "necklacing" him, will begin in the Durban Regional Court today.

The men, Lance-sergeants Mark Lucy (24) and Simon Gerald Coetzee (22) and constables David Potgieter (19), Pierre Laubscher (18) and Bradford Brown (19), have all pleaded not guilty before Mr PJ du Plessis to attempting to kill Mr Vusi Phiri.

Sowetan 3/11/92

Is fencing-off the answer?

THE GOVERNMENT appears to be in a dilemma over plans to fence off troublesome hostels on the Reef and the Vaal Triangle.

"The aim of fencing off hostels - in line with the Record of Understanding - was to place a barrier between attackers and people on the receiving end of the violence, but in areas where normality has returned we have to ask ourselves whether such measures solve the problem or worsen it," said Deputy Law and Order Minister Gert Myburg during a tour of eight hostels on the Reef and the Vaal Triangle yesterday.

Hefty damages paid out

A STELLENBOSCH wine farmer yesterday agreed to pay two farmworkers R50 000 in a Supreme Court sequel to the fatal beating of one of the workers. Mr Wynand Smit, owner of the Koopmanskloof wine estate, did not accept liability when settling the claims arising from assaults by a former employee, Mr Rudolf Rix, said the applicants' attorney, Mr Glynn Williams.

Smit agreed to pay the estate of the late Andrew Thompson R20 000 and R30 000 to Mr Godfrey Williams, plus their costs. - *Sowetan Reporters and Sapa.*

Sowetan 3/11/92

Police fail to act as train gunmen kill 5

B/DAY 4/11/92 (2 78)

RAY HARTLEY

SEVEN commuters died in two separate incidents of train violence yesterday, just days after police spokesman Col David Bruce said certain officers showed a "lack of commitment" to ending train violence.

In the worst incident, a train carrying attackers passed through four East Rand stations, with gunmen killing five commuters and wounding two more as they fired on three crowded station platforms.

The bodies of two more people, who had been stabbed to death in a separate attack, were found yesterday next to the Johannesburg-Soweto line.

The failure of police to stop the 90-minute killing spree has been criticised by the ANC, who said police telephones were not answered as commuters tried to call them to the scene of the killings.

Police, who were meant to have positioned officers at all stations in terms of agreements reached with the ANC and SA Rail and Commuter Corporation, failed to arrest the killers at the East Rand train's four stops.

Police spokesman Sgt Francois du Plessis said an urgent meeting was called yesterday to analyse what went wrong with the policing operations at the four stations, allowing the killers to escape.

It had been established, he said, that police on the train had been unable to move to the carriage where the violence was taking place because interleading doors had been locked.

The attackers boarded the train at Kwesini station at 5.30am. They were carrying Makharov pistols.

The first three victims were shot dead on the platform of Pilot station, with a further two killed on the Lindela station platform and another two injured at Katlehong station at 7.10am.

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said at a news briefing the fact that the train was not stopped after the first attack was "mind boggling".

He said three policemen arrived on the scene of the first killing at 8.30am — about three hours after the event — and did not take statements from witnesses.

Mamoepa said despite the fact that three people were shot dead at Pilot station, the train left for the next stop with the killers on board, as if nothing had happened.

One of the witnesses immediately phoned Katlehong police station, but the phones there were just left ringing. He then realised the train had left and ran towards Lindela station.

"As he ran towards the station, he heard shots being fired from the direction of Lindela station. On arrival there he found two people dead and several injured.

"Again he tried to contact the police and ambulance service, but there was no response," Mamoepa said.

Du Plessis said witnesses were assisting police in compiling an identikit of one of the attackers and investigations into the killings were being stepped up.

He confirmed no arrests had been made.

An SARCC source said a team of ANC, SARCC and police representatives would tour Soweto stations this morning to inspect new security measures being implemented there.

ANC gunman 'targeted police'

WILSON ZWANE

ANC PWV executive committee member Bavumile Vilakazi said yesterday he would not press charges against an ANC member who shot him with an AK-47 rifle after mistaking him for a policeman.

But ANC PWV chairman Tokyo Sexwale said the organisation would take appropriate steps against the culprit.

Sexwale told a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday that the ANC's investigations into the incident on September 17 in Sebokeng found that a member of a self-defence unit had shot Vilakazi after mistaking him for a policemen.

Sexwale said while it was understandable for self-defence units to defend their communities, "indiscriminate" attacks on policemen were deplorable.

He said the ANC and its allies — Cosatu and the SACP — were trying to restore peace to the conflict-ridden Vaal Triangle and efforts to normalise the situation included bringing policemen back into the area. (278)

The Vilakazi shooting was hampering such efforts, Sexwale said, and he called on the people of the Vaal Triangle to "distance themselves from such an incident".

He refused to elaborate on the steps his organisation intended taking against the Vilakazi's attacker.

Vilakazi, who was discharged from Johannesburg's Garden City Clinic yesterday, said he bore his assailant no grudges.

2x2 drive. Erlston, who took three years to develop the bidrive, aims to market [illegible] biking enjoys greater popularity than in SA. He expects the Bidrive will sell for around $30. Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

FW's fall 'his own fault'

BILLY PADDOCK

PRESIDENT F W de Klerk was responsible "all by himself" for any damage to his popularity, ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said yesterday.

He was responding to De Klerk's complaint on TV1's Agenda programme on Monday night that the ANC had embarked on a "negative" campaign against him after the referendum because he was becoming too popular.

De Klerk said his growing popularity had been perceived by the ANC as a threat and this had led the organisation to embark on the campaign.

Niehaus said De Klerk and government's lack of movement towards democracy, and its lack of commitment to this ideal and clearly addressing the violence was the major reason for people losing faith in De Klerk.

The President should look to himself and not others to blame for his political misfortunes, he said.

Report inconclusive on Boipatong tape erasure

THE Goldstone commission had found no conclusive evidence that the Boipatong tapes may have been deliberately erased as suggested by British experts, Judge R Goldstone said in Johannesburg yesterday.

British government experts found the tapes had been recorded over and said the technical evidence "suggests that this may have been done deliberately and hurriedly in order to obscure the contents".

Their report was received by the commission on October 29.

After portions of the tapes were replayed on Monday, the commission found that "no conclusions can fairly be drawn on the strength of the tentative suggestion made by the British experts", Goldstone said in a statement issued yesterday.

"The important information ascertained by the British experts is that what was over-recorded is not retrievable," Goldstone said.

The technical experts had offered a further clarification of their findings on Monday, he said.

They said some of the material superimposed on the tapes, which recorded police communications on the night of the June 17 Boipatong massacre, was recorded at a non-standard speed equivalent to between a third or a quarter of the normal recording speed.

In addition, some of the superimposed material had been recorded backwards, they found.

Goldstone said: "The commission would like to emphasise that in its opinion it would be speculative to draw any inferences or conclusions on the information which has thus far been received with regard to the circumstances in which the original information on the tape came to be erased".

Police told the Goldstone inquiry on August 11 the tapes had been accidentally erased, which was supported by the preliminary findings of a local firm, Grinaker Electronics.

But when it emerged that the company had links with the security forces, the Goldstone commission withdrew the tapes from Grinaker and the British government agreed to have the tapes analysed by its own technical experts.

Goldstone said yesterday that if any party wished to have further witnesses called or if the tapes were required for further technical analysis, the commission would decide on such requests after consultations with the legal representatives of all interested parties. — Sapa.

Seven die in train violence

JOHANNESBURG. — The bodies of two men who had apparently been stabbed and then thrown from moving trains were found next to the railway line here yesterday CT 4/11/92

This brings to seven the number of people killed in incidents on trains or at stations in the PWV area yesterday.

● A man was killed and another wounded in a clash between the ANC and Inkatha in Wembezi near Estcourt, police said. — Sapa (278)

Tapes: No final proof of erasure

CT 4/11/92

(278)

JOHANNESBURG. — The Goldstone Commission has found no conclusive evidence that the Boipatong tapes were deliberately erased as suggested by British experts, Mr Justice Richard Goldstone said yesterday CT 4/11/92

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'Unsubstantiated'

"The important information ascertained by the British experts is that what was over-recorded is not retrievable," he added.

The Commissioner of Police, General Johan van der Merwe, said yesterday that because of the technical inadequacies in the analyses by the British experts, the SAP rejected any inference based on the report that the information was intentionally erased.

He said he intended asking an independent foreign expert to re-examine the matter to clarify the "tentative, unsubstantiated" suggestion in the UK report.

He commended Mr Justice Goldstone for placing the matter "in perspective". — Sapa

ANC man was 'mistaken for a cop'

Sowetan 4/11/92

2-75

■ Cuprit shot top ANC man 'by mistake':

By Tsale Makam

MR Bayumile Vilakazi, the ANC PWV deputy regional secretary who was shot by a "possible" Umkhonto we Sizwe member who mistook him for a policeman on September 17, will not press charges against the man.

Speaking at a Press conference yesterday after his discharge from the Garden City Clinic, Vilakazi said he was satisfied he had been shot by mistake.

ANC regional chairman Mr Tokyo Sexwale said the man had voluntarily come forward when he heard that the ANC was investigating Vilakazi's shooting.

Sexwale said the man, a member of the self-defence unit in the Vaal, said he had mistaken Vilakazi for a policeman and was not acting on behalf of the unit when he shot at him.

The ANC condemned the action as "repugnant", saying it did not condone the killings of policemen and abhorred such actions.

The ANC had not yet established whether the man was an MK member. He was, however, a member of the organisation, said Sexwale.

NEWS Goldstone rejects experts' findings on erased massacre tape



Workers at Soweto businessman Mr Richard Maponya's supermarket hoist placards and toyi-toyi during their strike for more pay, which entered its fourth day yesterday. Pic: VELI NHLAPO

Goldstone rejects evidence

Sowetan 4/11/92

■ **Information from British experts too 'tentative'**

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

The Goldstone Commission has rejected the evidence of British experts that the erasure of police tapes of the night of the Boipatong massacre "may have been done deliberately to obscure the contents".

The tape recordings of police communications on the night of the Boipatong massacre were returned to the commission last Thursday when they were replayed to verify findings of British government experts.

Commissioner of Police General Johan van der Merwe yesterday expressed his "appreciation" for the Goldstone Commission's rejection of the evidence of British experts.

Mr Justice Richard Goldstone yesterday said:"No conclusions can fairly be drawn on the strength of the tentative suggestion made by the British experts.

"Not only because it is tentative but in particular because no reasons at all have been furnished in support thereof.

"The portions of the tape played on November 2 do not appear to confirm the information furnished by the British experts."

Train killers strike again

Sowetan 4/11/92

■ **NEW WAVE** Commuters shot indiscriminately in coaches and from platforms:

278

By Abbey Makoe

SEVEN people were killed and five others seriously injured yesterday in a new wave of attacks on train commuters on the East Rand and in Johannesburg.

Five of those killed on the East Rand died while a policeman tried to rescue them.

The unidentified policeman told the station officials he could not gain entry to the adjoining coach, where he heard gunfire and screams, because the doors were locked.

A Witwatersrand police spokesman said three people were shot dead at Pilot Station and two others mowed down at Lindeni Station, both on the East Rand, when gunmen opened fire.

He told *Sowetan* that the attackers appeared to have boarded the train at Kwesine Station, near Kwesine Hostel, and were armed with Russian-made Makarov pistols.

"They also seemed to have shot at commuters as the train stopped at platforms," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, in a separate attack, the body of a man was found at Croesus Station in Johannesburg on the railway line to Soweto.

Police said witnesses alleged that the man had been attacked on a train before being thrown out.

The body of another man was found about 100 metres from Braamfontein Station in Johannesburg. Police said the body was found along the railway line.

Pilot and Lindeni stations are not far from Katlehong on the East Rand, where police said five people narrowly escaped death during train attacks yesterday.

The survivors were admitted to the Natalspruit Hospital where by late yesterday four of them were still being treated for gunshot wounds.

A Natalspruit Hospital spokesman said the fifth was rushed to the Hillbrow Hospital in Johannesburg.

Police would not disclose the identities of the dead victims and the hospital would also not furnish the names of the survivors, including two others who were treated and discharged.

7 killed in train attacks

Sowetan 4/11/92. (278)

■ TRAIN TERROR Gunmen shoot at helpless and screaming commuters on an East Rand train:

A POLICEMAN gave a chilling account of how five people were killed as gunmen sprayed gunfire on helpless and screaming train commuters on the East Rand yesterday.

The policeman said he tried to gain entry to the coach but could not do so as it had been locked.

Three of the victims were shot dead at Pilot Station and the other two at Lindeni Station.

They were among seven people killed in a new wave of attacks on train commuters on the Reef yesterday.

Five commuters were injured.

Story on page 2

Cops 'were outnumbered'

(278) Staff Reporter CT 4/11/92

THREE policemen who grappled with an arson suspect — who was in a group of about 20 men who passed the scene of a killer fire in Khayelitsha last year — let him escape because they were "outnumbered".

This was evidence given yesterday by Internal Stability Unit member Sergeant Grant Braithwaite before the Goldstone Commission of Inquiry into the Western Cape taxi war.

Sgt Braithwaite, a Casspir crew commander on the night, said that while he was at the scene, a group of about 20 men walked passed.

His suspicions aroused, he approached the men to question one of them about the attack.

He became involved in "a struggle" with one of the men who refused to answer his questions. Two colleagues joined him to restrain the man, but the group pulled him away and fled.

Asked if he and his colleagues had given chase, Sgt Braithwaite said: "They ... were stronger than us."

The hearing continues tomorrow.

Made i

Six members of family die in attack

BIOAM 5/11/92

SIX people, including three children, were killed last night when gunmen attacked a family in Sebokeng, ANC Youth League Vaal secretary-general Sakikhiwe Khumalo said.

The six family members were attacked in the early evening at their home in the township's Zone 12. (218)

Khumalo told Sapa that witnesses saw two people running away after the shooting, and that four spent R-1 cartridges were found at the scene.

An ANC spokesman said that at least one of the dead, Dorothy Zwane, had been an ANC member.

At Ikwezi station, Soweto, last night three people were shot dead and three

GAVIN DU VENAGE

were wounded when three armed men opened fire on commuters at a taxi rank.

SAP liaison officer Lt Eugene Henning said the three gunmen got out of a train that stopped at the station at about 6.30pm, walked to the taxi rank and opened fire.

Two men and a woman were shot dead and three others were wounded. The wounded were taken to Baragwanath Hospital. Police found 10 spent 9mm cartridges and two spent shotgun cartridges on the scene.

Henning said the gunmen had not been identified and police had not yet established a motive for the shooting.

Policeman kills colleague

(278) CT 5/11/92

JOHANNESBURG. — A policeman was fatally wounded at Johannesburg station yesterday when a colleague fired several shots.

Three policemen in plainclothes were involved in the incident in which a second policeman and three bystanders were also seriously wounded.

A police spokesman said the incident occurred after a man was thrown off a train as it arrived at the station at 7.15am.

When passengers disembarked plainclothes assistant police constable N P Magamatha, who was on the train, noticed a commotion on the platform during which an armed man grabbed another man and held him. Angry commuters then helped to free the man.

Not realising that the armed man was a policeman, Constable Magamatha fired several shots, seriously wounding him, another policeman and three bystanders.

The injured were taken to hospital, where Constable J N Mkize died.

The police spokesman said Constable Mkize had been arresting a suspect for questioning when commuters interfered.

● In Nyanga a policeman shot Mr T M Mthiya dead after he had grabbed a shotgun from another policeman and cocked it. Bystanders had stoned the two policemen when they tried to arrest a man allegedly involved in assault. — Sapa

News briefs

Kids hurt in bomb blast

TWO children were seriously injured when petrol bombs were hurled into a Katlehong, East Rand, home on Tuesday night.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Sergeant Andy Pieke yesterday said Lungile Madela (3) and Nkosi Madela (5) suffered injuries to their legs, arms and other parts of their bodies.

Damage to the house was estimated at R50 000. Police found spent AK-47 rifle, .38 pistol cartridges and two petrol bombs which had failed to explode.

Policeman arrested after station shootings

AN UNDERCOVER policeman who shot dead a colleague and wounded another officer and three civilians at Johannesburg station yesterday has been arrested and charged with murder.

Police spokesman W/O Andy Pieke said Const J Mkize of the Johannesburg station police was arrested after he panicked and shot at a crowd on the station platform yesterday. Mkize apparently mistook two plainclothes policemen for perpetrators of an earlier incident of train violence and opened fire on them when they approached him to ask him why he was armed.

RAY HARTLEY

The shooting brought to 10 the number of commuters killed in renewed train violence in the past two days, with the bodies of two men found at Cleveland and Braamfontein stations early yesterday.

Seven people died in incidents on the Soweto/Johannesburg and Katlehong/Germiston lines on Tuesday.

Pieke said police efforts to arrest a train violence suspect at the scene of the police shooting were thwarted yesterday when commuters protected the suspect.

The station shooting followed an incident in which a man was was pushed from the train before it entered the station.

In a separate incident, two men were seriously injured when they were thrown from a moving train between New Canada and Longdale stations in Soweto.

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said yesterday a crisis meeting of ANC-aligned signatories of the train accord, which was signed with police and SA Rail and Commuter Corporation officials in May, had been called for tomorrow.

● See Page 2

...y," he said.

Family of six in mass slaying

278
ARG 5/11/92

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A family of six was murdered by two men in balaclavas who burst into their home in Zone 12, Sebokeng, and sprayed every room in the house with automatic gunfire.

Mr Jeremiah Zwane, 21, who survived the attack, told press photographer Joao Silva the two men threw teargas into the lounge before opening fire with automatic rifles and handguns in last night's attack.

Mr Johannes Zwane, 64, and his son, Obed, 25, were gunned down in one bedroom. Mr Zwane's wife Dorothy, 51, and her daughter, Aubrey, 7, lay in another and Aubrey's cousin, Gift Mosebi, 19, who was visiting the family, was shot dead in the lounge.

Another daughter, Morin, 18, died on the way to hospital. Her two-day-old baby was unhurt and taken to Sebokeng Hospital.

As Mr Absolom Zwane, 31, arrived home from work he saw two men running from the house.

Both wore balaclavas. Jeremiah said one of the men was wearing an SADF tracksuit top.

"Absolom and Jeremiah were in the back yard when we arrived about 10.20 pm," Mr Silva said.

"They were crying and completely shaken up. They had just lost their whole family. Absolom was hugging Jeremiah, who was in the house when the shooting happened," Mr Silva said.

Jeremiah told Silva one of the men had shouted to his partner when they had finished with the handguns: "Give me the machine gun so I can finish them off".



FATAL ERROR

Soweto 5/11/92

■ MISTAKEN IDENTITY Death toll rises to 11

as unknown gunmen continue to run amok: (278)

A policeman, mistaken for a train attacker, was shot dead by a colleague at Johannesburg's Park Station as gunmen continued to leave a trail of blood on the railway tracks.

In a separate incident last night, gunmen got off a train at Ikwezi Station in Soweto and opened fire on commuters at a taxi rank, killing three.

This was the third attack within 24 hours.

Story on page 2



Train violence - cop is killed

Soweten 5/11/92 (278)

■ NEW OUTBREAK Shootout on station as police mistake their own colleagues for faceless attackers:

By Abbey Makoe

A POLICEMAN was killed and nine commuters injured in yet another train attack in Johannesburg early yesterday, bringing to eight the number of people killed since Tuesday.

The new outbreak of attacks on commuters on suburban trains this week has resulted in 16 people suffering serious injury.

Yesterday's attacks took place at Johannesburg Station, Cleveland, Longdale and New Canada as commuters on a train from Soweto were besieged by unknown gunmen, police said.

One of the nine injured at Johannesburg Station was a police officer. He and another policeman were shot at by a colleague who mistook them for train attackers. The other policemen was killed.

Witwatersrand Police media liaison officer Captain Eugene Opperman said three members of the public were hit by stray bullets in the ensuing shootout between the policemen at the station.

Opperman said the trail of attacks started at New Canada station when two unidentified men were thrown out of a moving train.

At the next station, Longdale, another man was also thrown off a moving train. These incidents took place at about 6am.

He said in another incident a gunman opened fire on commuters alighting from a train at Cleveland Station, injuring one man.

Opperman would not give the names of the injured, saying casualties were taken to an unspecified health centre.

On Tuesday seven commuters were mowed down by faceless attackers in Johannesburg and on the East Rand. Four of those injured in that attack were yesterday still being treated at the Natalspruit Hospital for gunshot wounds.

The attacks come only weeks after a top police officer, Colonel Dave Bruce, is reported to have lashed out at some of his own men for a "lack of commitment" to bringing train attacks to an end.

Attempts to reach Bruce late yesterday were unsuccessful.

Three shot dead at Ikhwezi

Soweten 5/11/92

■ Gunmen got out of the train and opened fire on people waiting at a taxi rank:

278

THREE people were shot dead and three wounded when three armed men opened fire on commuters at a taxi rank at Ikwezi Station in Soweto last night, Soweto police reported.

SAP liaison officer Lieutenant Eugene Henning said the three gunmen got out of a train that stopped at the station at about 6.30pm, walked to the taxi rank and opened fire on people waiting for taxis.

Three wounded

Two men and a woman were shot dead and three others were wounded.

The wounded were taken to Baragwanath Hospital.

Police found 10 spent 9mm cartridges and two spent shotgun cartridges on the scene.

Henning said the gunmen had not been identified and police had not yet established a motive for the shooting.

He appealed to the public to telephone 0800-11, 12 or 13 with any information that could assist the police in identifying those responsible. - *Sapa.*

ing in Angola during 1987, Opperman said. He had returned to SA on August 12 last year.

ANC blocking us, say police

278 WILSON ZWANE 118

ANC members yesterday prevented police from questioning a witness about the killing of six people in the Vaal Triangle township of Sebokeng on Wednesday, police said.

A police spokesman said the matter may be referred to the Goldstone Commission. B1DAM 6/11/92.

The spokesman said officers at the scene experienced problems with ANC members who interfered with their questioning of Jeremiah Zwane — the sole survivor of the attack.

The spokesman said ANC members ordered Zwane not to answer questions. Asked why the people were not arrested the spokesman said it was difficult to make arrests in certain situations because of a fear of riots.

ANC PWV spokesman Vusi Kunene said his organisation was not aware of the incident and would investigate it.

It's back to the drawing board on train massacres

BIDM 6/11/92 **RAY HARTLEY** (278) (279)

WHEN you need them they are never there, and when they are there, they do something crazy. This is what commuters must be thinking of police efforts to combat train violence this week.

On Tuesday five commuters were killed during a 90-minute nightmare train ride from Kwesini to Katlehong stations near Germiston, with little or no police effort to intervene. And on Wednesday police efforts to act against a suspect at Johannesburg station left a policeman dead, another wounded and three bystanders injured.

Recent agreements reached between police, ANC-aligned organisations and the SA Rail and Commuter Corporation (SARCC) stated police should have been posted at the four stations on the Katlehong line where Tuesday's incidents happened.

But despite reassurances by a police spokesman that this was the case, witnesses have said police arrived on the scene about three hours after the incident — and then left without taking statements. A second group of police arrived to take statements two hours later — long after many key witnesses had left the scene.

In Wednesday's incident, an undercover policeman panicked and opened fire on a crowd, hitting two fellow policemen and three civilians. One of the policemen subsequently died and a Const J Mkize has been arrested and charged with murder for the incident.

The details of Tuesday's incident clearly expose the inadequacies of policing efforts aimed at protecting commuters. The following description of events on the Katlehong line has been pieced together from police, ANC and witness accounts of what happened.

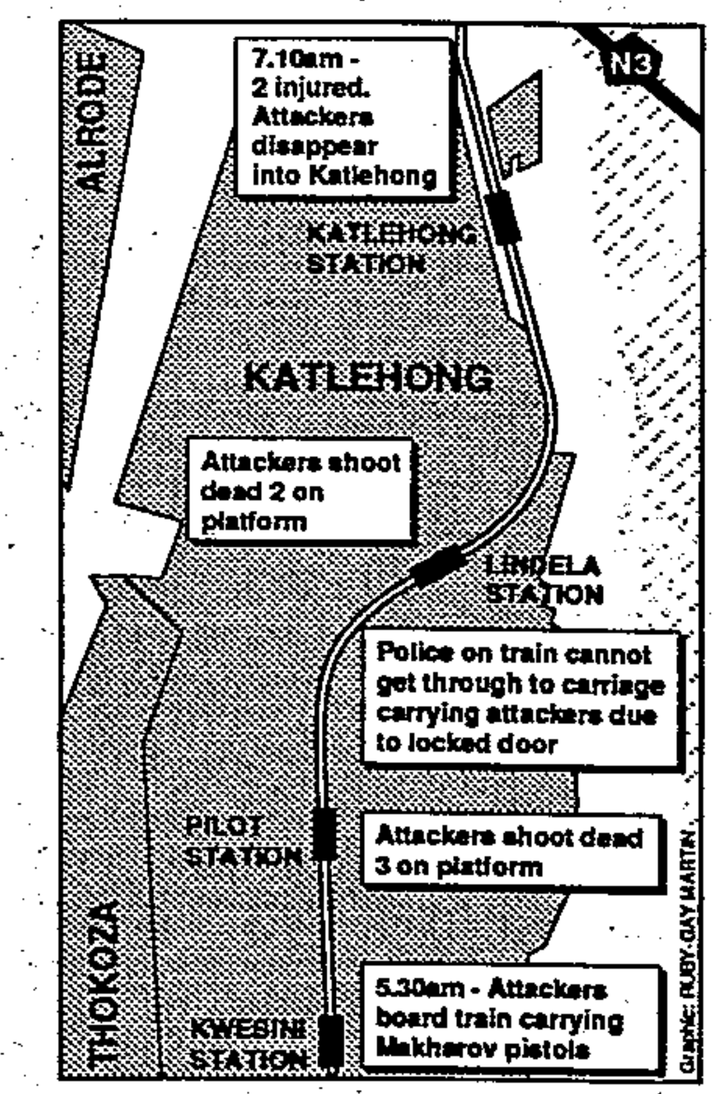
☐ 5.30am: An unknown number of attackers board a commuter train at Kwesini Station. The attackers are armed with Makharov pistols, but pass through the station's security system — guards who should check for weapons — undetected;

☐ Later (exact time unknown): The train pulls into Pilot Station and the gunmen fire at passengers waiting on the platform, killing three people. A commuter calls the Katlehong police station, but the phone is not answered. The train pulls out of the station with the attackers on board. Police on board the train cannot get through to the carriage carrying the attackers because interleading coach doors are locked;

☐ Later (exact time unknown): The train stops at Lindela Station and the same gunmen again fire on waiting train passengers, killing two. Commuters again try telephonically to contact police and ambulance services, but are unsuccessful. The train leaves the station with the attackers on board;

☐ 7.10am: The train pulls into Katlehong Station and the attackers fire on people waiting on the platform, injuring two. The attackers disappear into Katlehong. Subsequent reports conflict over whether this was the same train and the same attackers, as police reports said at the time;

☐ 8.30am: Three policemen arrive on the scene of the first killing, but do not take statements or remove bodies. After a brief inspection, they leave; and



☐ 10.20am: More police arrive and take statements. The bodies are removed. Police say a witness is helping them draw up an identikit. A police meeting is called to discuss the incidents and analyse what went wrong.

The community appears justified in asking "where were the police?" There appear to have been no officers at either of the two stations where commuters were killed.

The incident contrasted strongly with Wednesday's events where the police were at the right place to arrest train violence suspects, but ended up shooting their own officers and members of the public.

The absence of a coherent strategy to end the killings has been repeatedly criticised by ANC-aligned organisations involved in negotiations on the train killings.

Police have, in turn, accused the ANC of creating a climate in which the community is reluctant to cooperate with their investigations into the murders by suggesting police complicity in the violence.

This atmosphere of mutual animosity gave way to a brief spell of co-operation in September and the police, ANC and SARCC announced a breakthrough had been achieved. Two working groups were established to jointly investigate "preventative" and "proactive" measures to end the killings.

At a media briefing after this meeting, it was announced that a pattern had been detected in the violence and that there was growing agreement on the ways in which to tackle the problem. Spokesmen said the violence seemed to be confined to the Katlehong/Germiston and Johannesburg/Soweto lines and that there was an unspecified connection with certain hostels.

Unfortunately, that goodwill and co-operation has now given way to even greater animosity, with the ANC citing this week's incidents of violence as evidence of police unwillingness to follow agreements reached in the joint meetings.

And police have once again hinted commuters were not co-operating with their efforts and have claimed that efforts by passengers to protect a train killer led to the disastrous and apparently random shooting at Johannesburg station.

What is clear is that any hopes that advances had been made in ending the violence were premature. The parties have retreated to their comfort zones — blaming each other.

Train killings arguably will be contained and eventually stopped only if all parties jointly share responsibility for a strategy to end the violence. Police need to show a willingness to accept that their present strategy is not paying dividends, as illustrated in this week's events.

But instead of just blaming the police, ANC-aligned groups also need to work harder on practically helping police to develop solutions to the crisis. With this will come a sharing of responsibility and, ultimately, less blaming.

This can happen only if police open themselves to community involvement in their strategising, for this is the only way they can rebuild their shattered credibility. Instead of trying to deflect blame, they should be saying to the community "tell us what went wrong" and "what would you have done differently with the same resources?"

Meanwhile, whoever is behind the violence must be laughing to themselves about the way joint initiatives to stop the killing fall into factional disarray at the first sign of failure.

LETTERS

them.

Son survives family killing

Sowetan 6/11/92

■ VIOLENT WEEK 18-year-old mother of day-old baby killed in family slaughter:

278

By Abbey Makoe

IN A week characterised by a surge in violence, gunmen attacked a house in Zone 12, Sebokeng, in the Vaal Triangle on Wednesday night, killing six members of one family.

And in another incident at Phola Park in Tokoza on the East Rand, two unidentified 18-year-old youths were shot dead with an AK-47 rifle.

Those killed in the Sebokeng slaughter were Mr Johannes Zwane (64), a local primary school vice-principal who was due to retire at the end of the year, and his wife Dorothy.

The others were Zwane's children, Obed (25), who was mentally retarded, Maureen (18), who was killed while sleeping with her day-old baby.

The child survived and is being treated and cared for at the Sebokeng Hospital. A relative of the Zwanes' who was on a visit, Gift Mosebi, was also killed in the 7.45pm attack.

Also killed in what police described as an "AK-47 assault rifle attack" was Aubrey Zwane (7), who was in Grade 2.

The only surviving member of the Zwane family is Chongo (20), who wept uncontrollably yesterday, suffered stress early during the interview and had to be helped to a mattress while sobbing uncontrollably yesterday as he told of the attack.

Chongo, a Standard 8 pupil, said his mother was preparing supper when he heard a knock at the door. "No one had yet responded to the knock when the unlocked door flew open.

"I was suddenly overcome by teargas and rushed to the bedroom where I hid under a bed," Chongo said.

There was a burst of gunfire in the house. "Maureen was shot while sleeping and my father died in the bedroom," Chongo said.

Only last Sunday, the family had slaughtered two cows during their daughter's wedding celebration at the same house, a family member said.

Police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer said intensive investigations were being carried out.

Why tapes experts couldn't testify

w\mail 6|11-12|11|92. (278)

Weekly Mail Reporters

BRITISH intelligence specialists at one of the world's most technically advanced intelligence-gathering facilities were responsible for findings that the erasure of the "Boipatong tapes" may have been deliberate.

The analysis of the tapes, which Judge Richard Goldstone rejected this week on the grounds that it was "speculative", was conducted at the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham, one of Britain's key intelligence establishments and which for decades was the pivot of Western intelligence operations against the Soviet bloc.

It also has the most advanced technical facilities in the world for the capture of and interpretation of radio communications.

The fact that intelligence operatives — not mere "specialists", as stated in the local press — analysed the tapes explains why they were unable to testify before the Goldstone Commission. They would clearly not wish to appear at a South African hearing and discuss their methods.

Even in British court cases, elaborate procedures are used to protect the identities of intelligence agents giving evidence. At the 1988 inquest into the SAS killing of three IRA members in Gibralta, British MI5 operatives testified behind screens.

Judge Goldstone wants them to testify, and suggests that their unwillingness to do so undermines their findings. "No conclusion can fairly be drawn on the strength of tentative suggestions made by the experts," he said in a statement this week.

The analysis of the erased tapes was designed to shed light on whether the police may have had advance knowledge of the attack on the Vaal township of Boipatong on June 17 this year, or whether they themselves took part, as has been alleged by Boipatong residents.

The carefully worded British report said the superimposition of material of the recordings "may not have been accidental". It added that "the technical evidence suggests that this may have been done deliberately and hurriedly to obscure the contents".

Some of the superimposed material was recorded at non-standard speed and some of it backwards, the report said.

Although couched in diplomatic speak, the mere fact that the British intelligence put their head on the block by making the suggestion indicates they believed the erasure was not accidental.

ARTHUR GAVSHON reports that British Foreign office informants have revealed another reason for the specialists's inability to testify: the British government did not want to become involved in a dispute between an arm of the South African security forces and the Goldstone Commission.

This could have far-reaching political repercussions, including the embarrassment of President FW de Klerk's administration, they said.

The Goldstone Commission asked the British government to help unscramble the tapes after it was discovered the electronics firm that had cleared the police had close ties with the South African security forces.

But it was made plain the specialists would not appear as witnesses before the commission.

Said a foreign office official: "We gave Goldstone advance notice that our personnel would not be able to testify on their findings."



The horror of Sebokeng ... She was just seven years old, but Aubrey Zwane was yet another victim of township violence

A family dies as gunmen bust in

w/Mail 6/11 - 12/11/92.

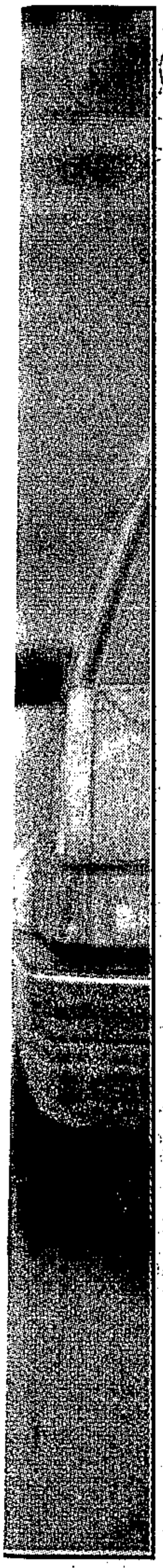
Story and Photo: KEVIN CARTER

SIX people were mowed down when two balaclava-clad men armed with an automatic rifle and a handgun burst into the home of the Zwane family in Zone 12, Sebokeng, at 7.45pm on Wednesday. (278)

According to one of two survivors, Jeremiah Zwane (20), the men threw a teargas cannister through the window of the house before they burst in through the back door and started shooting. Jeremiah Zwane survived by hiding under a sofa but the rest of the family was not as lucky. Jeremiah's father Johannes (64), his mother (51), his brother Obed (25), his sisters Maureen (18) and Aubrey (7), and his nephew Gift Mosebi (14) were all killed. The only other survivor was Maureen's day-old baby.

The police, who arrived on the scene at about 10.25pm, found an empty teargas cannister and 9mm and R1 rifle cartridges. Asked why they had taken so long to respond, Major Vorster, the officer in charge said the police had been unable to find the place.

Jeremiah Zwane said his father was an active member of the local African National Congress branch, and had recently "had trouble" with the police. He said that last Friday the police had surrounded the house with Casspirs and searched it for guns.



RACE POTTER

Tape tests may delay findings on Boipatong

ST Times 8/11/92

278

THE outcome of the Goldstone commission hearings into the Boipatong massacre could be held up for weeks while a controversial police tape is subjected to a number of tests.

The tape in question recorded all police radio and telephone traffic on the night of the Boipatong massacre — June 17 — when 45 people were slaughtered in their homes. Police told the commission it was accidentally recorded over the following day.

The Goldstone commission is presently transcribing the controversial tape.

It will then give its transcript and copies of the tape to the five legal teams at the hearing so they can institute their own testing if they deem it necessary.

The ANC has yet to make a decision in this regard but the police have already announced that they want foreign experts to assess the tape.

By CHARLENE SMITH

Deliberate

Independent tests by the British government have added to the uncertainty.

The British government was given the tape for its experts to analyse on August 27. They reported last week that "the tapes have been over-recorded".

"The technical evidence suggests that this may have been done deliberately and hurriedly to obscure the contents. It is not possible to recover the original data."

An official at the British Embassy in Pretoria said it was not possible to identify anything intelligible on the over-recording and that there was only a "masking noise".

The British report added that some of the over-recording appeared to have been done backwards — which the SA police claim is a technical impossibility.

However, Judge Richard Goldstone noted that when the tape was played before two of the commissioners and the legal teams "contrary to the information received from the British experts, on those portions of the tape played back messages could clearly be heard, no 'masking noise' was heard."

Necessary

As a consequence, Judge Goldstone said "no conclusions can be drawn on the strength of the tentative suggestion made by the British experts".

If necessary, once the legal teams have studied the transcripts and the tape, they may recall witnesses.

The British experts have declined to give verbal evidence on their findings.

Rebels without cause

ANC jitters over wild defence unit members

Ct Press 8/11/92 278

By THEMBA KHUMALO

UNRULY elements within the self-defence units (SDU) in Vaal-Triangle townships have once again set tongues wagging after the ANC revealed that one of it's leaders, Bavumile Vilakazi, was shot by an SDU member.

Bavumile, former general secretary of the ANC's PWV region, spent almost two months in hospital after he was shot twice and his car set alight on September 17 outside his home in Sebokeng.

He was wounded in his left eye and back after the assailant shot him with an AK-47.

The ANC's investigating team tracked down the assailant who admitted to being an SDU member.

He told them that he shot Vilakazi by accident after mistaking him for a policeman.

The PWV region's publicity secretary, Ronnie Mamoepa, said the man handed himself over to the ANC and apologised a day after the shooting.

A statement issued by the ANC this week said the assailant voluntarily approached the ANC and confessed to the shooting. He said the decision to attack Vilakazi was his alone and no colleague was involved.

The statement read: "After this information was made known to Vilakazi, he and his family decided not to lay charges. However, the ANC expresses it's horror and dismay that an SDU member could summarily decide to make an attempt on the life of a leader of Vilakazi's stature.

"It's even more repugnant that the murder attempt was made because the SDU member was believed that Vilakazi was a policeman. The ANC calls on the community to distance itself from such and other unbecoming behaviour."

Mamoepa said the ANC would send the assailant for political re-education. He would not say whether any disciplinary action would be taken against him.

Vilakazi said although he had not met his assailant, he and his family had forgiven him because of his ignorance.

The SDU became a focal point after SACP secretary Chris Hani conceded that there were unruly elements within these structures who were harming the image of the ANC with their deplorable behaviour.

Mamoepa said that SDU's in the Vaal had been infiltrated by criminals and agent provocateurs to discredit the structures.



CLOSE SHAVE . . .Bavumile Vilakazi and his wife Sisi at a media conference after the incident. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MOINEKA

Their home became a slaughterhouse

By MOSES MAMAILA

Dying mother names men who butchered her family

THE gruesome attack on a Sebokeng house this week, in which six family members were gunned down, was apparently the work of two hired assassins who masqueraded as comrades.

Absalom Zwane lost his parents and four relatives during the family slaughter that left a one-day-old baby motherless.

He told City Press that the two gunmen were known to the family as they stayed in the neighbourhood.

The identity of one of the rifle-wielding attackers was revealed to neighbours by the 18-year-old dying mother of the infant, shortly after the attack.

Maureen Zwane, who died on the way to hospital after being shot in the back as she shielded her baby with her body, told rescuers the name of the attacker.

Relatives said the man was a well-known "freelance executioner" who operated closely with members of the defence units in the area.

"This man is notorious for his role in planned murders. People who want to eliminate their enemies often hire him to do the job," explained another family member, Mvimbi Zwane.

Although the family members were adamant that hired assassins were responsible for the massacre, they did not know why somebody would hire attackers to wipe out the entire family.

The terror operation was launched by the two "jackals" at a Zone 12 house in Sebokeng near Vereeniging on Thursday evening at about 7.45 pm.

The Zwanes were watching TV when they heard a knock at the kitchen door. Before anybody could respond to the knock, the gunmen stormed into the house.

In a well-calculated military offensive, one of the freelance soldiers threw a teargas canister into the sitting room.

In the midst of the pandemonium, the gunmen sprayed the family with bullets, killing five people instantly.

The sixth victim died on the way to hospital.

The five who were slaughtered in the house were Johannes Zwane, 64, his wife Dorothy, 51, their son Obed, 25, and their relatives Aubrey, 7, and Gift Mosebi, 14.

Jeremia Zwane, 20, cheated death by hiding under a bed. The attackers left the house after making sure their victims no longer moved.

Police spokesman Capt Piet van Deventer said intensive investigations were underway. No arrests have been made.

He appealed to the residents who have erased their house numbers to replace them, adding that police arrived at the scene "a bit late" because they had got lost.



TORN APART ... The tiny survivor is still not named after his mother, Maureen Zwane (left), was gunned down by assassins on Wednesday night.





CHILD VICTIM ... Seven-year-old Aubrey Mosebi died instantly when gunmen opened fire on a Sebokeng home, killing six family members.

Four members of family among gunmen's victims

B/DAY 9/11/92.

FIVE people, four from the same family, were shot dead at the Odidini reserve in Umbumbulu, Natal, yesterday.

Sapa reports that a police spokesman said unknown men armed with AK-47 rifles fired at people in a car who were on their way back home from a funeral service. He said four of the people killed belonged to the Myeza family of Odidini.

A man has been arrested and is expected to appear in court soon.

In their unrest report early yesterday, police said nine people were burnt, shot or hacked to death on Saturday. Seven were killed on the Reef and two in Natal, while 10 people were reported injured.

The bodies of three men with bullet wounds were found in Thokoza, near Alberton. In Katlehong, a dead woman with bullet wounds and another body, burnt beyond recognition, were found near a burnt-out minibus.

A supporter of the Inkatha Freedom Party was shot and killed by an unknown attacker with a .45 revolver in Ntabamlope, near Ladysmith, and a man was killed and a woman and child injured at Wembezi, near Estcourt, in an attack by men armed with pangas and knives.

The continuing taxi war in Kwa-Thema township, near Springs, claimed the lives of two more people, and left three injured, on Saturday. In one incident, a man was killed when attackers fired on a minibus.

In Maokeng, near Kroonstad, police injured a man with a rubber bullet when they dispersed a crowd throwing stones at a local house.

In the Imbali township, near Maritzburg, a man was wounded when his home was attacked by a group who fled when the SA Defence Force arrived on the scene.

□ WILSON ZWANE reports that a national peace accord trust has raised close to Rim since its establishment two weeks ago.

The trust, whose board includes, among others, national peace committee chairman John Hall, is expecting substantial funds from Europe at the end of this month.

Warwick Barnes, chairman of the peace accord's committee on socio-economic restructuring, said at the weekend the trust was established in terms of the peace accord's Chapter 5. He said Chapter 5 placed an obligation on signatories to the accord to undertake socio-economic restruction in unrest-ravaged areas.

□ RAY HARTLEY reports that a man who may be connected with train killings last week will appear in the Germiston Magistrate's Court today on charges of murder and the illegal possession of arms.

The suspect was arrested after a random search on a Germiston-Katlehong train revealed he was carrying a Makarov pistol. Makarov shells were found at the scene of Tuesday's killings in which five people died.

Police said axes, knives and a bloodstained umbrella were found at the suspect's Katlehong house.

Reef station clash joined by gunman

JOHANNESBURG — Fighting broke out at Park Station here late yesterday between groups of alleged African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party supporters but no one was reported injured.

Police said the groups were stoning each other across the railway when a gunman jumped from a passing train, firing 10 shots at Inkatha supporters. No one was hit and the gunman escaped.

● Three people died and one was wounded in Thokoza on Monday in a rifle attack on a house.

● In Natal four people died and a youth was injured in unrest on Monday, police said.

Two policemen were seriously wounded in an AK-47 ambush on a patrol in Inanda near Durban.

● The Human Rights Commission said yesterday that at least 189 people died in Natal political violence last month, bringing the Natal death toll this year to 1 147.

But Defence Minister Mr Gene Louw claimed yesterday that violence in Natal Midlands has decreased by about 50% since the deployment of extra security forces.

● A monitoring committee to promote peace in the Vaal Triangle was launched by ANC-aligned organisations yesterday.

The organisations said the government is using "proxy forces" to discredit the ANC. — Sapa

Govt unable to uphold hostel fencing promise

GOVERNMENT has admitted that it will not be able to fence off Transvaal hostels by Sunday, a deadline set in the Record of Understanding it reached with the ANC in September.

Local Government Department spokesman Francois Jacobs said this week it had not been possible to go ahead with construction of the fences in view of objections from Inkatha, KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the Transvaal Hostel Residents' Association.

Jacobs said with hostel residents threatening counter-measures, such as a rent boycott and the physical removal of contractors erecting the fences, the possibility of increased violence would defeat the purpose for which the hostels were being fenced.

He said that after even ANC-inclined hostel residents, such as those in Sebokeng and Tembisa, declined to attend meetings convened by the TPA to discuss the issue, the TPA would not be able to execute the fencing.

He said the national peace secretariat had been asked to bring the various interested parties together, with the Goldstone commission mediating.

The commission should also consider reports by the SAP and others on the situation at hostels.

It should also find out whether the fencing would intensify violence and consider reverting to reconstruction and upgrading of hostels rather than fencing.

"We think the Goldstone commission could play a meaningful role in this situation," Jacobs said.

The ANC has said it expects government to honour the Record of Understanding.

THEO RAWANA

AIDS epidemic 'at crisis levels'

KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE AIDS epidemic had reached crisis proportions in SA, but health authorities had failed to respond effectively, a Baragwanath Hospital doctor said recently. BIDAY

Heamotology Department head Prof Alan Fleming told the Township Aids Project that SA was seven years behind other African countries in the spread of the epidemic, but, he added, health authorities had wasted the "period of grace". 11/11/92.

Fleming said more than 4% of women in antenatal clinics were HIV positive and the epidemic had now reached the stage where figures would increase dramatically.

The only effective responses to the epidemic locally had been the national surveillance programme and the universal screening of blood.

Important measures which were presently not in place included AIDS information and education centres in black townships, and a national strategy for health care delivery.

This was essential because the predicted numbers of the sick would overburden the existing health care system.

Fleming said government had established its AIDS training and information centres only in locations where they would serve almost exclusively the white population.

The highest priority should have been given to an AIDS educational programme in primary and secondary schools, he said.

Budget problems behind jail releases

BIDAY 11/11/92

RAY HARTLEY

BUDGETARY difficulties had prompted government to announce the early release of 7 000 prisoners during the first six months of 1993, Correctional Services spokesman Lt Bert Slabbert said yesterday.

Correctional Services Minister Adriaan Vlok announced yesterday that the prisoners — none had committed violent crimes such as rape and murder — would be released at a rate of about 1 000 a month.

Slabbert said the prisoners would be drawn exclusively from those whose release had already been approved by the Prisons Release Board.

He did not elaborate on the extent of the department's budgetary difficulties, but said the freeing of the 7 000 prisoners would not "solve the problem on its own".

Other mechanisms had to be developed to deal with the overcrowding of prisons, which would, according to the department's figures, still hold 19 000 prisoners too many.

Sapa reports Vlok will consult police before finally authorising the releases.

Prisoners already selected for release would be given their freedom a few months earlier to ease the overcrowding.

"I want to make it clear that this process of additional releases will definitely not be implemented during the remainder of this year.

"We foresee that it could be applied during the first half of 1993," he said.

Vlok said the question of imprisoned children would be addressed urgently.

There were 2 656 convicted juveniles between the ages of 14 and 18 years in prison, and 6 485 between the ages of 19 and 22 years, he said.

Meanwhile, government and the ANC are expected to meet today to draft a final list of political prisoners who will be released by Sunday in terms of agreements they have reached.

A short list of 48 prisoners, 10 of whom had been disputed by Vlok, had been drawn up for discussion at the meeting, ANC legal department official Matthew Phosa said yesterday.

He said additional motivation had been faxed concerning the 10 disputed prisoners and there were "a few" other names that could still be added to the list.

The release of the 48 would bring the total of ANC-aligned prisoners released this year to 339, with 141 being released prior to the September summit on violence and 150 as a result of the record of understanding agreed on at the summit, Phosa said.

Originally, the ANC submitted a list of 520 political prisoners for release.

Slabbert said a process of identifying further political prisoners with other political parties would begin in weeks.

SA told to do more for health

BIDAY 11/11/92

KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE spending of 6% of GNP on health in SA was a great achievement, but considering that SA's GNP was about seven times higher than China's or Sri Lanka's, SA still had a life expectancy of less than 80% of those two countries, says a health expert.

Speaking at a conference of the National Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers in Bophuthatswana yesterday, the head of the University of the Western Cape's School of Pharmacy Peter Eagles said SA's lower life expectancy could be attributed to the unequal distribution of health resources locally.

To improve health care significantly and to eliminate poverty over the next few decades, SA would need an annual economic growth of about 10%.

Since that was impossible, attempts would have to be made to improve health care provision by other means — particularly in the field of pharmacy.

The training of health professionals in SA had almost no bearing on the health needs of the country.

It had also not taken into account the emergence of a massive peri-urban settlement and its implications for health, Eagles said.

There was an urgent need for more information on factors such as access to sanitation and water supplies, and the disadvantages of rapid urbanisation. Innovative new health promotion strategies focused on those who exhibited "risk-taking behaviour" — violence, alcohol and substance abuse, and unsafe sex — were also needed, he said.

ANC acts against rogue elements

ADRIAN HADLAND

INDIVIDUALS claiming to be members of the ANC in the Vaal Triangle had ignored the policies and mandates of the organisation and were involved in violence, rapes, killings, harassment and extortion, it was announced yesterday.

At a news conference in Vereeniging, regional leaders of the ANC, Cosatu and the SACP, and civic representatives, said a code of conduct "to end all undisciplined acts" would be developed by the end of the month.

A monitoring committee was created to end conflict between organisations in the region, facilitate reconciliation and draw up a binding code of conduct. BIDAY 11/11/92

An ANC PWV region statement said rogue members had "found their way into legitimate community structures such as the self-defence units", where they had caused havoc, chaos and dissension.

This situation had been exploited by "criminal elements", the statement said. Primary blame for the escalation of violence, however, was placed at the feet of government.

"Through its low intensity conflict strategy, the state has unleashed a number of proxy forces to visit violence on our people in an attempt to undermine and discredit the ANC in particular and the democratic movement in general," the statement said.

"We distance our organisations from acts of criminality meted out against members of the community by elements who claim membership of the ANC, SACP and Cosatu".

France to host management trainees

BIDAY 11/11/92

GAVIN DU VENAGE

THE French government would host six South Africans on a two-week visit to France, French embassy cultural councillor Georges Lory said yesterday.

The six are top participants in the French government's joint management development programme, which it co-sponsors with the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and several SA organisations including Nafcoc, the Urban foundation, the Black Management Forum and Clive Acton and Associates.

Since the programme was launched in 1985, French financial involvement has risen to R600 000, and this year eight additional bursaries were given to participants from non-profit organisations such as Operation Hunger.

Participants from SA companies study towards a diploma which leading French business schools, including the Paris School of Business and the European School of Management, endorse and award.

Lory said the increased involvement was a result of the positive results achieved so far, and that a recent survey of more than 300 candidates had shown that 74% had received promotions and advanced in their jobs.

Each year participants received training from senior professors drawn from French and local academic institutions.

Surveys had shown that trainees were instrumental in building bridges between management and the shopfloor, and had improved management quality in general, said Lory.

ANC demands police plan on violence

RAY HARTLEY 278

THE ANC's PWV branch yesterday threatened to withdraw from talks on ending train violence unless police supplied it with a "plan of action".

The organisation also instructed its lawyers to prepare a civil suit against police to claim damages on behalf of those who had died in train violence as a result of negligence on the part of the authorities.

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the SA Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC) and police had failed to upgrade stations and improve security on trains despite an agreement in May.

Police liaison officer Col Dave Bruce denied the allegations.

The ANC said it had been agreed to adjourn its meeting with the SARCC yesterday until the "community delegation has received a plan of action to combat train violence from the police".

Mamoepa said SAP claims that the ANC was discouraging witnesses from giving statements to police were false.

Cosatu official Alfred Woodington said it was up to police to instil confidence in witnesses to come forward to testify.

Mamoepa said the legal action, if it succeeded, could lead to hundreds of victims of the violence filing similar claims.

NEWS FEATURE *You get used to seeing such things si*

A police vehicle riles a little girl

Sowetan 11/11/92.

■ STABILITY UNIT *Vaal police took reporter Abbey*

Makoe and photographer Pat Seboko on a township patrol:

MAJOR Johan Vorster, commander of the Internal Stability Unit, declares wryly: "Gentlemen, you're welcome," and provides me with the bullet-proof vest I had earlier requested.

"This is Sergeant Teen Schoeman, your crew leader for the afternoon," Vorster says, pointing at the slender figure standing about 1,9m, clean-shaven, with a neatly-trimmed moustache and in combat uniform.

It is 2.45pm. We drive out of the Vereeniging headquarters of the unit and on to a road to Sharpeville. Schoeman is also the driver of the security-tight armoured vehicle.

The first "unrest-related" incident for the day is caused by a girl of about 10 as we drive through the township. Lamely, she throws a stone at our vehicle.

"Let's go back and arrest her," jokes Colonel Ray Harrald, the man who arranged our visit.

As we drive along one dirt road, Schoeman reaches for his two-way radio: "Kielo, Lima, Papa - 241 Tango." After a few minutes, a hoarse voice comes in: "Negative."

A suspected stolen vehicle with the registration KLP 241 T is being cleared.

We drive along more bumpy streets towards Boipatong, where, Schoeman says, he was nearly killed in 1984.

Constable Enoch Mabunda, sitting next to me, whispers: "Last week I was missed by three shots near that surgery." I asked him if such experiences were not driving him into reconsidering his occupation.

"No," he says. "I would rather die in this work than quit. I love it so much..."

Riddled with bullets

At 3.15pm as we drive out of Boipatong, Schoeman calls again: "See this road, Abbey, on the day after the massacre you couldn't drive here. There was a barricade every three metres."

He points to where the first victim of the massacre was found, his head riddled with AK-47 rifle bullets.

After some time he says: "Some things you get used to, you know, Abbey, such as seeing corpses. But you never get used to the killings," and shakes his head.

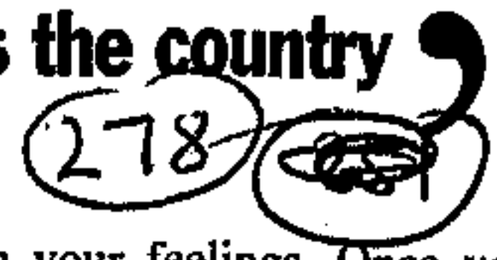
"You know, Abbey," he says, as usual, "I pity the kids here. You know what? Kids don't give a damn about who is ANC or Inkatha or who governs the country."

The vehicle comes to a sudden stop. "See, Abbey," says Schoeman, pointing outside, "that trench there?"

Harrald comes in: "If someone was getting killed there we wouldn't be able to drive across that trench."

Schoeman elaborates: "Sometimes they camouflage the trenches by covering the hole with a cardboard box and spreading sand on top."

'You know, Abbey,' he says, as usual, 'I pity the kids here. You know what? Kids don't give a damn about who is ANC or Inkatha or who governs the country



"You've got to rely on your feelings. Once you're suspicious, you must stop," Schoeman says.

He recalls that "at the time of the unrest" he had to drive the Nyala (code name for their vehicle), be on the look-out for traps and look around for criminal acts all at the same time.

Responding to the quizzical look on my face, which he is watching through the rearview mirror, Schoeman says: "You get used to it."

As we drive out of the township to Sebokeng, Schoeman reaches for his radio and gives a report to the base about the "quiet" situation.

I ask "Sarge" Schoeman, as I address him, about the qualifications needed to be able to join the unit.

"You've got to be versatile. We screen all members of the unit when they join. We check if they are medically fit and mentally stable.

"All my men have been screened," he says, watching his silent crew sitting behind in the rearview mirror.

As we drive in and out of the streets regarded as hotbeds of crime and violence, Schoeman comes up with a bit of his psychology: "Abbey," he starts again, "you know what a hero is?" I say I don't.

He responds: "Those who are scared but don't run away from fear are heroes," he says. "Cowards are those who are scared and run away from fear," he says before explaining what "stupids" are: "Those who know nothing and do nothing."

At 4.15pm we are driving through Sebokeng's main road, behind a fleet of minibus taxis ferrying residents home.

The siren goes and goes. "Spot check!" Schoeman says to the crew. The target is a taxi that has just responded to the Nyala's siren and its flashlights.

Men, women and children climb out. One of Schoeman's men is busy searching the taxi driver's pockets, another the male passengers and others have taken up positions around the minibus.

Women and children are exempted from the search

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11/11/97

Sowetan.

...ch as corpses but not killings - cop



The result? They have found nothing and get back into the Nyala from which I have been watching them at work.

Harrald explains: "We don't like doing it but we have to, just to make sure. It's a job that needs to be done, regardless of the inconvenience. I know the community might not like it but it's a job we must do."

Shortly afterwards Schoeman turns to me and explains why he has ordered the search of the kombi.

"It was full of young people, you know? The 'self-defence unit' here has a tendency to hijack taxis and man roadblocks of their own. It happens very often."

The leader of the Vaal Triangle Internal Stability Unit, Sergeant Teen Schoeman, chats to a woman at Sebokeng Hostel while the unit is on its daily rounds of maintaining law and order.
Pic: PAT SEBOKO

'ANC renegades behind campaign to kill police'

RAY HARTLEY

RENEGADE members of the ANC's self-defence units were behind a campaign to kill policemen in Reef townships, police spokesman Capt Eugene Opperman said yesterday.

Opperman said 18 defence unit members — many of them from Phola Park — had been arrested. Three had appeared in court in connection with possession of firearms and attacks on policemen.

A recent claim by an ANC defence unit member that he had accidentally shot a prominent ANC member because he mistook him for a policeman was further evidence of instructions they had received to kill policemen, he said.

At least 194 policemen have died violently since the beginning of the year. Last year 143 were killed.

ANC claims that the defence units were out of control because of police infiltration were "a clear attempt to shift blame by means of propaganda", the police and SADF said in a joint statement yesterday.

"Motives of sources producing unfounded, unproven, untested and malicious allegations aimed at alienating the security forces from the very people they protect, must be questioned," the statement said.

Opperman said 10 ANC members had been arrested in possession of firearms and police uniforms. Police were investigating "several armed attacks carried out by ANC members or supporters in the Vaal triangle, particularly Sebokeng".

He said the ANC was hindering police investigations at the scenes of unrest-related murders and crimes.

Opperman said ANC suggestions that a "code of conduct" be drawn up for self-defence unit members were welcomed.

Sapa reports that three people — one of them a policeman — were killed and two others were injured in attacks on Reef trains yesterday. Police said Const P M Mpanza was thrown from a train between Elsburg and Katlehong on the East Rand. His body, which landed under a train, was badly mutilated.

He was the third policeman in seven months to die in violence on trains.

In Atteridgeville two assistant constables were attacked while on patrol on Wednesday night.

□ Government's Social Relief Fund had paid out R670 000 and had assisted more than 1 000 families affected by political violence since it was established three months ago, fund chairman Piet Koornhof said in Durban yesterday.

Govt fence-sitting on hostels

WILSON ZWANE

GOVERNMENT will not fence off hostels, identified as sources of violence, in terms of the record of understanding it reached with the ANC in September.

In terms of the understanding, seven Reef hostels were to have been fenced off by Sunday.

Local Government and National Housing Department official Johan Oosthuizen said yesterday government would not fence off hostels by Sunday.

Oosthuizen said objections from Inkatha and the Transvaal Hostel Residents' Association had made it impossible to construct fences around the hostels in terms of the agreement. He said it seemed implementation of the agreement would fuel violence rather than end it.

However, the hostels would be fenced off in due course as part of government's strategy to upgrade them, Oosthuizen said.

ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said yesterday the ANC had not met to discuss the matter.

But government's decision to renege on the agreement had serious implications for future negotiations. He would not discuss the implications.

The agreement was hailed as a breakthrough for constitutional negotiations which had virtually collapsed after the June 17 Boipatong massacre.

The ANC cancelled talks between itself and government after the massacre, saying such talks would be resumed only after government had — among other things — taken sufficient steps to curb violence.

The fencing off of the hostels is a demand from the ANC, which attributes most unrest incidents to hostel residents. The organisation believes barriers between hostel residents and township residents will restore peace in the townships.

NEWS Mourner says there is a "low-intensity civil war" in the Vaal ● Constable killed

Cop thrown off train

Sowetan 13/11/92. (278)

■ Third policeman to die in train violence:

TWO people, one of them a policeman, were killed in two separate attacks on Reef trains yesterday.

A police constable at Johannesburg's Park Station was thrown off a train between Elsburg and Katlehong about 7am.

Police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said the policeman, who has not yet been named, was the third officer to die in train violence in seven months.

In another attack, a person was killed and two other people injured when a passenger shot at commuters standing on a platform as the train drew into Faraday Station shortly before 7am.

Opperman said the man jumped off the train as it pulled off at the station. He was shot by a plainclothes policeman but managed to escape.

Opperman appealed to doctors and hospitals to report anyone seeking treatment for a gunshot wound.- *Sapa.*

Sebokeng victims buried

Sowetan 13/11/92. (278)

■ Both ANC, Sadtu blame Government for the massacre of five members of Zwane family:

By Abbey Makoe

THE South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) and the ANC yesterday blamed the Government for the gruesome killing last week of six members of a Sebokeng family.

Officials of the two organisations were speaking during the funeral of five of the victims at Mphathlatsane Hall in Sebokeng.

Those who were buried ~~were~~ former teacher Mr Johannes Zwane (64), his wife Dorothy, their children Obed (25) and Maureen (18) and Aubrey (7).

The sixth victim, Gift Mosebi, was relative of the Zwane's who was visiting the family. The six died when gun-toting men attacked them shortly before supper last week.

Mr Mandla Gungubele, who represented the ANC PWV region, said the Government was unleashing its agents to destabilise the black community.

Gungubele called for sanctions to be maintained.

A Sadtu spokesman put the blame squarely on the Government's door. He said there was a "low-intensity civil war" in Sebokeng.

News

Now ANC says renegade unit slaughtered family

ST Times 15/11/92.

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THE ANC has blamed renegade members of one of its own self-defence units for the slaying of a family of six in Sebokeng this month.

When the family of Mr Ephrain Zwane, believed to be ANC supporters, were shot dead this month, the ANC claimed that an assailant wearing an SADF T-shirt had been seen running away from the scene.

ANC members called on the authorities to find quickly the perpetrators of the "heinous crime".

But now, after investigation by a committee co-ordinated by Mr Obed Bapela, deputy general secretary of the ANC's PWV region, the organisation believes members of one of its own self-

By CHARLENE SMITH

defence units were responsible for the killings.

Members of the investigating team say that there appears to be a power struggle in the Vaal between returned exiles and internal members.

They add that they also suspect the involvement of criminals and "third force elements" from the state security services who have infiltrated the self-defence units.

SA Communist Party head Chris Hani, who has been involved in peace efforts in the area, said the renegade SDU members were involved in vehicle hijackings, forcing traders to pay "protection money", setting up roadblocks and barricades, and robbing people.

"Rape has become prevalent, with schoolgirls being raped and killed. We feel some SDUs have been infiltrated by the system, and criminals have taken over due to the volatile situation in the Vaal."

Mr Hani added: "The situation is very dangerous for the ANC alliance. People are beginning to say these people call themselves Comrades and they are killing us. It is a situation the government, military intelligence and the National Intelligence Service would enjoy. I suspect they are fishing in troubled waters.

"But it is not enough for us to make pious statements opposed to the violence; we have to take affirmative steps to end the violence."

Mr Hani said an urgent summit would be convened in the Vaal before the end of this month to try to find ways to end the violence.

He said a contributing factor to renegade forces within MK was that large numbers of former soldiers had returned with no jobs or prospects into violence-ravaged communities which expected assistance from MK cadres.

A R330 000 fraud recently uncovered at the National Committee for the Repatriation of Exiles had also meant that large numbers of returning exiles had received little or no money to assist them to re-integrate into society.

Two ANC commissions are investigating increased lawlessness among its alleged supporters in the Vaal. The first, headed by Mr Bapela, is concentrating specifically on violence in the area.

The other, headed by the organisation's deputy secretary-general, Mr Jacob Zuma, is investigating problems being experienced by Umkhonto we Sizwe, including the involvement of some of its members in the Vaal violence as well as elsewhere.

The Vaal commission has paid particular attention to conflict between the National Union of Metalworkers of SA and self-defence units under former MK cadre Ernest Sotsu.

Mr Sotsu's wife and two children were killed by unknown assailants while he was attending the ANC national consultative conference in Durban last year.

After that Mr Sotsu went to live in the Sebokeng hostel. This coincided with the oubreak of hostilities between Numsa unionists and a rival committee called Top 20, with which Mr Sotsu is involved.

These units have been blamed for the killing of eight Numsa members, including five shop stewards, since May this year.

Similar

ANC leaders also admit that similar hit-squad activity is taking place among SDUs in other parts of the Vaal, the Natal Midlands and southern Natal.

Other incidents in which the involvement of rogue self-defence units is suspected are:

- The gunning down of Mr Prince Mhlambi, a community worker in Phola Park, who became the third member of that community's civic association to be assassinated after MK members had seized control;
- The death of an elderly woman in the Witbank area;
- The attempted assassination a fort-night ago of Mr Bavumile Vilikazi, a senior ANC Vaal activist;
- The shooting of two teenage girls, Jacobeth Rantso, 18, and Rose Mohalane, 19, in Evaton after an ANC SDU claimed they fraternised with Inkatha residents in the Kwamadala hostel.

● MPHO GIFT SOLOMON MOSEBI, 14, the youngest victim of the Sebokeng massacre, was buried at Evaton cemetery yesterday to the rattle of AK-47's fired in salute by youngsters.

At the funeral, a child — no older than 13 — was seen to borrow an AK-47 from a youth, cock it, fire rapidly into the air and then return the weapon to its owner.

ANC stands by its streetfighters

Argus 15/11/92

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By MOSES MAMAILA

DESPITE mayhem and anarchy attributed to the Self-Defence Units (SDUs) in the Vaal townships, the ANC and its allies still maintain that these structures are legitimate and imperative.

Following revelations of killings, rape, extortion, forced recruitment and harassment meted against members of the community and the media by SDU members, the tripartite alliance – the ANC, SACP and Cosatu – this week called a media conference to announce measures to get the situation under control.

While the alliance expressed its utter contempt and dismay at the havoc and chaos perpetrated by SDU members, it blamed agents of the state for infiltrating "legitimate structures of the people" to discredit the ANC.

However, the organisations conceded that criminal elements had hijacked some SDUs.

Apart from the proposed summit where a code of conduct for the SDUs is expected to be adopted, the alliance has formed a monitoring committee which will meet weekly.

However, it was made clear at the press conference that the SDU's were here to stay.

But what are the SDUs?

MK PWV regional political commissar Oupa Monareng told City Press they were para-military structures formed after Nelson Mandela's had said people had a right to defend themselves.

He said: "The initiatives of the organisational struture of the SDU's were the work of the community through the local civic associations.

"An SDU can be formed in a street and should have a minimum of six cadres, under one commander. Selection of SDU members is done by members of the community and only those with proven political records can be nominated."

projects others to combat the enemy".

Boipatong tapes erased 'on purpose'

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — An investigation by British government experts has found that the Boipatong tapes may have been "hurriedly and deliberately erased with the object of obscuring the contents".

Details of the findings are scheduled to be made public today by the Goldstone Commission. They were released on Friday to the SA Police's legal advisers to enable the police to consider their response.

It is understood that the police have angrily questioned the validity of the British findings. Police told the Goldstone inquiry the recordings had accidentally been wiped clean.

The tapes in question were those which recorded radio communications between police in the field and the Vereeniging internal stability unit on the night of the June 17 massacre.



Boks

LEICESTER. — Springb
players were pelted wi

IFP plans to combat violence

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By Nicolette Tladi Sowetan 16/11/92

■ Concern about killing of people in trains and damage to property:

THE Inkatha Freedom Party and its affiliates will meet this week to form strategies to combat violence on trains and in the PWV area as a whole.

This was announced by the IFP's Transvaal organiser, Mr Themba Khoza, in a Press statement. The IFP expressed its concern about the killing of people on trains and damage to property.

The IFP, United Workers Union of South Africa (Uwusa), Hostel Residents Association, and United Metal Industries and Allied Workers Union of South Africa (Umiawusa) are going to "work out a package to deal with this critical issue".

Gunmen kill eight at Pietersburg taxi rank

278 ARG 16/11/92

The Argus Correspondent

PIETERSBURG. — Eight people were shot dead and three injured here when gunmen opened fire on a group of people in a municipal park beside a taxi rank, police said.

Police spokesman Captain Werner Voight said the victims, who have not yet been identified, were eating and talking under a tree beside the "RSA" taxi rank at about 9.45am yesterday when the gunmen opened fire.

Seven men died on the scene, Captain Voight said. The eighth man died in the casualty ward of the Pietersburg provincial hospital, a hospital spokesman said. Three others were admitted with gunshot wounds — one with serious injuries — but were in a stable condition last night.

While police could not confirm whether the deceased were all members of the Big Six Taxi Association which operated from the rank, all of them were connected to the rank in some way, Captain Voight said.

"We can say that all the victims were either regular taxi commuters or taxi drivers," he said.

One taxi driver, who belongs to the Big Six Taxi Association and witnessed the shooting, said six of the men mowed down were drivers and one was a taxi owner.

He said the men were involved in a meeting to discuss the operation of the problem beset Johannesburg/Pietersburg taxi route.

Drivers at the scene alleged three of their taxis were hijacked in Johannesburg on Saturday by a rival taxi association, which operated on the same route.

The Far Northern Transvaal Dispute Resolution Committee held a crisis meeting yesterday afternoon to try to prevent further violence in the area.

Committee chairman Professor Koos van den Heever said the situation warranted that the Goldstone Commission urgently investigate it.

He said that after yesterday's killings it would be difficult to avoid a revenge attack or a full-scale taxi war.

Five vehicles were damaged in the attack. Police found about 60 AK-47 and 9mm cartridges at the scene. — Sapa.

7 slain in taxi feud

16/11/92

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FATAL SQUASH Plethora of rival taxi associations on same routes to blame for the violence:

TAXI wars have reared their ugly heads again.

Seven people were killed when gunmen opened fire on a meeting of taxi drivers and operators in Pietersburg yesterday.

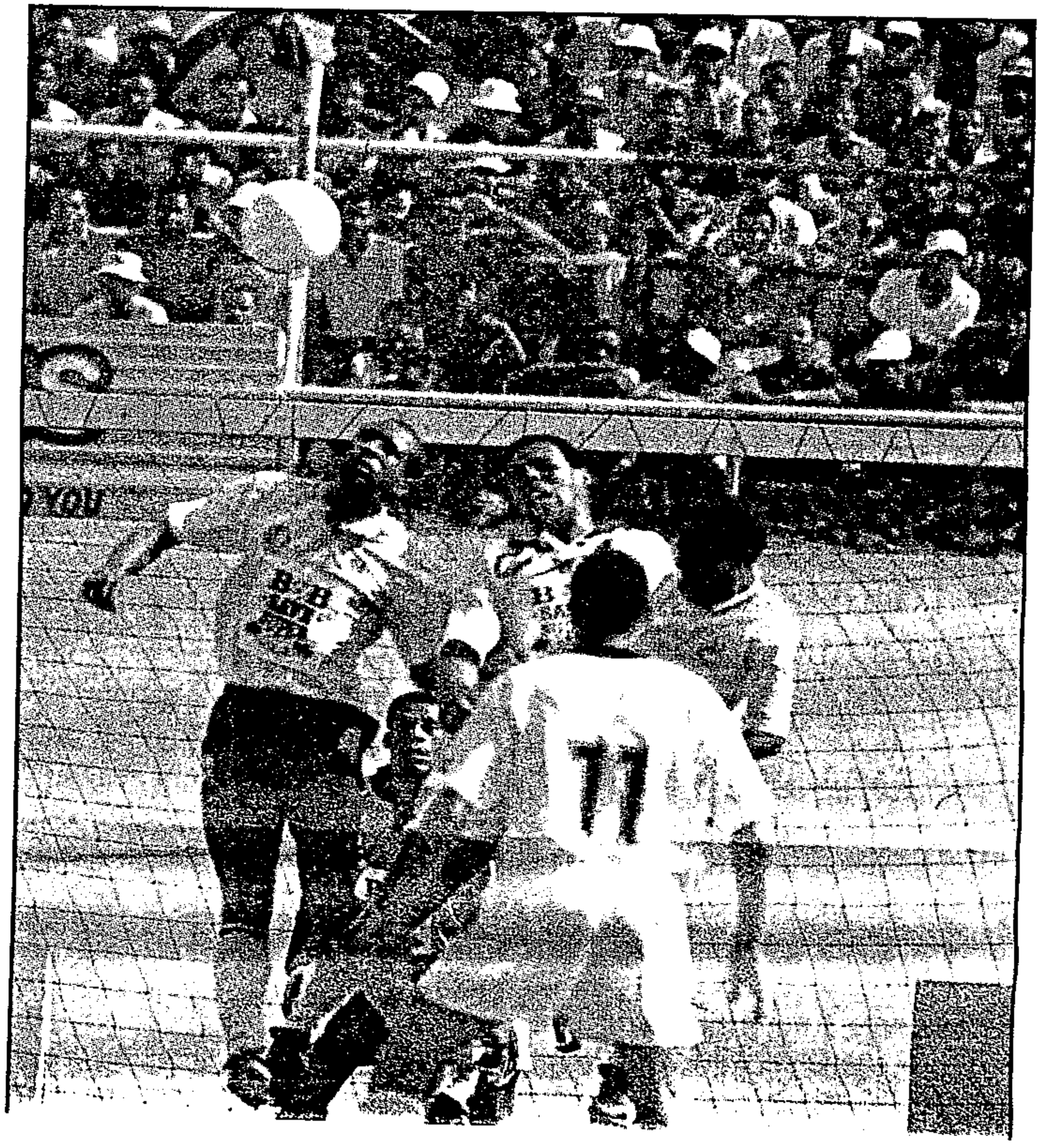
Police say it is not yet clear whether the killings are part of the taxi war plaguing the industry.

Taxi drivers who survived the attack blame a rival association.

South African Black Taxi Association spokesman Mr Jabu Mabuza linked the killings to a glut of taxis operating on the route.

Mabuza warned the problem could further be exacerbated following the deregulation of the industry.

Full story page 2



ANC probes Vaal rivalry

■ Officials suspect rival groups may be behind the violence in Sebokeng:

By Nicolette Tladi Sowetan 16/11/92

THE African National Congress is investigating the organisation's internal rivalry in the Vaal amid allegations that renegade elements of its self-defence units are wreaking havoc in the area.

The probe followed the slaying of the Zwane family in Sebokeng two weeks ago.

Mr Ephraim Johannes Zwane, a teacher whose wife was a recruitment officer for the ANC, and three other family members were gunned down in their Zone 12 home two weeks ago.

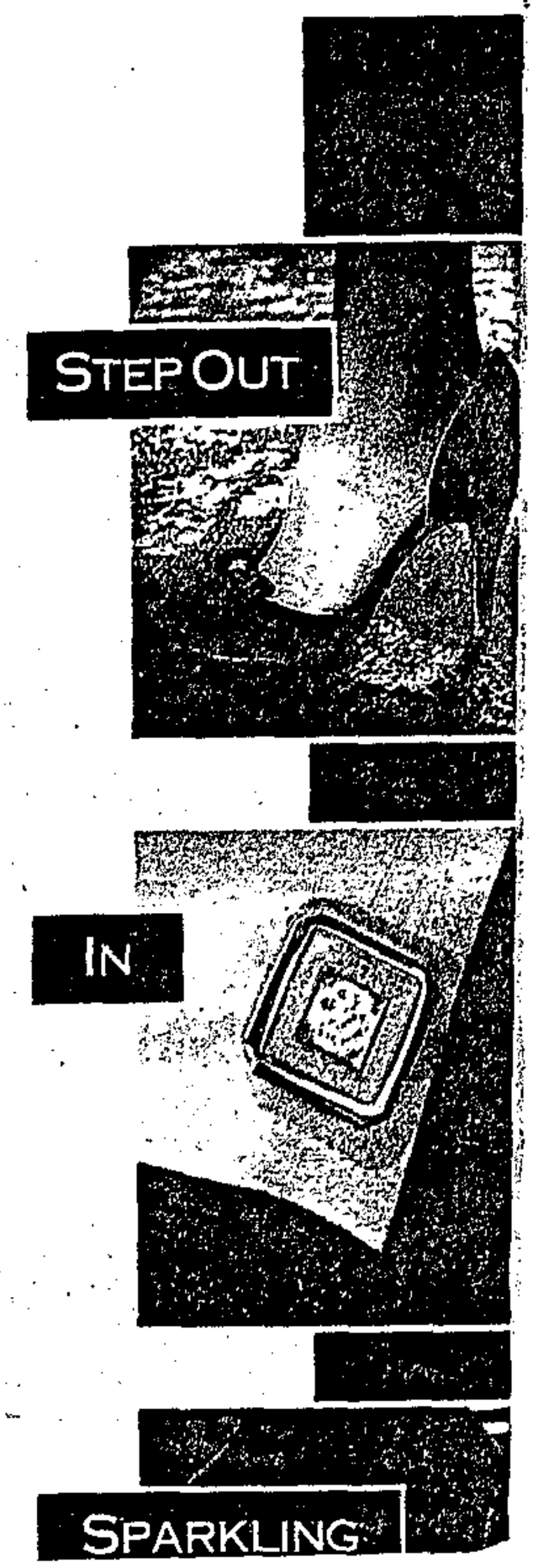
Mr Ronnie Mamoepa, ANC PWV spokesman, yesterday confirmed the launching of the investigation in response to weekend newspaper reports that their self-defence units were responsible for the family's gruesome death.

"It has not been established yet that the killing of the Zwane family was linked to feuding within the ANC ranks in the Vaal.

"We are investigating sources of violence in the Vaal and we have found that the bulk of it has been visited by the State on the people," Mamoepa said.

In an interview with Sowetan, ANC Youth League president Mr Peter Mokaba said the solution was that self-defence units should be "revamped" so as to defeat the violence "visited on the communities by the State and its surrogates".

"But self-defence units must be accountable to the direct political leadership of the community in which they are operating."



7 killed as Pietersburg taxi war erupts again

Sowetan 16/11/92 2B

By Don Seokane

■ FATAL DISCORD Existence of rival taxi associations on same route blamed:

FOUR unidentified men shot and killed six taxi drivers and one owner at a Big Six Taxi Association meeting in Pietersburg yesterday morning.

Two taxi drivers, severely wounded in the shooting, were taken to hospital. One was reported to be in a critical condition with four bullet wounds, according to witnesses.

No passengers were wounded, except for one municipal worker who was cleaning the park next to the taxi rank when the shooting erupted at about 9.30am.

Police spokesman Captain Werner Voight said AK-47 rifles and 9mm pistols were used in the attack.

Voight said no arrests had been made as yet but announced an intensive manhunt for the killers.

Voight said five vehicles were damaged. The names of the dead could not be released yesterday. Taxi drivers at the scene said the shooting erupted during a meeting at an RSA taxi rank called to discuss the operation of the Johannesburg/Pietersburg line.

"Four men, two of them wearing overcoats and armed with pistols and two with rifles that looked like AK-47s or R1s, pounced on us and started shooting," a taxi driver who refused to be named said.

"When we began running they continued shooting and there was a sound of automatic gunfire rattling throughout the taxi rank.

"After the shooting we found seven of our members dead and two drivers and one municipal worker injured."

When *Sowetan* arrived at the scene we saw seven bodies covered with blankets scattered all over the municipal park adjacent to the RSA taxi rank.

The shooting, according to drivers, was a result of mounting problems experienced by Big Six Association members. Yesterday's meeting was to address these problems, which include:

- The hijacking of three taxis together with their drivers on Saturday in Johannesburg;
- Drivers were loading passengers only in Pietersburg and were unable to load in Johannesburg; and
- Operators have had to operate on the Pietersburg/Tembisa route because they feared for their lives if they drove to Johannesburg.

They blamed a rival taxi association that also operates the Pietersburg/Johannesburg route.

More than 40 taxis were parked yesterday and there were no indications that drivers would start working after the shooting.

Taxi drivers said they would discuss the options available to them to ensure their safety and which alternative routes could be taken.

The lucrative route has seen much bloodshed in the past, due to the existence of several associations.

ANC drafts code to curb its renegade members

BDAY 17/11/92

ADRIAN HADLAND

THE ANC is planning a code of conduct to bind its errant self-defence units to party policy and make them more accountable.

The PWV region is to consider a draft code today.

Last week the ANC said renegade members of self-defence units in the Vaal Triangle and Natal had become involved in activities ranging from extortion and killing to rape and forced recruitment.

An ANC investigation into the recent slaying of the six-member Zwane family of Sebokeng had also found that self-defence unit members may have been involved.

ANC spokesmen said the details emerging from the investigation, which was headed by ANC PWV region deputy secretary Obed Bapela, had not been confirmed.

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the allegations had come from communities as well as witnesses.

"We have not verified the allegations. We are investigating sources of violence in the Vaal Triangle, and in Natal we have found that the bulk of the violence has been visited by the state on the people."

The draft code of conduct, which will be tabled at a summit of ANC-aligned community, trade union and political organisations at the weekend, would include clauses on "behaviour, conduct, discipline, accountability and a commitment not to become involved" in unsanctioned acts, Mamoepa said yesterday.

The self-defence units had been "operating loosely, taking far-reaching decisions with national implications", Mamoepa added.

"We have to bring the self-defence units under control as the ANC must take final responsibility for their actions."

He said the final version of the code of conduct would be negotiated at the summit before it was implemented.

While individual members of self-defence units would not be represented at the summit, an "umbrella body" acting on their behalf would contribute to the debate, Mamoepa said.

He said the ANC was not prepared to divulge the number of self-defence units operating in the Vaal Triangle and Natal, because of "security considerations".

He said this weekend's summit was aimed at facilitating the building and strengthening of the self-defence unit structures, improving accountability, the adoption of a binding code of conduct and measures aimed at bringing the self-defence units firmly under ANC control.

Doors closed on inquest

BDAY 17/11/92

SUSAN RUSSELL

FORMER CCB information officer Derrick Louw was granted an application to testify in camera yesterday at the resumption of the inquest into the murder of Wits University academic David Webster.

Minutes after the hearing resumed, Louw's counsel Jurie Wessels applied for his client's evidence to be heard behind closed doors in order to protect his identity.

Wessels' application for an in camera hearing was also heard behind closed doors. Judge M Stegmann granted the application.

State counsel J van Vuuren later told the media a transcript of Louw's evidence and cross-examination would be made available within a day or two.

However, members of the media were given a copy of Louw's statement to the Harms commission in 1990, which was submitted at the inquest yesterday.

The former CCB information officer said his task had been to collate information and make it available to the various CCB regions as needed.

During the Harms commission Louw was shown a list of names which commission officials had found among CCB documents. The list included Webster's name, next to which Louw had drawn an arrow.

Louw said Webster had been unknown to him until after the academic's death, and to the best of his knowledge had not been monitored by any CCB member.

After Webster's death, CCB MD Joe Verster had asked him if there was any information on Webster.

Louw said since the academic was unknown to him he had done a search of the CCB's information documents and, finding the list which had been drawn up by another CCB member, had put an arrow next to Webster's name to show Verster later.

Cross-examination of Louw will continue behind closed doors today.

Children slain in Natal attack

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Two young children and two adults were killed in the latest wave of violence in Natal when several kraals near Umgababa, south of Durban, were attacked early yesterday by unknown men armed with AK-47s.

SAP spokesman Capt Bala Naidoo said Ambrose Khomo, Catherine Gumbi and her two children were killed. BDAY

At least 21 people have died in Natal/KwaZulu since Friday, including six people who were shot dead at Nxamalala near Maritzburg on Saturday. 17/11/92

KwaZulu Police reported at least nine other deaths in their area at the weekend.

Meanwhile, Umlazi mayor Maria Xulu yesterday survived a second assassination attempt in weeks while travelling through "H" section.

Taxi violence probe

Sowetan 17/11/92

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■ The Goldstone Commission is to investigate incident that claimed eight lives in Pietersburg:

THE GOLDSTONE Commission is to probe the taxi violence that claimed eight lives in Pietersburg at the weekend.

The commission will begin a preliminary inquiry in Pretoria on December 7.

Meanwhile, all parties to the conflict were locked in serious negotiations in Pietersburg yesterday to prevent an all-out taxi war.

Seven taxi drivers, all members of the Big Six Taxi Association, died on the spot after being gunned down by four unidentified men during a meeting at a taxi rank on Sunday morning.

Police spokesman Captain Werner Voight said the eighth victim died in hospital late on Sunday.

The Goldstone Commission yesterday called for submissions on the causes of the taxi violence in Pietersburg and other areas of the Northern Transvaal.

The names of seven of the people who died in the gun attack on Sunday were released by police yesterday.

They were Mr James Phasha of Atteridgeville, Mr William Phasha of Soshanguve, Mr John Phube of Lebowakgomo, Mr Abel Phukubwje of Kagiso, Mr Raheida Debeiiaj of Marble Hall, Mr Vicky Watt of Seshego and Mr M F Monyoko of Seshego.

Voight said that 78 spent AK-47 cartridges and 9mm cartridges were found in the area shortly after the shooting.

"It seems the attack was well-planned as eye-witnesses said the gunmen ran through the taxi rank from north to south and escaped in a vehicle which was apparently waiting to pick them up," Voight added.

Although the situation was tense at the Big Six taxi rank yesterday, taxis were operating but not as usual.

Big arms cache found at East Rand hostel

17/11/92 278

■ Largest stock of illegal weapons uncovered on the Witwatersrand

AN operation by police and the SA Defence Force yesterday uncovered one of the largest illegal weapons finds yet on the Witwatersrand.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said the security force operation took place at the Buyafuthi Hostel near Katlehong on the East Rand.

Police and soldiers seized 23 AK-47 assault rifles, 2 200 AK-47 rounds, 28 AK-47 magazines, two RPG-7 rockets and 431 7,65 rounds of ammunition.

No arrests had been made so far "but we are investigating this find thoroughly. No more information can be made available at this stage as investigations are at an extremely delicate stage," police said. – *Sapa.*

Boipatong massacre suspects get bail

THE court could not allow itself to be blackmailed by ANC threats of revenge on those accused of responsibility for the Boipatong massacre, a Pretoria Supreme Court judge said yesterday.

Judge K van Dijkhorst granted bail of R1 000 each to 11 of those accused for the Boipatong massacre on condition they reported to police twice a week and did not enter Boipatong.

Bail had been refused by the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court, for fear the accused might intimidate witnesses or flee.

Van Dijkhorst granted the accused who were permanently employed bail.

He referred the bail applications of 35 of the accused back to the magistrate who must determine whether they were employed by Iscor or not.

The bail appeals of 25 accused, who have no permanent employment, have been refused. — Sapa.

'Cops' terrorise family

Sowetan 17/11/92 278

By Mzimasi Ngudle

■ White men in an altercation with black policemen:

FOUR white men masquerading as policemen plundered a Soweto house, phoned 087 sex lines, drank the family's liquor and looted a spaza shop before making off with R4 500 in cash.

The men also allegedly damaged the family's BMW car before towing it away.

Mrs Sarah Dlamini, a 63-year-old Jabulani pensioner and owner of the house, said four white men brandising firearms raided her home about 2pm on Saturday.

Dlamini said the men demanded to "see papers for the car". She said they then went outside and scraped the car with a screw driver.

"They said the car was stolen. We gave them documents as proof that the car was not stolen, but they threw them away.

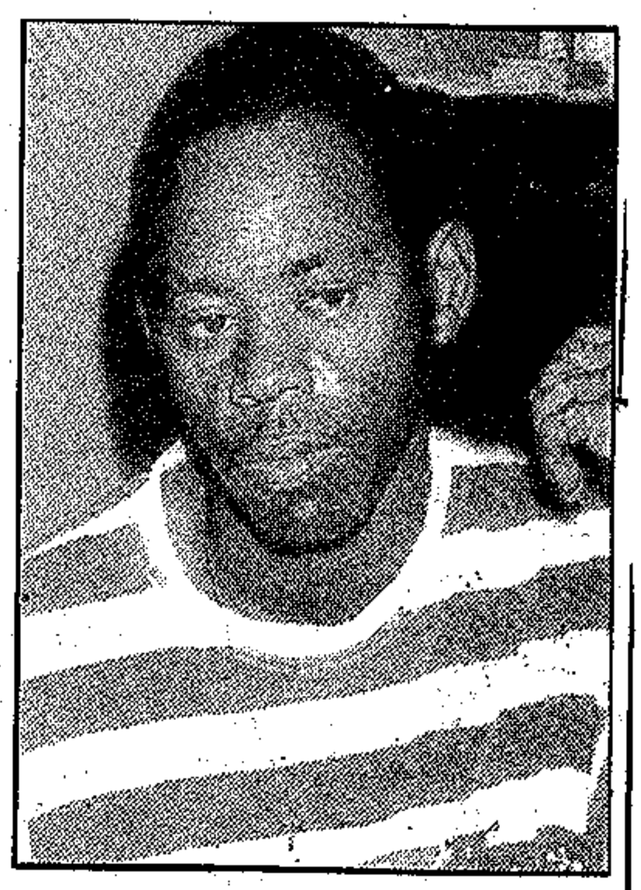
"We phoned the police at Jabulani. About four black policemen arrived and an altercation ensued. The white policemen spurned them, calling them kaffirs," she said.

Dlamini also alleged the men took R3 000 from the till and R1 500 from her daughter's purse.

Dlamini's son, Fanyana (25), went to identify the car at Jabulani police station. He said at least a battery, engine top, injectors, a radiator, spare wheel, tape recorder and speakers had been removed.

Police spokesman Captain Eugene Henning said the incident would be investigated once a charge had been laid.

He said the car was suspected to have been stolen.



Fanyana Dlamini



Police search people at a mobile roadblock in the Vaal Triangle. Pic: PAT SEBOKO

All in a day's work with the ISU

278

Sowetan 17/11/92

■ NIGHT PATROL Frightening - but the men in uniform saw it as just another ordinary day.

'You're never sure if you will go back home in this job'

- ISU Warrant - officer Jean Otto

By Abbey Makoe

THE FIRST THING that comes to mind is the media history of the area.

A few months ago, in a way that has become typical, townships in the Vaal Triangle hit the headlines.

Police say Sebokeng is a no-go area. It is a frank warning to strangers. Police have also warned people from outside against visiting relatives in the area at the time.

A radio message in our Nyala (police armoured vehicle) elicited a deafening silence from the crew members: A man in his late 20s has tied his nine-year-old daughter's wrists with a rope and hung her from the rafters in the dining room.

All this because the Standard One pupil did not go to school on that day.

This message comes to the armoured vehicle during a night patrol, in which photographer Pat Seboko and I are part of the "crew" out in the streets to maintain law and order in the violence-ridden Vaal townships.

The child's grandmother, Mrs Evelyn Tshabalala, has been subjected to blows against the head and [illegible] badly.

Otto, also our driver, responded in accordance with his promise: "*Ons is gou daar.*"

All six members of the patrol unit held on to their rifles, each armed with a shotgun and 9mm pistol.

A few streets into Zone 7 Otto appeals to his colleagues: "*Soekvir my die nommer op die deur aan daai kant, asseblief.*"

We look. Without respect for those sleeping, a big Nyala light flashes on the doors of the houses.

"That one says 10834, Warrant-officer," says one of the six police officers in camouflage uniform.

We arrive at the house and a woman standing at the gate sighs with relief and waves to indicate that it is the place we are looking for.

It is Evelyn, who called the ISU base.

"Okay," Otto gives orders, "one man must remain in the car, *hoor?*" he says. Otto issues further instructions that positions be taken up as fast as possible.

"We've got to be aggressive when taking up positions," Otto says. "No matter how much we would like to have a soft image. Two of our men were lured into an ambush last month. They died."

He adds that it is common for police in the Vaal to be shot at while on duty. "I don't want to lose any of these men. They work under me but they are also my friends."

17/11/92

(78)

Sowetan

swollen.

It is the price her own son Moses made her pay for untying her suspended granddaughter from the roof minutes before the police arrived.

And now the culprit has vanished into the darkness. Desperate attempts to locate him draw a blank.

"Evelina, was Moses *ge*-phuza?" asks Warrant-Officer Jean Otto, the Internal Stability Unit's crew leader for the night shift team, in a mixture of Afrikaans and Zulu.

"*Nee, meneer, hy kuier maar net. Hy drink nie altyd nie*," responds Evelyn.

It's 9pm and we are driving outside Zone 7 in Sebokeng, according to the police the most dangerous area in the Vaal Triangle. We are taking Evelyn to the Sebokeng police station to make a statement.

Her message for help was received earlier at 8.20pm while the Nyala was making its rounds in Sharpeville.

It was a clear message. There is trouble at "*nommer* 10884 Zone 7". It was sent by the ISU's base in Vereeniging to which says Otto.

It's 9.30pm and a radio message coming into the Nyala confirms that a blue vehicle in Zone 8 has been positively identified as stolen. Otto shakes his head. "I thought as much," he comments.

"Are you okay, Evelina?" he asks, and turns to me: "I have a child, you know, and I can't believe that someone could do this to his own child.

"Spanking them is one thing but hanging them is another," says the 25-year-old Otto, who has been with the SAP for eight years.

As we go back to Evelina's home to drop her and the child, and also to check if Moses has come home, Otto's humane nature comes to the surface.

"You're never sure if you will go back home in this job," he says, and a radio message diverts his attention. There's an armed robbery in Evaton, says a voice on the radio.

"Why not drop Evelina and take me and Pat back to the base, Warrant-officer?" I ask. What reporter would, after all that experience, be keen to go out and stop an armed robbery?

More die as taxi war rages on

Sowetan 18/11/92 (278)

By Lulama Luti

Springs becomes place of terror for commuters and drivers alike:

THREE people were gunned down and two passengers injured when hitmen opened fire with AK-47 rifles on taxi drivers at the Top Centre taxi rank in Springs yesterday morning.

In another incident, a man was killed when gunmen shot at passengers at the Diepkloof taxi rank in Soweto.

Soweto police spokesman Colonel Tienie Halgryn said the unidentified man was shot dead while sitting in a taxi yesterday morning.

The shooting in Springs occurred at about 7.15am and a member of the Springs Taxi Association, Mr Paulos Skhosana, was killed.

Rival groups

This killing brings to 65 the number of people who have died in the ongoing taxi war between two rival groups in Springs.

Earlier this week seven people were killed when gunmen opened fire on a meeting of taxi drivers and operators in Pietersburg on Sunday morning.

East Rand police spokesman Lieutenant Janine Smith confirmed the incident, saying police believed that two of the hitmen were killed when their fellow-assailants in the car opened fire while trying to assist them.

Houses damaged in pre-dawn attacks

■ Residents fear of going back to homes:

By Sonti Maseko (278)

MEN travelling in a minibus attacked houses in various parts of Soweto at dawn yesterday, smashing windows and instilling fear among residents.

Concerned residents said they feared going back to their homes in case the attackers struck again.

Several houses in Senaoane, Phiri, Mapetla, Moletsane and Fox Lake, near Dlamini, had their front windows smashed. Residents said the attackers, travelling in an E20 minibus, hurled bricks into their bedrooms and living rooms between 3am and 4am yesterday morning.

Most of the residents said they reported the attacks to the Soweto Flying Squad. Police spokesman Major Oosthuizen was yesterday unable to confirm the allegations. Sowetan 18/11/92

Mr Zacharia Kunene of Senaoane said his house was extensively damaged when rocks crashed through the windows. His pregnant daughter escaped serious injury.

ANC launches campaign on East Rand

BIDAY 19/11/92.

THEO RAWANA

ANC-aligned organisations on the East Rand would mount a programme, which would include mass action, to counter alleged security force violence and general harassment in the area, the ANC/Cosatu/SACP alliance said yesterday.

A summit of local organisations, to be held in Germiston on December 6, would decide what form the mass action would take, ANC East Rand sub-region chairman Mondli Gungubela told a news conference.

Arrests and killings of leaders, invasion of privacy and destruction of normal family life had been the pattern in East Rand townships in the past few months, the alliance said.

It blamed the Springs taxi war, in which about 65 people have been killed since July last year, on the involvement of the police. The conference was told that one officer attached to the Springs police station, was at the centre of the war between the Springs Taxi Association and the Springs Long Distance Association.

The police rejected the alliance's allegations of security force harassment, saying the ANC was once again accusing without the true facts.

Capt Eugene Opperman of the Witwatersrand SAP said the alliance's statement was written "in such a way as to cover up the daily criminal activities perpetrated by many of its own members. Many senior ANC members are still due to appear in court". (278)

He said the police officer accused of involvement in the Springs taxi war had left the police force in September due to ill health.

"However, at the time of the allegations being made against him, nobody came forward with any evidence to substantiate the allegations," said Opperman.

...mission of inquiry".

...of the fundraising notions. This is the first time the contest is being held in Africa. Picture: BRIAN HENDLER

Mokaba plans to sue govt

B/DAY 19/11/92

ADRIAN HADLAND

ANC Youth League president Peter Mokaba is considering legal action against the state following disclosures that Military Intelligence (MI) may have conducted a campaign last year to discredit him.

Mokaba said he would also be calling on the ANC leadership to launch an investigation into the matter.

"There is no question of me keeping quiet. I intend taking action against the state and will also ask the ANC leadership to look into it," he said.

Details of proposed smear campaigns against members of the ANC's military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) were released this week by Judge Richard Goldstone.

Files recovered from a secret MI operations centre by Goldstone commission investigators stated that "as an example of the manner in which MK would be compromised criminally or amongst their own members reference is made by (MI chief agent Ferdi) Barnard to the case of Peter Mokaba".

"During May 1991 Mr Mokaba was widely reputed in the Press as having been a police spy. That was denied by him and soon thereafter he was elected as president of the ANC Youth League," Goldstone said this week.

Mokaba said allegations, apparently encouraged by MI, that he was a police spy had "caused a lot of grief" and resulted in a "life-threatening situation".

"At that time people who were accused of being police spies were necklaced."

Mokaba said that while he was in detention police interrogators had threatened to "plant something" on him.

"Goldstone's report has important ramifications for the ANC. The people who accused me of being a police spy are still working for the organisation," he said.

Two men killed on trains

TWO MEN were killed and four people injured on Witwatersrand trains yesterday, police spokesman W/O Andy Pieke said. B/DAY 19/11/92

He said the body of a man inflicted with stab wounds was found between the New Canada and Crown railway stations. Police suspect he was attacked on a train before being thrown off. (278)

The body of a man with gunshot and stab wounds was found on a stationary train at the New Canada station.

Pieke said a man was stabbed, robbed and thrown from a Springs-Randfontein train at the Angelo station near Boksburg. Two men, one shot and the other stabbed, disembarked from the same train when it stopped at Braamfontein station in Johannesburg.

A fourth man disembarked at the Mayfair station in Johannesburg after he had been stabbed on a train.

No arrests had been made. — Sapa.

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Two die on Reef trains

Sowetan 19/11/92

TWO people were killed and four others injured in separate incidents of train violence on the Reef yesterday, police said.

Police liaison officer Warrant Officer Andy Pieke said the body of a man was found with stab wounds between New Canada and Crown stations. Police suspected he was attacked before he was thrown off the train.

The body of another man was found on a stationary train with a gunshot wound in the head and several stab wounds at New Canada Station.

Pieke said a man was injured after he had been stabbed, robbed of R30 in cash and thrown off a train at the Angelo Station, near Boksburg.

He said two men, one shot in the head and the other stabbed with a knife, alighted from the same train when it stopped at Braamfontein Station.

Pieke said another man alighted at Mayfair Station after he had been stabbed on a train.

No arrests have been made. - *Sapa.*

■ Four injured in new outbreak of violence:

278

Two men die in train violence

JOHANNESBURG. — Two men were killed and four people were injured in attacks on Witwatersrand trains between 5am and 6am yesterday, a police spokesman said.

No arrests have been made.

● Sixteen people were arrested and police seized a number of firearms and ammunition during a raid on Soweto's Klipspruit hostel early yesterday.

The suspects are expected to appear in court today.

● The death toll in political violence declined slightly over the past week, but the injury figure increased, the Human Rights Commission said in its weekly report yesterday.

The HRC said 39 deaths occurred from November 11 to November 17, against the previous week's figure of 50 deaths. During the same period 59 injuries were recorded, up from the 31 reported during the previous week.

● Political, labour, and civic organisations on the East Rand are to meet next month to decide on a mass action strategy to combat violence in townships in the area, the ANC PWV region announced yesterday.

● The Goldstone Commission will focus on violence in Natal/KwaZulu in a preliminary inquiry starting at the end of this month.

In a statement yesterday, the commission announced the hearing would start on November 30 in Durban's city hall. The sitting will continue until December 4, but further hearings will be arranged if necessary. — Sapa (278) CT 19/11/92

(278) CT 26/11/92

Picture: AP

38 hurt in Soweto train attack

JOHANNESBURG. — Six of the 38 people injured in the attack on a Soweto train yesterday were still in a critical condition in hospital, police said.

Soweto police confirmed yesterday no one died in the attack on commuters.

Witnesses said a group of men lined up on Mlamlankunzi station platform among other passengers and started the attack as soon as the Johannesburg-bound train stopped.

Security guards at the station fired shots to ward off the attack, but made no arrests.

The attackers escaped in a combi.

Victims of the attack alleged that members of a private security firm participated in the assault on them.

Both the ANC and the IFP castigated the SA Rail Commuter Corporation and the police for poor security measures.

The ANC and the IFP said there were a lot of weapons on the platform before the attack. — Sapa

Hani calls for peace

Sowetan 20/11/92

278

SACP chief warns undisciplined youths of 'strong action':

By Isaac Moledi

THE African National Congress yesterday undertook to uproot wayward elements who committed murder under the guise of self-defence units.

While saying self-defence units were an essential "mechanism to protect the community against terror", Mr Chris Hani, general secretary of the South African Communist Party, said it was time undisciplined elements were uprooted.

Speaking at a meeting aimed at bringing peace between feuding factions at KwaMasiza hostels in Sebokeng, Hani said self-defence units were created by the ANC to defend people and be accountable to the community they served.

He condemned individuals who committed crimes in the name of the ANC and warned that the organisation would take strong steps against them after the Vaal Peace Summit to be held this weekend.



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Taxi terror

278

Soweten 20/11/92

■ **BREAKTHROUGH** Police arrest alleged gunmen in car owned by major Soweto taxi group:

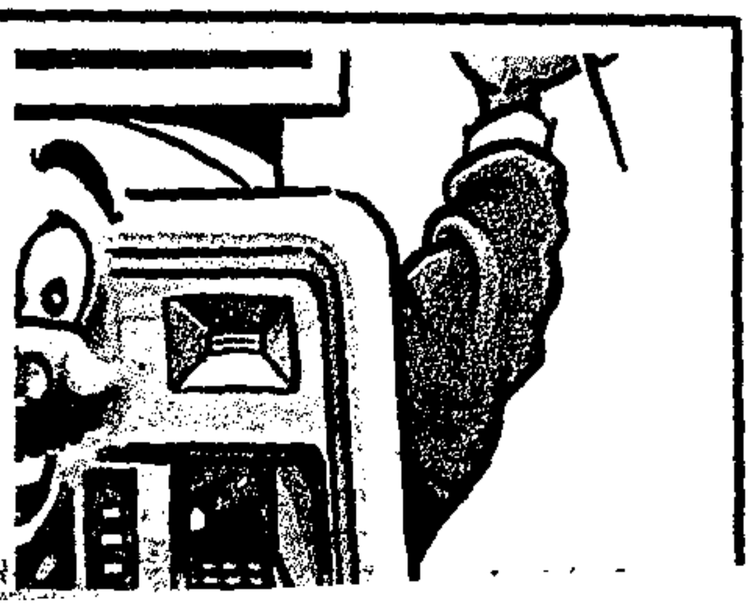
THE police report a major breakthrough to bring to an end a reign of terror among Soweto taxi drivers and owners after four men were arrested making a getaway from a mafia-style shooting.

According to the police, the getaway car has been traced to a major taxi group, Soweto Taxi services. Many taxi drivers and owners have apparently fled the area in fear of their lives.

Full story page 2

This is today's clue in the Standard Bank Stick-A-Pic contest. Stick it on block number 9 of the form published on November 9. The first correct entry wins R20 000 in a Standard Bank AutoBank PlusPlan Account.

Standard Bank



Taxi terror checked

20/11/92

■ BREAKTHROUGH Police link a car belonging to a taxi group car to four murders:

POLICE HAVE LINKED a car belonging to a major Soweto taxi association as having been used in the Mafia-style killing of a taxi-owner.

Soweto Transport Services, one of the biggest taxi groups in Soweto with a membership estimated at more than 500, has also been connected to four killings since last month.

On October 30 three taxi owners were gunned down next to STS's Merafe offices.

Positively identified

The three were identified as Mr Mac Hlongwane, of Tshiawelo, Mr Watson Monakisi, of Mapetla, and a Mr Mabizela.

Police confirmed this week that a red Sentra car, belonging to the STS and used by its officials, was used when Mr Fisher Makhoba, of Senaoane, was assassinated, at his home earlier this month.

Police positively identified the car as belonging to the STS.

278

Gone into hiding

Makhoba's alleged killers were arrested as they attempted to get away. Four men appeared in court this week and were released on bail of R3 000 each.

Since Makhoba's murder, taxi owners in the area - which covers Pimville, Protea North, Mapetla, Senaoane, Merafe, Kliptown and Lenasia and routes to the city - have fled.

Many have gone into hiding, fearing for their lives.

Taxi drivers allege a "hit list" with the names of taxi owners was found on the alleged killers.

However, police were unable to confirm the existence of a "hit list".

STS chairman Mr Raymond Mchunu refused to comment.

Soweto police yesterday met senior executive members of the association to discuss the incidents. The outcome of the talks was not known at the time of going to Press.

ANC/IFP rivalry triggers violence

(278) CT 24/11/92

JOHANNESBURG. — The Goldstone Commission said yesterday its probe into violence at Thokoza township outside Alberton confirmed its view that inter-party rivalry was the main trigger for political violence.

"In view of our conclusion that political rivalry is the primary trigger for the violence, political leaders should take cognisance of the fact that they bear a heavy responsibity to alleviate and not aggravate tensions at their respective levels," the Commission's report said.

The report added that the political rivalry between rival factions in the East Rand township boiled down to "a very simple IFP/ANC tension".

The terms of the National Peace Accord were not adhered to in Thokoza and the Local Dispute Resolution Committee set up under the accord did not function effectively.

In addition, the ready availability of arms — especially AK47 rifles — was an aggravating factor which fuelled the violence and tension in the area.

The Phola Park Self Defence Unit had little to do with defence but much more with "blatant aggression and also serves as a guise for criminal activity". It recommended that the unit be dissolved.

Although political rivalry triggered the violence, socio-economic conditions were the primary cause.

The Commission also found that the security forces in Thokoza did not have adequate manpower and equipment to deal with the violence. — Sapa

Reef trains security alert

JOHANNESBURG. — Security on commuter trains in the Witwatersrand was tightened yesterday morning when about 500 policemen were deployed at railway stations. 278

Armed policemen patrolled trains and searched commuters.

At least 100 policemen stopped several city-bound trains at New Canada station in Soweto and ordered commuters out for body-searches. CT 21/12/92

The deployment is part of a new strategy to protect commuters, and is being undertaken by the SAP, the Defence Force, Spoornet and the SA Rail and Commuter Corporation. — Sapa

World monitors to watch ANC march

PRETORIA. — International peace monitors will observe an ANC march in Nylstroom today, which has been marred by threats of violence by the right-wing.

(278) CT 23/11/92

Law and Order Minister Mr Hernus Kriel yesterday declared Nylstroom, Ellisras, Pietersburg, Potgietersrus, including Naboomspruit, Thabazimbi and Warmbaths, as unrest areas.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Captain Craig Kotze confirmed the march was legal. He said additional manpower and air support had also been called in to monitor the march.

Earlier this week the AWB warned there "might be a bloodbath" if the ANC was permitted to proceed with the march. — Sapa

Police swoop on trains

278 ARG 21/11/92

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Security on commuter trains in the Witwatersrand region has been tightened.

Yesterday morning, in the launch of a new drive, about 500 policemen were deployed at railway stations on the Reef.

At New Canada station at least 100 policemen stopped several Johannesburg-bound trains and ordered commuters out to be searched for weapons.

No weapons were found and no arrests were made, although a number of commuters were caught without tickets and fined R5 — more than double the normal fare.

Colonel Tienie Halgryn said the operation would last for at least a month and police would be targeting specific stations where they would search trains at random.

He said at least eight trains were searched during morning and afternoon peak hours.

In the past police had searched trains only when they received information.

But in light of the increasing train attacks, said Colonel Halgryn, they were using their mobile units to increase their visibility as a deterrent. He said video cameras would film suspects and arrests.

Police would be taking other preventive measures and commuters would be searched for weapons when they entered stations.

Commuters searched yesterday said they supported the police measures.

David Mahlaba said: "If it saves our lives, I'm happy. But I just hope it works."

Colonel Halgryn urged commuters and employers to be patient with the delays and asked anyone with information about the train violence to call the toll free Crime Stop number, 0800-11-12-13.

Four killings have been reported on Johannesburg railway trains this week.

■ A link between attacks on Reef commuters and the equally bloody taxi violence in the area has been suggested by the Inkatha Freedom Party and trade unions.

IFP researcher Nicolette Brits said the violence against train and taxi commuters was not party political but had economic motives. She urged police to investigate the possibility that taxi owners might have a hand in attacks on train commuters in an attempt to drive them to use taxis.

IFP Transvaal organiser Themba Khoza said it was felt that there was growing evidence of a link between the train violence and the taxi wars "which are only now receiving media prominence but which have been simmering for some time".

But Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said a possible link had been investigated but no evidence had been found.

Later, Mr Khoza said the organisation committed itself to support the National Peace Accord.

Crazed SDUs are ki

ANC turns down Vaal pleas to disband defence units

C/Prem 22/11/92. (278)

Townships in the Vaal triangle have been plagued by violence since February 1990. Massacre upon massacre led to the formation of a broad front earlier this year which attempted to regain control over the area. However, a recent admission by the ANC that it had lost control over some Self Defence Units in the Vaal comes as no surprise to residents. THEMBA KHUMALO and MOSES MAMAILA investigate.

TOWNSHIP residents in the Vaal Triangle have had enough.

Residents interviewed this week called for the immediate disbandment of the ANC-aligned Self Defence Units (SDUs) to try and stop their reign of terror.

The residents accused the SDUs of a wide range of serious crimes such as shooting and necklacing people arbitrarily, raping women, hijacking vehicles and forcing everyone to join the ANC.

But ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa has ruled out the possibility of disbanding SDUs, saying the measure would serve as a perfect recipe for the escalation of violence in Vaal townships.

He said this weekend's summit on the Vaal crisis would chart out a code of conduct that would bring the SDUs under "strict and proper control by the right people".

He expected delegates to endorse and implement immediately the ANC draft document on a massive anti-crime campaign to rid SDU structures of unruly elements and agent provocateurs.

The ANC would make its report public as soon as the team had completed its investigations, he said.

Residents, on the other hand, gave chilling accounts of how ruthless SDU members demanded exorbitant protection fees from motorists and businessmen and forced people at barricades to take up the ANC membership or face the consequences. Necklace murders and people who were shot for resisting the youths were a common practice in the Vaal, they said.

Mamoepa acknowledged the problems, saying the ANC suspected dubious recruitment drive methods were being used in the Vaal after membership figures rocketed in the area recently.

Trouble started two years ago when Inkatha supporters from Sebokeng hostel clashed with residents. The residents in turn successfully drove Inkatha supporters from the hostel.

Residents said: "Initially we were subjected to ANC/Inkatha violence, then came the Khethisi era, and now it's the SDUs. Since February 2 1990 we in the Vaal have not known peace."

Ironically the SDUs, which were meant to protect residents from Inkatha assailants, have now become the demons, allege residents.

They singled out Sebokeng as the most notorious of the five townships and said nearly every youth in the streets carried a gun, a statement disputed by police spokesman Capt Piet van Deventer.

"The police are trying their best to combat ordinary and unrest-related crime in the Vaal. But people must understand that we can't be everywhere all the time," he said.

A local businessman said he and his family lived in fear after his brother was involved in a shootout with youths after the mass funeral of the Zwane family last week.

He said the youths demanded guns from his brother, abducted him from the funeral, took him to his house and shot him in the back. Two youths were killed in the ensuing shootout and the businessman's brother is in a critical condition in hospital.

He said the youths had threatened to come for him and his entire family to avenge the death of their two colleagues.

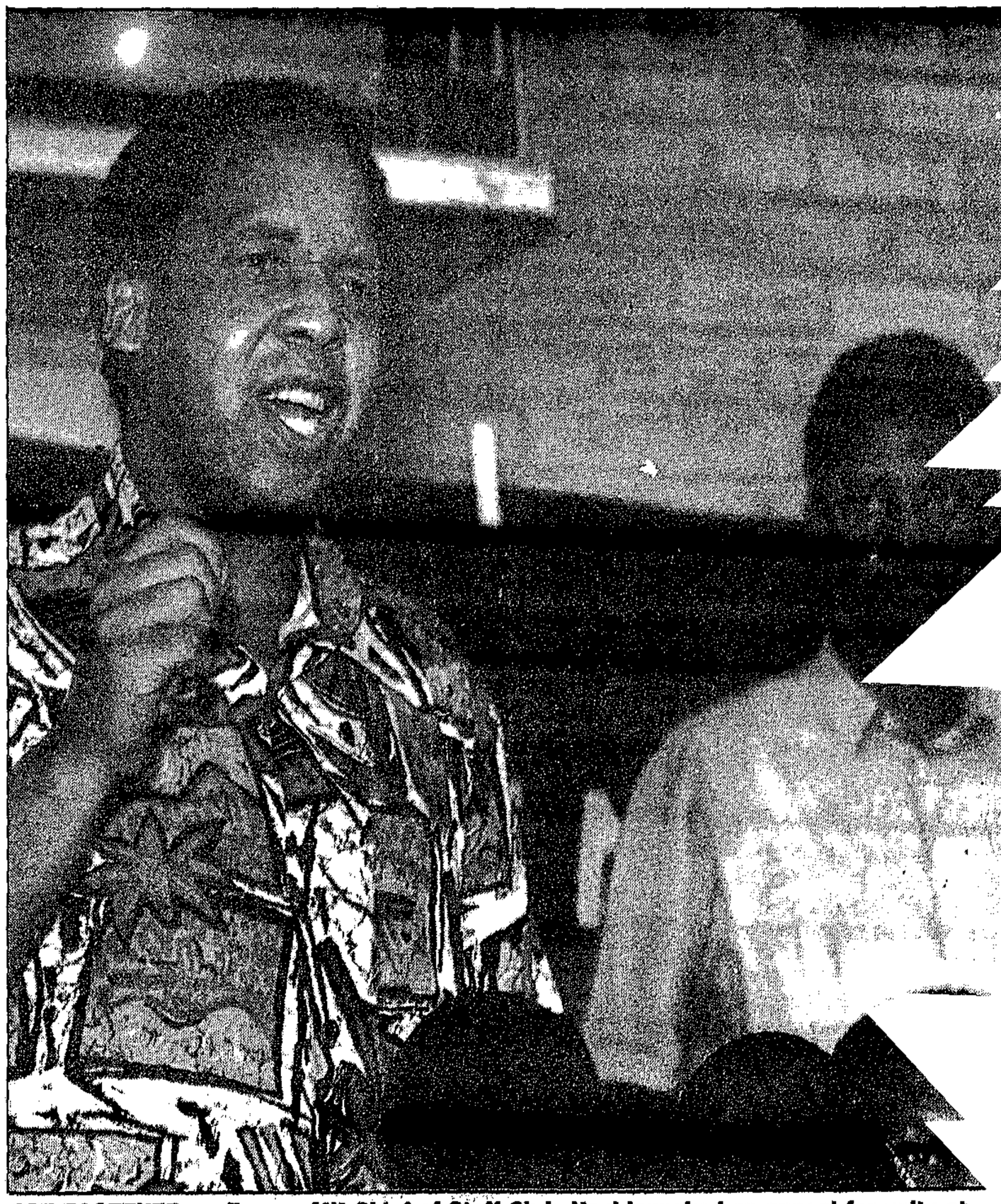
Two teachers at a primary school said their pupils, most of whom were between 13 and 16 years old, often brought guns to school. Although they did not threaten them with the weapons, the pupils exposed them deliberately.

"The idea of teaching someone who you know is carrying a lethal weapon is frightening. We just have to turn a blind eye because we are helpless," said the teachers.

A relative of the late former Lekoa Town Council mayor Esau Mahlatsi said she watched helplessly as her uncle was burnt to ashes after he was necklaced by the youths for fetching another gun after they had taken the first one at a barricade in May.

One businessman said: "There's a large exodus into white areas and most businesses, especially taverns and night clubs, have closed down. I want to move out of Sebokeng myself."

He said the chaotic situation in the area would cost the ANC the vote if elections were held soon.



GET TOGETHER ... Former MK Chief of Staff Chris Hani launched an appeal for unity at Vaal's KwaMasiza Hostel this week following ongoing township violence. ■ Pic: EVANS MBOW.

a host of African states. On show was state-of-the-art weaponry developed and manufactured by Armscor in the face of the UN arms embargo, ranging from assault rifles to the renowned 155mm G6 motorised cannon — which could explain the warning to visitors photographed by JAMES SOULLIER.

Police informer organised massacre in name of ANC

ST Times 22/11/92 278

THE Goldstone commission has found that two attacks which claimed the lives of 19 people in the East Rand township of Thokoza last year were organised by a police informer posing as an ANC self-defence unit head.

By CHARLENE SMITH

The results of the eight-month inquiry into serious violence in that township and in the adjacent Phola Park squatter community found that Mncugi Ceba headed a self-defence unit which, in September 1991, ambushed a march by hostel dwellers killing 16 and injuring 13.

He also led a coup by the Phola Park SDU which violently ousted the Phola Park Residents' Committee (of which three members were subsequently assassinated), falsely claiming that the committee was involved in the fraudulent use of development money to the area.

The report said the "acknowledged use of informers in positions such as that held by Ceba are not conducive to improving the already tense relations and suspicions between the security forces and the communities in question".

Although the Thokoza report was completed before the Goldstone commission's dramatic raid on a military intelligence centre last week, the technique of using people like Ceba, who claimed falsely to be part of an ANC self-defence unit, in criminal activities tied in with suggestions Ferdi Barnard made to military intelligence last year — and which it claimed it never adopted — to employ precisely such techniques.

The report detailed out-of-control self-defence units, savage attacks by residents against opponents and hit-squad type actions by some hostel members in both Thokoza and neighbouring Phola Park.

However, since the commission began its work a modicum of calm had been restored to the area and a number of upgrading projects have commenced.

During the commission's investigations three witnesses, including a man and his wife, and well-known community worker Prince Mhlambi were murdered.

The 75-page report — the longest yet released by the year-old commission — detailed the attack on hostel inmates during a march, and six other bloody incidents that took place in the area last year and early this year.

While the commission praised the conduct of the Defence Force in bringing calm to the area after the attack on the march, it raised questions about police investigation methods afterwards.

The commission, which released its report late on Friday, forwarded some of its findings to the attorney-general. It said there appeared to be a prima facie murder case against a Mr Ndebele who belonged to the so-called Kapta squad, the defence arm of the Katlehong People's Taxi Association, and who lived in a hostel.

The evidence related to an attack on people attending the funeral of civic leader Sam Ntuli late in September last year during which 18 people were killed.

There also appeared to be a similar case against some members of the Phola Park self-unit, of which Ceba was a leader.

The commission heard the testimony of more than 100 people and four expert witnesses.

It found that squatter dwellers and hostel residents felt persecuted by frequent police searches and by the way they believed opposing groups in the area viewed them.

It found there were many weapons available in Phola Park, particularly AK-47s, which witnesses said came from Mozambique via a source in nearby Daveyton township.

Aggressive

It found that on no occasion did the local SDU play a defensive role for the community it claimed to represent. Instead, there were a number of incidents "both within Thokoza and beyond in which the SDU or members of the SDU played a very aggressive and outright criminal role".

The commission said there was no evidence at all that Umkhonto we Sizwe was in any way involved in the SDU.

The report said that political organisations bore a heavy responsibility toward SDUs that adopted them.

"Either they must publicly distance themselves from, and disown, such units if the units act criminally or violently, or the national organisation or party must accept responsibility for those criminal and violent acts. They cannot have it both ways."

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PAC is ready to sit down and negotiate

ST Times 22/11/92

THE Pan Africanist Congress is ready to take its place at the negotiation table.

State President de Klerk and the president of the PAC, Mr Clarence Makwetu, plan to meet by the third week of January to arrange the PAC's participation in multi-party negotiations, the Sunday Times has established.

The PAC will insist that Codesa be replaced by a forum of another name but that it will not object to the presence of any of the Codesa One and Two participants.

It is more interested in the agenda for multi-party talks which it believes should be structured to ensure swift movement towards the holding of non-racial, one-person-one-vote elections.

Sources say the PAC would also want a UN Security Council type of veto power vested in the main political parties at the forum to avoid block voting by minority parties on the basis of "sufficient consensus", which the PAC rejects.

The last time the government held bilateral talks with the PAC was on November 11 in Pretoria.

This was a follow-up to a meeting between the government and the PAC in Gaborone, Botswana, on October 24.

By NORMAN WEST
Political Reporter

At the Pretoria meeting it was agreed to have another round of bilateral talks with the PAC on December 9, sources disclosed yesterday.

The December meeting will focus on two important issues:

- **The creation of a "more representative negotiation forum" in the place of Codesa;**
- **The drawing up of an agenda for a bilateral summit between President de Klerk and Mr Makwetu in late January.**

At the November 11 meeting the government was represented by Constitutional Affairs Minister Roelf Meyer, Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel and Deputy Constitutional Affairs Minister Tertius Delport.

The PAC was represented by its secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Gora Ebrahim, and legal affairs secretary Mr Willie Seriti.

Mr Kriel is understood to have made clear to the PAC that the government was aware that members of Apla (the PAC's armed wing) were being trained in Transkei and claimed that a number of attacks were being carried out from there.

Banker turns to bibles

By CHARIS PERKINS

ABSA vice-chairman and deputy chief executive Piet Liebenberg took early retirement this week to devote his attention to raising money for bibles.

Mr Liebenberg, 59, was due to retire from his post in September next year, but decided to leave early after discussions with Absa.

No one has been appointed to take over his post as vice-chairman and deputy chief executive, but chief executive Mr P Badenhorst will take over his role

'Cop posed as ANC leader'

CT 23/11/92 (278)

Staff Reporter

A POLICE informer posing as the head of an ANC self-defence unit organised two attacks which caused the deaths of 19 people in Thokoza last year, the Goldstone Commission has found.

The report found that Mr Mncugi Ceba, who was the leader of a self-defence unit (SDU) in September 1991, organised the ambush of a march by hostel dwellers which killed 16.

According to a report in a Sunday newspaper yesterday, Mr Ceba also led a violent coup by the Phola Park SDU to oust the Phola Park Residents' Committee. Three members were subsequently assassinated.

The technique of using people like Mr Ceba in criminal activities tied in with suggestions Ferdi Barnard made to Military Intelligence (MI) last year which MI claimed it never adopted, the report noted.

The commission has forwarded some of its findings to the attorney-general.

Police spokesman Col Ray Harrald said yesterday a statement would be issued only after the report had been studied.

New strategy to control defence units

ST 23/11/92

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The ANC/Cosatu/SACP alliance yesterday adopted a new strategy aimed at tightening control over the self-defence units operating in the Vaal Triangle's townships.

At a PWV summit on violence attended by over 100 representatives from the region it was resolved to introduce a code of conduct and to tighten controls.

The strategy was aimed at instilling discipline in the self-defence units, PWV ANC spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said.

The summit came amid criticisms that the self-defence units had been hijacked by hooligans who perpetrated atrocities in the townships. The atrocities included extortion, murder and rape.

The ANC has repeatedly defended the structures, saying they were basically sound but had been infiltrated by "state agents" who caused "chaos, confusion and dissent" in their ranks.

There have been a number of violent incidents in which renegade self-defence units had been implicated. — Sapa

Warning over Soweto's cost to Jo'burg

BTDAY 23/11/92

ADRIAN HADLAND

THE simple amalgamation of Johannesburg and Soweto would threaten Johannesburg's economic viability, management committee chairman Ian Davidson said at the weekend.

A "quick-fix approach" to amalgamation would lead to punitive rates and tariffs increases, forcing commerce and industry to relocate, he said.

"It is imperative that the Witwatersrand region continues to be financially viable if SA is to attain its economic and social goals in an era of reconstruction and nation-building," Davidson said.

In Johannesburg's audited financial report for 1991/92, Davidson called for a "fair and realistic" tax base on the Witwatersrand together with financial aid from government.

City treasurer Willie Siebert said the council was "hard pressed to balance (its) budget without passing on untenable rates and tariff increases to our residents. It is therefore unthinkable that we should have to shoulder the burden of additional expenditure in neighbouring authorities without some financial commitment from provincial or central government."

WILSON ZWANE reports that a dispute between the Soweto City Council and its employees was resolved on Friday with the council agreeing to pay the workers their 13th cheque next month.

The dispute arose on November 9 when the council informed the workers it would not be able to pay bonuses this year. According to sources, the council had told its employees that they would get their bonuses in March next year.

On Friday the council informed the workers that it had managed to raise funds from sources such as Eskom and the TPA and would pay the bonuses on December 7.

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More police for trains

BTDAY 23/11/92

STEPHANE BOTHMA

278

MORE than 500 additional policemen were deployed on trains on the Reef from Friday as part of a new strategy to protect commuters.

Since 1990, more than 300 people have been killed in train violence and several hundred more injured.

Soweto police liaison officer Col Tienie Halgryn said on Friday the SAP, the SADF, the SA Rail Commuter Corporation and Spoornet would participate in an effort to curb violence on trains.

Main points of the strategy were the redeployment of police, increased police visibility on trains and platforms, the searching of commuters entering and leaving stations and trains and the stopping and searching of trains at random.

Video cameras would also be installed at stations to monitor troublemakers, Halgryn said.

The strategy, which would continue after the festive season, was met with cautious approval by the ANC.

"The ANC PWV Region and its allies are in a process of studying the proposals in preparation for a meeting with the corporation and police on November 27," the ANC said in a statement.

an internal investigation into the covert organisation, the David Webster inquest was told on Friday.

Testifying behind closed doors at the Rand Supreme Court, Verster said now retired Military Intelligence chief Badenhorst hit him after he (Verster) refused to leave his own office at the CCB's secret headquarters in early 1990.

Sunday newspapers reported that Verster said shortly after Badenhorst had been appointed to lead an internal investigation into the CCB, he told him: "General, I don't trust you and you must know that."

The hearing on Friday was held in camera and journalists were not allowed in.

"Because I did not want to play along, Badenhorst tried to chase me out of my own office. I said that it was my office and I stayed seated.

"He then got up and, in front of (SAP Brigadier) Krappies Engelbrecht and (CCB administration officer) Christo Brits, assaulted me," Verster said.

He further told Judge Michael Stegmann that the then SADF chief Gen Jannie Geldenhuys had said in January 1990 that President F W de Klerk had given an assurance that there would be no "witchhunt" over the operations of the CCB.

The then Defence Minister Magnus Malan had been told that the CCB had information about the gunning-down of Wits ster told the inquest.

Both Badenhorst and Engelbrecht had been told about Barnard's alleged involvement in the Webster murder, Verster reportedly said.

Verster was the third witness at the inquest this week who claimed that Badenhorst had been told that Barnard had confessed to the killing of Webster.

CCB information officer Derrick Louw and Barnard's handler, Lafras Luitingh, both told the court about the alleged confession.

SUSAN RUSSELL reports that Verster's appearance followed a warrant for his arrest issued almost three weeks ago after he defied a subpoena to be in court to testify on November 2 and went abroad instead.

Stegmann had earlier granted a request by Verster's counsel, Jurie Wessels, to allow his client to testify in camera in order to protect his identity.

Wessels submitted a statement by Verster on November 2 in which he apologised for his non-appearance, but said he was forced to keep appointments overseas to wind up various CCB matters.

Lawyers said the judge had indicated on Friday that he would wait until he had made a finding in the inquiry before deciding what action to take over Verster's non-appearance earlier this month.

Call to act now on education

WILSON ZWANE

THE Institute of Personnel Management says a national education forum should be established as soon as possible.

In its report, A National Human Resources Strategy, the institute says SA should not wait for a new political dispensation before it reforms its education system. To get reform going, a national education forum — including representatives of business, education, labour, employers, professional and civic associations — should be formed. BTDAY 23/11/92

Such a forum would give birth to a multiparty national education and development council, which would pinpoint skills required for future economic growth.

The institute proposes that subsidisation of educational institutions be replaced by a national loan scheme which would encourage students to follow technical and scientific routes rather than pursue academia.

The institute also advocates greater interaction between universities, technikons, technical colleges and correspondence colleges. "A single-stream system should be introduced to allow students to move horizontally ... this will enable a technical college student to further his education at technikon or university level without being penalised for the years already spent in another educational institution."

A national accreditation board would have to be established to set minimum standards and monitor implementation of the single-stream system.

Five die in shootings

278 CT 23/11/92

JOHANNESBURG. — Five people were shot dead and seven wounded in separate incidents of violence in Witwatersrand townships at the weekend.

In Alexandra two men and a woman were shot dead when gunmen burst into a Fourth Avenue home and opened fire on the occupants at 9pm on Saturday.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Major Henriette Bester said police found several spent AK-47 rifle and 9mm pistol cartridges.

In a separate shooting incident in Diepkloof, Soweto, two people were killed and two wounded at 7pm on Saturday night.

Police found more than 40 spent catridges from handguns at the scene.

Five people were injured in a handgrenade explosion in Mohlakeng, near Randfontein on the West Rand, early yesterday morning.

Unidentified men travelling in armoured vehicles shot into a crowd attending a funeral vigil on Friday night in Vosloorus township, East Rand, wounding two people. — Sapa

Man hacked set alight

Sowetan 23/11/92

■ Fighting erupts between IFP and Azapo in Bekkersdal:

By Isaac Moledi (278)

A body of a man was found hacked and set alight and three people allegedly injured when violence between supporters of Inkatha and the Azanian Peoples Organisation erupted in Bekkersdal yesterday.

Police said the violence erupted at 3pm when a group of Azapo supporters, who gathered near the library to discuss the funeral arrangements of an Azapo member, were fired at by a man they suspected to be an IFP supporter.

West Rand police officer Major Henriette Bester confirmed that the man who was found hacked and set alight was an IFP supporter.

She could not confirm Azapo's allegations that three of its members were wounded.

Bester said the man was found in a veld between the clinic and the mine.

Bester said a meeting of the Local Dispute Resolution Committee will be held today to resolve the conflict.

news in brief

Child killed in blast

278

TWO people, including a five-year-old child, were killed and two others seriously injured when a hand grenade exploded at Kagiso old hostel near Krugersdorp yesterday afternoon. Sowetan 23/11/92

Nwaswake Mahlangu was playing with a grenade which he allegedly picked up from a rubbish dump inside the hostel at 4.20pm. The grenade exploded while he was still holding it. The child and Mr Pemuza Themba were killed on the scene. Two other people suffered serious injuries and were admitted at the Leratong Hospital. Police identified one of the injured men as Mr Joseph Sithole. Police liaison officer Major Hendriette Bester said they were in a stable condition.

3 killed by gunmen in Alexandra, another shooting in Diepkloof

More Reef massacres

ARG 23/11/92 (278)

JOHANNESBURG. — Five people were shot dead and seven wounded in incidents of violence in Witwatersrand townships at the weekend.

In Alexandra, two men and a woman were shot dead when gunmen burst into a Fourth Avenue home and opened fire at the occupants at 9pm on Saturday.

Police identified the victims as Mr Piet Mokgalapa, 42, Mr Nika Khumalo, 57, and his wife Margaret, 56.

Witwatersrand police spokeswoman Major Henriette Bester said police found several spent AK 47 rifle and 9mm pistol cartridges on the scene.

The motive for the attack was unknown and no arrests have been made.

In a shooting incident in Diepkloof, Soweto, two people were killed and two wounded at 7pm on Saturday night.

Police found more than 40 spent cartridges from handguns.

Five people were injured in a grenade explosion in Mohlakeng, near Randfontein, on the West Rand early yesterday.

Major Bester said the explosion happened in Chaka Street at 1am, when a man allegedly played with the grenade and pulled out the safety pin.

He was seriously wounded and was under police guard in the Leratong Hospital near Krugersdorp.

The names of the other injured, two women aged 27 and 80 and two men aged 23 and 27, were not released.

They were also admitted to Leratong Hospital. — Sapa.

ANC draws up SDU code

THE ANC yesterday drew up a code of conduct to control self-defence units in the Vaal Triangle which has been plagued by violence for several months.

In the declaration adopted at the end of a two-day peace summit on the banks of the Vaal River yesterday, the ANC resolved that SDU membership should be voluntary.

Sowetan 23/11/92.

Why battles erupt

Sowetan 23/11/92 (278)

■ Inter-party political rivalry and intolerance behind the violence:

THE Goldstone Commission said on Friday its probe into violence at Tokoza outside Alberton confirmed its view that inter-party rivalry was the main trigger for political violence.

"In view of our conclusion that political rivalry is the primary trigger for the violence, political leaders should take cognisance of the fact that they bear a heavy responsibity to alleviate and not aggravate tensions at their respective levels," the Commission's report said.

The report said the political rivalry between rival factions in the East Rand township boiled down to "a very simple Inkatha Freedom Party/ African National Congress tension".

The terms of the National Peace Accord were not adhered to in Tokoza and the Local Dispute Resolution Committee set up under the accord did not function effectively.

In addition, the ready availability of arms - especially AK47 rifles - was an aggravating factor. The Commission found that the Phola Park Self Defence Unit had little to do with defence but much more with "blatant aggression and also serves as a guise for criminal activity".

It recommended that the unit be dissolved and those members involved in violence or crime arrested and charged.

While political rivalry triggered the violence in the impoverished township, the Commission found that the socio-economic conditions in the area were the primary cause of the violence.

The Commission also found that the security forces in Tokoza did not have adequate manpower and equipment to deal with the violence.

Until South Africa had a police and defence force which enjoyed the support of the majority of South Africans, however, violence would continue to be "difficult, if not impossible to curb".

The Commission believed a murder case existed against certain members of the Phola Park Self Defence Unit and recommended the cases be referred to the Attorney-General for a decision. - *Sapa.*

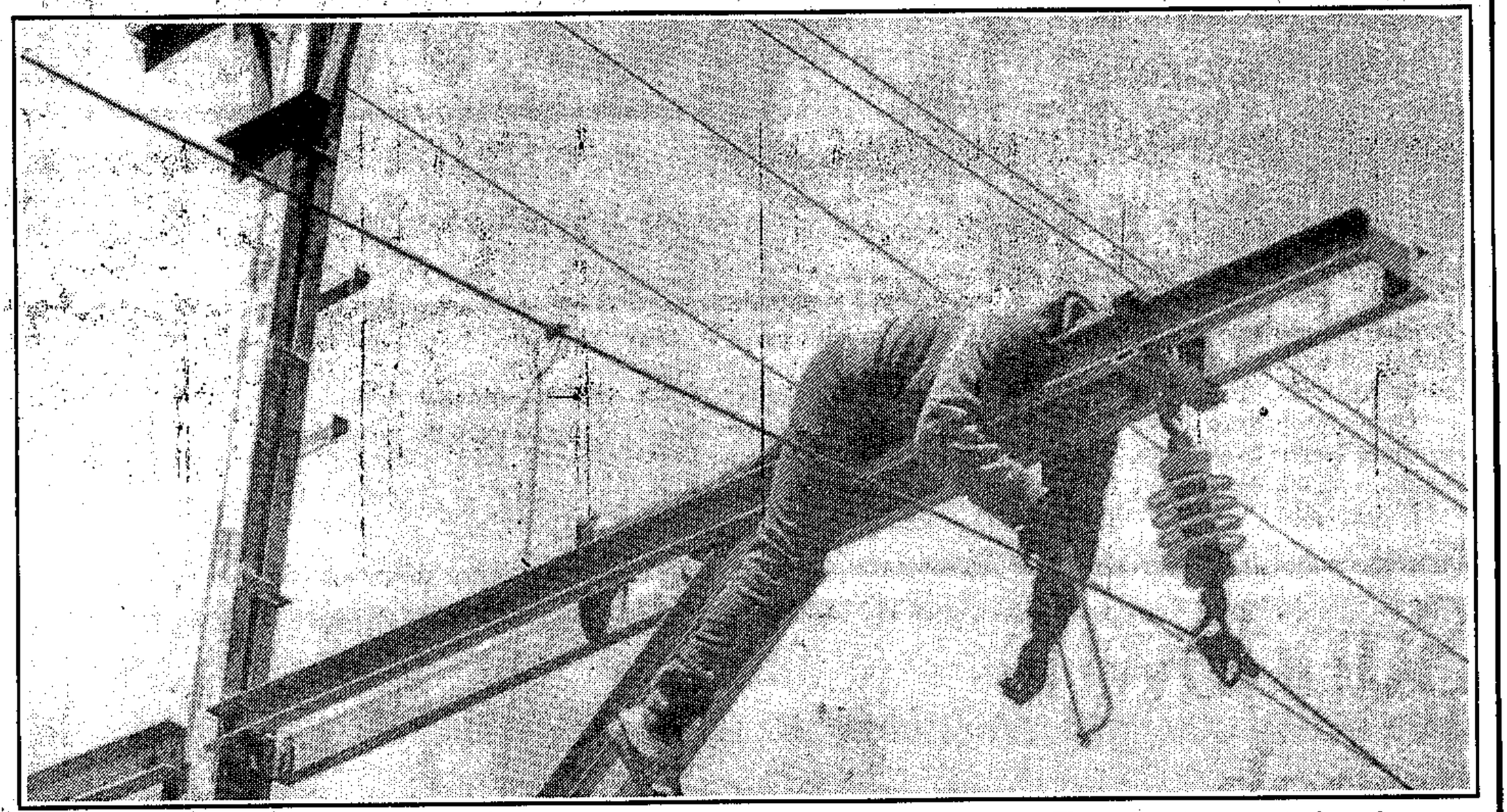
Sowetan 23/11/92

Reporter shot at

278

A JOURNALIST on the Lenasia-based *Indicator* newspaper, Bongani Mavuso, escaped serious injury on Friday night when the car in which he and his fiancée were travelling overturned after shots were fired at it in Pimville, Soweto.

NEWS More gunned down in continuing wave of violence on Reef



The body of an unidentified man hangs from a railway power pylon near Chiawelo, Soweto. The man is believed to have been electrocuted on Saturday night as he tried to cut the lines for copper. His hacksaw remains firmly gripped in his lifeless hands.

5 hurt in grenade blast

Sowetan 23/11/92.

(278)

By Ike Motsapi

THREE MEN AND TWO WOMEN are fighting for their lives at Leratong Hospital following a handgrenade attack on a house in Mohlakeng near Randfontein at the weekend.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Major Henrietta Bester said yesterday that the attack happened at about 1am yesterday morning in Tshaka Street.

She said the five, who include the suspect in the case, are being treated in the intensive care unit of the hospital.

The injured are Mrs Martha Tlhapi (80), Miss Priscilla Tlhapi (27), Mr Aboi Tlhapi (23), Mr William Ramanyai (27) and Rami Tlhapane.

The man under police guard at the hospital had earlier threatened Mr Oupa Moloantoa with a handgrenade at a stokvel.

Moloantoa, who has just joined the army, said: "This man told me he did not want to see soldiers living in the township anymore. He produced a handgrenade and threatened to blow me to pieces. I then left."

Aboi Tlhapi's sister, Leah, said her brother, mother, younger sister and their friend William were injured at about 12.30am after an argument with a man, who had pulled the pin on the grenade, causing it to explode.

In a separate shooting incident in Diepkloof, Soweto, two people were killed and two injured on Saturday night.

And in Alexandra, also on Saturday night, three people were shot dead when gunmen opened fire on a house.

Bester said the gunmen entered the house in Fourth Avenue at about 11pm and started shooting at people inside.

Those who died were Mr Piet Mokgalapa (42), Mr Nika Khumalo (57) and his wife Margaret Khumalo (56).

Meanwhile, Bester confirmed yesterday that several skinheads had run amok in Yeoville, Johannesburg, on Friday night and assaulted people, mostly blacks.

Police were called and three youths were detained briefly on Saturday and later released. No charges were laid.

NAZI TERROR In Yeoville, skinheads run amok, terrorising, assaulting innocent black residents:

Anti-violence train launched

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The SA Rail and Commuter Corporation yesterday unveiled two experimental railway coaches designed to eliminate violence on commuter trains.

The new service will begin in December, SARCC chief Mr Wynand Burger said.

About 21% of people killled in train violence are hostel dwellers, who amount to only five percent of the township community, the Goldstone Commission was told

278 CT 24/11/92

New plan to derail train violence

RAY HARTLEY

THE SA Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC) yesterday unveiled two experimental railway coaches designed to eliminate violence on commuter trains.

The ANC, Cosatu and police gave their backing to the initiative.

Recently released Magoo's Bar bomber Robert McBride, an ANC adviser on train violence, attended the launch and endorsed the new coaches.

The first train using the new coaches, which are equipped with a vandal-proof concealed camera system and unbreakable polycarbonate windows, would enter service in December, SARCC MD Wynand Burger said.

He said the new coaches conformed with recommendations of the Goldstone commission on train security.

The SARCC would spend R100m on upgrading trains on the Soweto line, with each "train set" of 14 coaches costing about R2,5m to upgrade. A 4 000-strong rail guard unit would also be phased in over two years from January.

So far, 103 of the 158 stations in the southern Transvaal had been fenced to improve access control at stations; the remainder would be secured by March.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the new coach designs represented a welcome move towards implementing agreements reached with the SARCC and police.

The windows and doors of the new coaches have been designed to reduce the possibility of passengers being thrown off trains. Interleading doors have been installed to enable commuters to flee coaches where violence flares.

The video surveillance systems allow security officers on board to monitor all coaches, and alarm buttons to alert guards have been installed.

● Picture: Page 2

...gs increased to
...152.2m

ANC threatens action to force security probes

DURBAN — Natal could be in for a fresh round of mass action following the ANC southern Natal region's resolution that it would launch an "unprecedented" campaign to force government into public probes of the security establishment.

One demand made at the weekend conference was that Military Intelligence files be handed to the Goldstone commission.

The conference noted that this situation could not be achieved "by merely talking to the De Klerk government".

Other resolutions made public yesterday included a

Political Staff

demand for an independent judicial commission to investigate "corrupt practices of the KwaZulu government"; to achieve free political activity in KwaZulu, including a march on Ulundi; a demand that Inkatha had to "cease to abuse the station of His Majesty (King Goodwill Zwelethini) for its party political activities; to request that the UN Security Council upgrade the status of its observer mission; and that a "hands-off" Umkhonto we Sizwe campaign be launched to expose "apartheid propaganda.

Hostel men targeted

PRETORIA — An average 21% of people killed in train violence were hostel dwellers, only 5% of the township community, Pretoria SAP headquarters' Maj-Gen Daniel Huggett said yesterday at the Goldstone commission of inquiry into train violence.

Earlier, SAP Germiston mobile unit commander Capt Johannes Crouse said that at stations on the East Rand Kwesini route there were no ticket controllers and people could enter without being searched. This contradicted SA Rail Commuter Corporation officials' testimony.— Sapa.

Sowetan 25/11/92

4 bodies found in the Vaal

FOUR bodies with bullet wounds were found in Vaal Triangle townships over the weekend, SA Police spokesman Major Piet van Deventer said yesterday. He said three of the victims had been shot in the head and one in the neck. (278)

"Two of the bodies were found in Evaton, while the other two were found at Sebokeng Hostel Two," he said. Van Deventer ruled out weekend rumours by Evaton residents that the two victims found there had their heads decapitated.

Peace talks progress

■ Peace Accord signatories agree on 'way forward'

Sowetan 25/11/92

278

SPONTANEOUS applause broke out "as a positive strategy for the way forward was agreed on" after a crucial National Peace Committee meeting in Johannesburg last night.

In a statement after the five-hour meeting, the committee said consensus on the way forward in the negotiation process was reached.

"As a positive strategy for the way forward was verbalised and agreed on spontaneous applause broke out in the auditorium," the statement said.

It was decided that NPC members would be given an opportunity to report back to their principals, the statement added.

The committe's chairman, Mr John Hall, is expected to address the media today on the meeting's agenda, "and conclusions arrived at".

The meeting of the committee was to assess a report-back by Hall after weeks of shuttle diplomacy to revive the peace effort.

Alliance well represented

The meeting was also expected to map out strategies to call a meeting of all signatories to the National Peace Accord.

Although key senior officials of the ANC were absent, its alliance was well represented and so was the Inkatha Freedom Party, whose delegation was led by chairman Dr Frank Mdlalose.

The ANC delegation was led by Mr Thabo Mbeki.

Ratanda tense after 4 deaths

■ **Violence has plagued the East Rand township since July:**

By Ike Motsapi

RATANDA township near Heidelberg was still tense yesterday after four more people were killed at the weekend.

More than 30 people have been killed since July when members of the Food and Allied Workers Union at Eskort Bacon and Rembrandt Tobacco Manufacturers went on a legal wage strike.

The strike at Eskort Bacon has been resolved while that at Rembrandt is still on.

The consumer boycott of white shops in Heidelberg entered its second week yesterday, according to Mr Obed Nkosi, chairman of the local African National Congress branch.

The boycott was called to force the authorities to end the violence that has plagued the township since July 22.

Several taxis were damaged when gunmen opened fired as vehicles passed along Ratanda Hostel on Saturday.

A taxi driver is in a serious condition at Heidelberg Hospital.

Three of the four people killed on Saturday night died after gunmen opened fire with AK-47 rifles on a shack in Ratanda Township.

The people who died in this attack were Victoria Makhanya, Isaac Mofokeng and an unidentified man.

Those injured were David Magale and Johannes Mofokeng.

The fourth person to be killed was a 17-year-old schoolboy, Phillip Monaheng, who was shot dead on Saturday night.

Police spokesman in Heidelberg, Major Johleen Du Preez, confirmed the incidents.

Du Preez said on Saturday about 9.45pm a group of black men shot at inhabitants of Mokonane Squatter Camp.

She said two men and a woman died as a result of the attack.

30 hurt in raid on station

BDAY 26/11/92

RAY HARTLEY (2 78)

THE assault on commuters at Soweto's Mlamlankunzi station yesterday bore all the marks of a carefully strategised and well-organised attack, said Soweto police spokesman Col Tienie Halgryn.

At least 30 people were injured — six of them critically — when 12 men armed with machine guns and pangas attacked commuters as they disembarked from a train, he said. The attackers fled in a minibus.

Halgryn said that since police began random searches of commuter trains this week, attacks had shifted from train coaches to small, poorly guarded stations where security forces were not present.

Inkatha and ANC statements after the attack quoted witnesses as saying guards from a private security firm hired to protect SA Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC) property also fired shots at commuters.

Most of those injured in the attack were Inkatha supporters, ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said. "Witnesses told us that as they were fleeing from the coaches, security guards fired on them," he said. "It is not material whether they were ANC or Inkatha members. The police and the SARCC have got to stop this."

Inkatha said the violence was being caused by the disarming of its members. "It is a fact that each time our members carry anything to defend the commuters, the police disarm them. It is a fact that the SARCC has forbidden the carrying of so-called dangerous weapons in their trains."

Halgryn said about 200 000 commuters

☐ To Page 2

Attack

BDAYS 26/11/92

☐ From Page 1

had been searched during random searches of 30 Soweto trains this week, leading to a decline in incidents on board trains.

The only weapons found had been about 10 "sharpened instruments" abandoned on coach floors.

He said that by yesterday afternoon, a 500-strong force had deployed around vulnerable stations not yet sealed off with new access control systems.

Sapa reports that a passenger, 32-year-old Johannes Madlala, told reporters he had escaped injury during the attack but he had witnessed several of his fellow commuters being attacked.

"When the train doors did not want to open the attackers on the platform fired shots through the open windows," he said. "We could not get out and all fell down on the floor to escape injury."

By the time the train started moving the platform was strewn with victims, Madlala said.

Gunmen injure 38 in station attack

STAR 26/11/92.

By Charmeela Bhagowat and Abdul Milazi

At least 38 people were injured — six seriously — when gunmen opened fire on commuters at the Mlamlankunzi Railway Station in Soweto early yesterday morning. 26/11/92

The dawn attack, which resulted in a number of conflicting reports from police and political organisations, came in the midst of a concerted police campaign to increase security on Reef trains.

Police earlier reported that one person was killed in the attack but the death could not be confirmed. Later in the day, the ANC said one person was alleged to have died in the attack and the IFP claimed that three people were killed.

The ANC and IFP said a number of commuters claimed three Springbok Patrol security guards, wearing blue uniforms, attacked them as they were trying to flee the scene.

Springbok Patrol managing director Mick Bartmann confirmed that three of their guards were at the station, but denied they were involved in the attack.

The ANC and IFP also criticised the SAP and South African Railway Commuter Corporation (SARCC) for insufficient security measures, saying a number of people who were armed with various weapons were seen on the platform just before the attack.

A Baragwanath Hospital spokesman said the critically wounded victims had to undergo surgery.

While police said soon after the 5.30 am attack that gunmen had opened fire from a minibus parked outside the station, a number of victims told The Star that men on the platform, pretending to be passengers, shot at them and assaulted them with knives and stones.

One of the victims, Ruphus Gwebu (21) — who was on the train when the shooting started — said he saw a group of people standing on the platform waiting to board the train.

"Suddenly I heard gunshots and I ducked under the seat. I stayed there for almost half a minute but I was shot in the leg," said Gwebu.

SAP spokesman Major Herman Oosthuysen last night confirmed the victims' version of events. He said the attackers were waiting on the platform and shot at commuters when the train stopped.

He said the attackers seemed to have fled in a minibus that was parked outside the station.

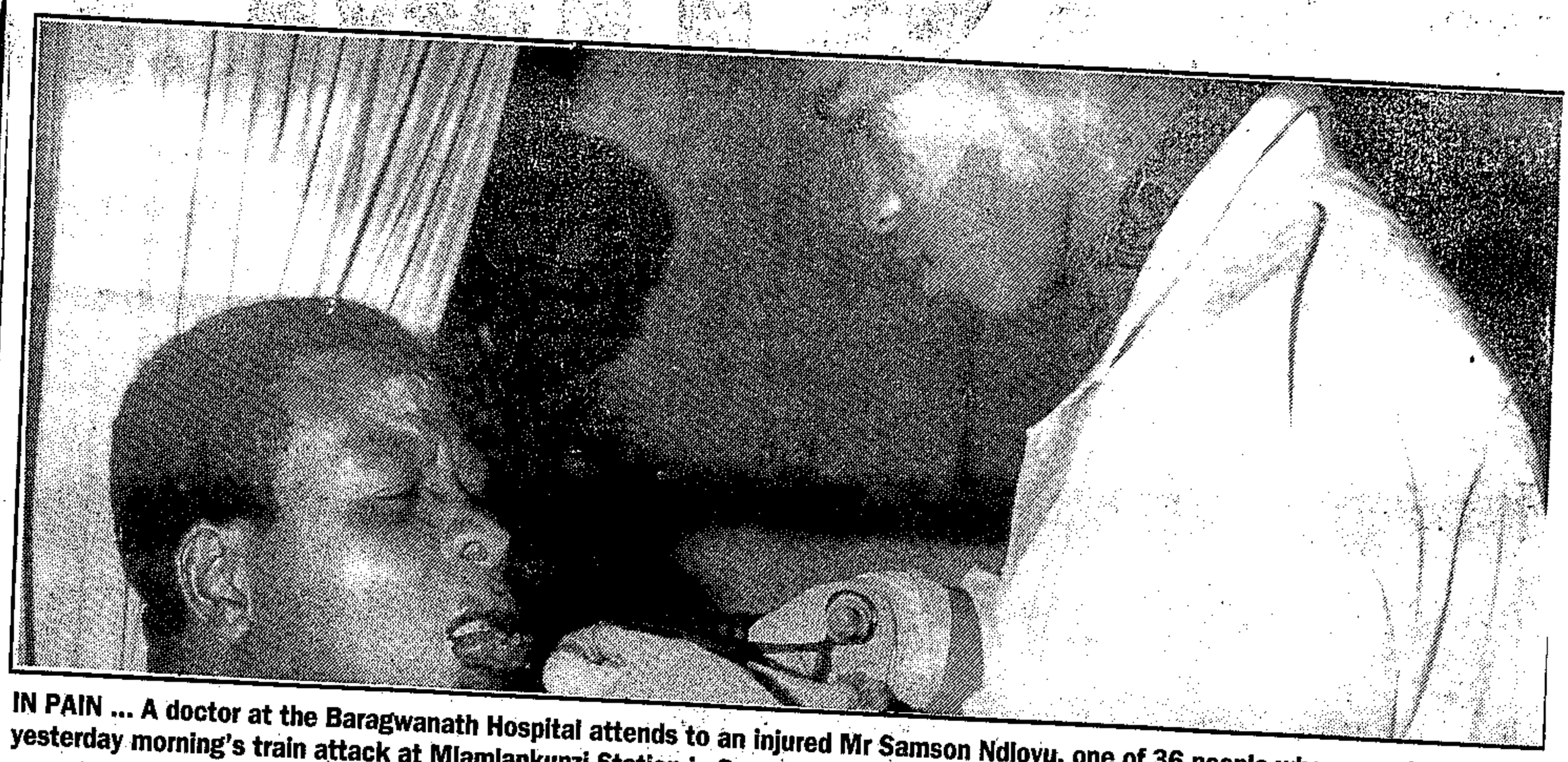
The Mlamlankunzi Station attack occurred while about 100 SADF and SAP members searched trains at the Katlehong Station on the East Rand. No arrests were made.

United Nations (UN), European Community, and National Peace Secretariat (NPS) observers were at the station monitoring police activity.

Police said last week the campaign would continue for at least another month or until train violence was curbed.

According to the Human Rights Commission (HRC), 257 people have been killed in train violence between January and October this year.

NEWS Commuters should claim from police and SARCC — ANC



IN PAIN ... A doctor at the Baragwanath Hospital attends to an injured Mr Samson Ndlovu, one of 36 people who were victims of yesterday morning's train attack at Mlamlankunzi Station in Soweto.
Pic: MBUZENI ZULU

36 hurt in train attack

278 Sowetan 26/11/92

By Mandla Zibi and Sapa

■ COWARDLY ACT Men lined up on platform and opened fire on unsuspecting commuters:

THIRTY-SIX people were injured - six critically - when gunmen opened fire on train commuters at Mlamlankunzi Station, Soweto, yesterday.

Police spokesman Colonel Tienie Halgryn said the "most cowardly attack we have ever had" occurred about 5.30am.

Thirteen people have died in train attacks in Soweto alone since the beginning of this month.

Halgryn said most of the victims of yesterday's attack were from Nancefield Hostel.

No one was killed in the attack.

Witnesses said a group of men lined up on the platform at Mlamlankunzi and started firing when a Johannesburg-bound train came to a halt.

The attackers are said to have fled in a minibus when security guards at the station fired shots to ward off the attack.

Halgryn revealed that police were using new methods introduced last Wednesday to curb train violence.

"More than 30 trains were stopped and more than 200 000 commuters searched in this operation," he said. The Inkatha Freedom Party and African National Congress yesterday expressed concern about the attack and blamed the SA Rail Commuter Corporation and police for not ensuring the safety of commuters on railway property.

ANC PWV region spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said victims should contact their offices to "prepare for civil claims against the SARCC and the police". The IFP said the attack was a move to crush it in the PWV region.

Railways chief condemns attack

AN URGENT investigation into Wednesday's machine-gunning of 36 commuters at Soweto's Mlamlankunzi station has been ordered by SA Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC) MD Wynand Burger.

Police said 12 attackers fired on commuters as they disembarked at the station. Most of those wounded were Inkatha supporters, according to eyewitness accounts.

Burger said yesterday that there appeared to be a link between the timing of advances in train security and attacks on passengers.

The latest attack came as the ANC and Inkatha agreed to meet in an effort to defuse violence and days after the SARCC unveiled new high security train coaches, he said.

"I am deeply concerned at Wednesday's attack and horrified at the brutality of the cowardly thugs who continue to prey on innocent commuters," he said.

Meanwhile, Springbok Patrols MD Mick Bartmann yesterday denied guards from

RAY HARTLEY

his company fired on commuters during the attack.

He said three guards positioned at the station in terms of a contract with the SARCC had fired warning shots into the air, dispersing the attackers.

One of the guards — who were armed with shotguns loaded with birdshot — then fired in the direction of one of the fleeing attackers, he said.

The train had been inspected and no traces of birdshot had been found, confirming that the guards had not fired at commuters, he said.

Burger said more than R100m had been spent on new security measures in the Transvaal in the past eight months.

"We are going to continue full speed with both our anti-violence measures, as agreed with the Train Accord Group, and with implementation of recommendations that may come from the Goldstone commission," he said.

Sanco, SA Perm edge closer to agreement

THE SA National Civics Organisation (Sanco) and the SA Perm are edging closer to signing an agreement which will significantly change the building society's operations in townships.

Sources say a key feature of the agreement will be a banking code of conduct which will regulate the financial institution's lending policies to township residents.

The agreement is expected to be signed soon, probably within weeks.

WILSON ZWANE

Neither Sanco president Moses Mayekiso nor Perm GM for development Denis Creighton would comment.

But the Perm has, up to now, been the only financial institution which has agreed in principle to Sanco's proposal for a banking code of conduct.

According to Sanco's documents, it is envisaged that the code of conduct will improve the relationship between financial institutions and township residents.

The documents say the relationship has been soured by the banks' role "in pursuing investment policies which maintain the current government".

There is also a perception that banks are reluctant to lend money to township residents.

Peace code? No, just give us a piece

W\Mail 27/11-3/12/92

A code of conduct for self-defence units has been drawn up. Is anybody listening?. **PHILIPPA GARSON** *reports*



Homemade but lethal ... SDU members demonstrate how to operate qhwashas

THREE people were killed in an ambush while returning from a peace rally in the Vaal Triangle last week, where Communist Party supremo Chris Hani had tried to unite warring African National Congress factions. (278)

The faction targeted refused to attend the following weekend's peace summit — highlighting the enormous difficulties in bringing peace to the area.

The summit's main achievement was to draw up a code of conduct for self-defence units (SDUs) in the Vaal, as a first step towards shaping them into more disciplined bodies, with greater accountability to the communities they are supposed to defend.

The code aims to instil democratic behaviour, discipline and respect for freedom of association, free trade and private property. It also proposes that youths under the age of 16 be barred from participation and that barricades be erected only in consultation with residents. But there are worrying signs that it has not reached many of those at the forefront of the conflict.

A commander in the Sebokeng hostel complex, who oversees the SDUs gathered around veteran ANC leader Ernest Sotsu, is dismissive of the code. "They didn't even negotiate this thing democratically," he said.

Sotsu's was the faction which refused to attend the summit after being ambushed. The culprits, he alleges, were from the opposing faction run by Manoja Ndamase. "Now we are not prepared to attend any meeting," the commander said.

In another worrying development, a non-aligned rural woman from hostel four was last week brutally assaulted by three women from the rival section in hostel three.

Attended by more than 100 delegates from ANC-aligned local and regional organisations, the summit in Vereeniging was called to explore ways of bringing calm to Vaal Triangle townships. Plans for an anti-crime campaign, due to begin on December 5, were laid down and SDUs, some "infiltrated by enemy agents", were earmarked as partly to blame for the spread of anarchy in the Vaal. SDU members, lacking experience and faced with harsh economic realities, needed better training and financial backing for their efforts.

Run-ins with police and Inkatha supporters from kwaMadala hostel won't end overnight. Nor will the gangsterism and factionalism within ANC-supporting communities in the absence of a real solution to the power struggle between ANC factions in kwaMasiza and Sebokeng hostels.

Notwithstanding the difficulties, many Vaal residents view the code of conduct as a positive step towards reining in the SDUs, which in some instances have turned against the very communities they are supposed to defend, even embarking on ruthless killing sprees.

THE WEEKLY MAIL *The* Guardian *Weekly*

Circulation and Promotions Manager

Schoolboy soldiers' uncertain future

W\Mail 27/11-3/12/92 (278)

A GROUP of suprisingly fresh-faced teenagers, crammed into the lounge of a small Sebokeng home, expressed complete ignorance of the peace meeting and the new guidelines and regulations drawn up to govern their defence activities. But a conference of self-defence units' commanders is set to take place within the next three months.

The youths — members of an SDU from one of Sebokeng's zones, notorious for its brutality — spoke freely about their commitment to discipline — backing the idea of a code of conduct — and talked of their lives as "community defenders", where petrol bombs and *qhwashas* (homemade guns) are as much a part of daily life as schoolbooks.

Each block in their township has its own SDU, but communication between them is sorely lacking. The people in the unit are mostly pupils belonging to organisations. "We are not infiltrated by gangsters."

Competition between SDUs is rife, they say, particularly among "unruly elements" who joined the bodies after the overall SDU commander for Evaton region vacated his post in July last year. "He was giving us discipline, showing us not to harass people and how to work with the community. When he was here there was still trouble but now that he has left the trouble is much worse."

The SDUs tend to stay in their own area when violence breaks out elsewhere, unless they are called. In the past they have opened fire on each other in confusion.

In the evenings the youths, who are known to have real guns (though they deny it), spend their time patrolling, erecting barricades if necessary, practising their shooting and taking up positions until dawn. Then they go to school. The afternoon is the only time they sleep, they say. "It is boring (staying up all night)," they agree. "But for the sake of our lives and the sake of the community we must do it."

The SDU leader explained that while the units needed guidelines, they had been fighting against the police and Inkatha for three years and did not need members of the ANC's Umkhonto weSizwe to help them. "We fought this war long ago. We don't need support from them. Also we are scared that if MK helps us, the police will harass them."

The unit has a command structure, with each member responsible for a particular portfolio. "We have a commander, a political adviser, a security officer, a treasurer."

Despite their chirpy talk and enthusiastic demonstration on how to operate their *qhwashas* (which fire real bullets), the SDU members are bleak about their prospects. "When South Africa is free, what will the future be? We will still be doing defence," said one of the youths who looked no older than 15.

"We want to go for training but the township is so corrupt that we wanted to leave it in some order before going," chipped in the leader. "Some of us want to be soldiers. Others just want education."

When one mentioned the fact that some of the group went to Transkei for a week last year, others quickly added that they had gone to attend a funeral and not to receive military training.

More than 300 ANC-aligned SDU members left for military training ostensibly to India on June 21 — among them two from the Sebokeng unit.

However, they are still waiting in Mgwagawa camp in Tanzania's Iringa province. A group of youths from Sebokeng, some only 12 years old, left the country on their own steam earlier this year. Finding only desperate, harsh conditions in a camp in a neighbouring state, they trekked back home.



While police were confiscating a firearm at Katlehong station, 38 people were massacred at Mlamlankunzi station
Photo: KEVIN CARTER

Station search, but the killers steam in

WMail 27/11 - 3/12/92.

278

The security forces face immense problems in trying to stem train violence — including just who is behind it.

By **GAVIN EVANS**

THE irony could hardly be sicker: the police and army invite the press to watch a train violence crackdown at Katlehong station when, a few kilometres away, a massacre is taking place at Soweto's Mlamlankunzi station.

The first event, which started at 4.30am on Wednesday, involved nearly 400 policemen and soldiers who emptied carriages and searched passengers. A little later a train arrived carrying Zulu-speaking commuters from Kwesini hostel, who were chanting and stamping their feet. The security forces trippled their search party and arrested a man carrying a revolver.

The second event started about an hour later when seven gunmen opened fire on Johannesburg-bound commuters as their train pulled up at Mlamlankunzi station. Thirty-eight people were injured.

According to the African National Congress spokesman, Ronnie Mamoepa, one person was killed, while Inkatha Freedom Party representative Themba Khoza put the figure at three. The police said no one was killed.

The two strange aspects of this attack were: the victims included ANC and IFP supporters and, according to witnesses in both camps, the attackers were assisted by members of the of the controversial security firm, Springbok Patrols, who allegedly fired shots at commuters while they were fleeing.

Earlier this year *The Weekly Mail* revealed that Springbok Patrols, which has a contract with Spoornet to guard stations in the Transvaal and Natal, provided training to about 100 Inkatha-supporting youths at a camp in Ulundi last January.

However, following Wednesday's attack, Khoza called for the company's guards to be withdrawn from the station until an investigation into the massacre had been completed.

According to Mamoepa, two other attacks occurred on the same day, one at Croesus station and another — again at Mlamlankunzi station — took place when "a group of people carrying dangerous weapons ... attacked commuters on the train from Vereeniging".

What is clear is the problems the police face in combatting these kind of attacks are immense.

alone, and that excludes Soweto. In one working day there are 1,4-million commuters in the PWV region, there are over 1 118 trains, plus 640 more over peak hours. If we were to handle this properly we would need 7 000 more policemen. Even then we couldn't stop every train and search every commuter — and if we did we would massively disrupt business," said Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman.

He added several other problems the police have yet to deal with, including public reluctance to report train violence.

"Yet what I can say is that the measures we have used, which include searches of trains, place policemen in railway stations and working with Spoornet to improve their security, have helped reduce the number of attacks."

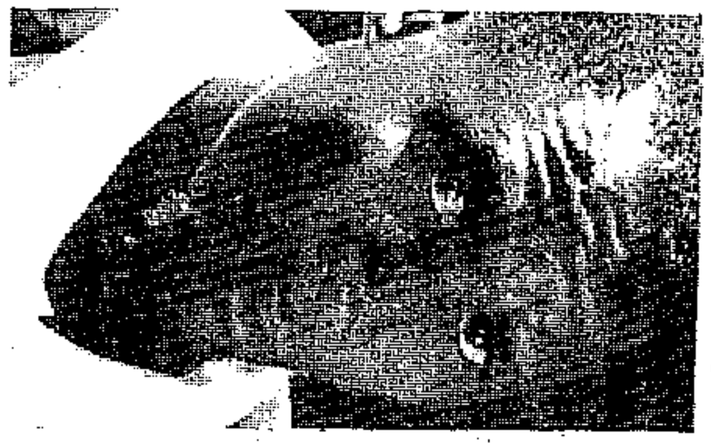
He said that 231 people had died on trains or on Spoornet property in the PWV area this year, though not all of these cases involved organised train violence. According to the Human Rights Commission, in the first 10 months of 1992 there were 269 train attacks involving 257 deaths and 489 injuries. The commission's provisional figures indicate that since the beginning of November there have been 23 attacks in which 20 people have been killed and 53 injured.

● Opperman said that by November 5 the year's arrest tally was 121, with one conviction (a man was sentenced to five years imprisonment for attempted murder) and five cases pending.

One of these cases involves Inkatha member Albert Dlamini, who faces seven counts of murder, and will appear in the Johannesburg Supreme Court on February 15 next year.

Dlamini, 33, was arrested by commuters in October 1991 during an attack on the Katlehong-Wadeville line. He first appeared in the Germiston Regional Court in January this year.

Asked why it was taking 16 months for Dlamini to face trial, a spokesman for the Attorney General's office said, "I can't answer that at this stage."



Train massacre accused Alfred Dlamini

WV region

'Rhodie factor horror

278

Ipem 29/11/92.

By MOSES MAMAILA

WHITE racists are harrassing blacks in formerly whites-only areas.

Causing most of the trouble, say black residents, are black-hating whites – dubbed "the Rhodie (Rhodesia) factor" – who have vowed to drive blacks out.

In Yeoville – ironically an area renowned for tolerence and anti-racism among many whites – the rotten eggs have organised themselves into neo-Nazi groups.

White "skinheads" are running amok in Rockey Street, assaulting mainly blacks at night.

Last Friday, cops were called in to quell an explosive situation in Yeoville involving skinheads.

Police spokesman Maj Henrietta Bester said three youths were detained briefly and later released.

Many black Yeovillites said the attitudes of some whites were shocking.

They spoke of assaults – verbal and physical – by whites who whinged about the "decreasing value of their properties".

Flat-dweller Susan Mazibuko said a self-styled "Wit Wolf" was bullying her. He had even written graffiti deriding her and the kids.

advantage of the darkness at the said he was sitting in his

Revellers killed in MK guerrilla suicide attack

278

Pnews 29/11/92

By MOSES MAMAILA

SIX people were killed in the early hours of yesterday when a foreign-trained MK soldier detonated a grenade in a Sebokeng house during a stokvel party.

According to Pony Mofokeng, 19, who narrowly escaped death, the tragic killing of the five fun-lovers and the MK guerrilla was not an accident as claimed by the police, but a well-calculated military offensive by the MK operative.

"Mputhi came to my home, where the party was in progress, at about midnight holding two grenades and armed with a pistol. I tried to persuade him not to play with the lethal weapons. He threatened that he had the capacity to kill everyone in the house if he wished."

Mputhi, who witnesses said was sober, then went into the kitchen where he removed the safety-catch from one of the grenades and threw it at wheelchair-bound Daniel Mokoena.

Police spokesman Lt Wikus Weber's earlier statement that the dead were ANC Youth League members was dismissed outright by the witnesses.

■ Sapa reports four members of a Vereeniging family were gunned down by unknown attackers on a smallholding outside the town during the early hours of yesterday.

The attackers entered the house at Mooilande, Vereeniging, and shot and killed a 37-year-old man, his 35-year-old wife, their 74-year-old grandmother and a 13-year-old girl.

The killers ransacked the house before fleeing in the family's Toyota Corolla, registration LFX 407T.

Killers strike on East Rand

8 DIE IN HAIL OF GUNFIRE

Apres 29/11/92. (278)

By THEMBA KHUMALO

AT least eight people, among them a mother of two, were shot dead and 12 others injured in a gruesome massacre at Oakmoor Railway Station in Thembisa on Friday night.

The woman is believed to have died on the spot while she and her two sons aged four and nine were sitting in a Pietersburg-bound taxi.

The eighth victim was found about 200 metres away from the scene of the massacre. He is thought to have died while he was fleeing the gunmen.

According to the survivors a group of men wearing military-style caps and armed with shotguns and AK-47 rifles surrounded a taxi rank near the station at about 7:15pm and opened fire on passengers and taxi drivers.

According to taxi drivers a train from Johannesburg to Pretoria had just pulled out of the station and the culprits waited until passengers got into taxis before they carried out their gruesome mission, taking advantage of the darkness at the station.

City Press spoke to several victims at Thembisa Hospital, including the two boys whose mother died in a taxi. The boys, one of whom was shot in the hand, said they were travelling from Etwatwa in Benoni to visit relatives in Naboomspruit with their mother when the gunmen opened fire. The nine-year-old said he was shot in the hand as he tried to stop the bullets from hitting his mother.

"I held my hands up to stop the men from shooting my mother. My younger brother hid under the seat. The next thing I saw a white man shooting at a passenger who sat next to my mother. Minutes later I tried to talk to my mother but she just slumped on to her arms. I don't know whether she is alive."

His four-year-old brother seemed oblivious to the horrifying event as he ran around the children's ward playing with new-found friends.

At the time of going to press the motive for the shooting had not been established. Taxi owners at the station yesterday ruled out robbery as the motive.

James Lefika, 34, a taxi driver, said he was sitting in his minibus when a man armed with an AK-47 appeared and fired at him but missed.

He said: "I ran away only to be cornered by another gunman whose bullet grazed my chest. I ran for dear life. I thought I would die."

Peter Mohlala, 22, also a taxi driver from Burgersfort in the northern Transvaal, was shot in the chest.

He said he was ushering passengers into his minibus when a man carrying an AK-47 appeared and fired at him. He said he fell to the ground pretending to be dead.

Mohlala said he was a member of the Big Six Taxi Association whose eight members were gunned down in the same style during the day in Pietersburg last weekend.

He said he suspected the Friday shooting was linked to the feud between his taxi association and the South African Long Distance Taxi Association.

However, this was disputed by other eyewitnesses who said passengers would not have been shot if this was a taxi feud. They thought the motive for the shooting was political.

Police were not available for comment.

3 policemen killed on E Rand

STAR 30/11/92

By Anna Louw
East Rand Bureau

(278)

Three policemen were killed in separate incidents on the East Rand at the weekend.

One was shot dead while on duty in a charge office, another was stoned to death and a third gunned down as he arrived home in a police vehicle.

Police said Constable M P Mathala was on duty in the charge office in Olifantsfontein when gunmen surprised him at 3.20 am. Mathala was shot in the head.

His killers took his service pistol and a bunch of keys with which they unlocked a steel trunk containing firearms.

The gunmen fled with a R-1 rifle, a R-5 rifle, two shotguns and two bullet-proof vests.

● Assistant-Constable Pieter Sothoane was stoned to death by a group of about 60 men who surrounded him in the Chris Hani squatter camp in Daveyton at about 9.30 am yesterday.

Sothoane was on his way to visit his brother. Police arrested a suspect.

● In Tsakane Sergeant Jacob Modise was gunned down with AK-47 rifles at close range when he arrived home in a police vehicle at 10.20 am yesterday.

Two gunmen approached the vehicle and opened fire at the policeman. He died instantly. The men took his service pistol and fled.

Six die as grenade explodes

CT 30/11/92 (278)

JOHANNESBURG. — Six members of the ANC Youth League were killed and five injured in a handgrenade explosion at the weekend.

A police spokesman said the incident occurred on Friday night in Sebokeng when someone at the youth league meeting brought out the grenade and began handling it.

ANC spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa confirmed the victims were members of the league but said they were at a party, not a meeting.

Three people were hospitalised in a serious condition.

● An off-duty police constable was fatally shot at Mariannhill in Natal yesterday morning.

● About 11pm on Friday a handgrenade was thrown at a police-SADF patrol near Folweni, south of Durban.

A youth was arrested.

● A 54-year-old motorist was held in Durban up by armed men who tried to steal his car.

He opened fire, killing one of his assailants, but was himself hit in the head and badly wounded.

● ANC national chairman Mr Oliver Tambo, his wife Adelaide, and National Health Minister Dr Rina Venter were among 300 people who prayed for peace at the World Trade Centre, east of Johannesburg, yesterday. — Sapa

Plea to stop taxi killings

By Stan Hlophe

■ Official's plea to direct forces to build the industry:

MEMBERS of the Soweto Taxi Services have been urged to stop the killings which claimed nine lives in recent weeks.

The appeal was made by the chairman of the Johannesburg region of the Southern Africa Black Taxi Association, Mr Moferefere Simelane, at a meeting in Tshiawelo, Soweto, at the weekend.

"Let us stop the violence. It will not get us anywhere. Let us direct our forces to building this powerful industry.

"If you continue with this senseless killings, the whole world will laugh at you."

Tokoza faces blackout

■ Electricity will be cut off unless residents pay bills by tomorrow:

By Lulama Luti

THE whole of Tokoza will be plunged into darkness if residents fail to pay their electricity bills by tomorrow.

According to notices issued to residents, the nearby Alberton Town Council said it would discontinue the supply of electricity to the entire township if "insufficient money" was collected by December 1.

This warning comes after lengthy discussions between the Tokoza Civic Association, the Alberton and Tokoza town councils, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Tokoza Local Dispute Resolution Committee.

It also comes two weeks after power was cut off in the township.

Earlier this year the Alberton council, which is the bulk supplier of electricity to Tokoza, agreed to restore electricity if the Tokoza council paid an outstanding electricity bill of R2,2 million.

Sowetan 30/11/92

Several calls

A further deal that was entered into in July stated that electricity supply on a 24-hour basis would be provided on condition community organisations advised residents to pay their accounts.

However, despite several calls to residents by the LDRC to pay for electricity consumed, it was learnt that by Tuesday last week residents were still not paying enough money to cover the costs of the electricity being supplied.

Boycott threat over taxi killings

■ Councils urged to end violence:

By Lulama Luti

THE KwaThema and Springs town councils as well as the Transvaal Provincial Administration have been given until December 4 to end the taxi violence or face a consumer boycott.

The chairman of the KwaThema Civic Association, Mr Kenny Madalane, said if concrete steps to stop the violence had not been taken by the stipulated date, the community would embark on a consumer boycott.

The killings have claimed the lives of 65 people.Sowetan 30/11/92

This decison follows a protest march to the local police station and a subsequent sit-in at the council offices on Saturday.

the nation in brief

Sadtu decries harassment

THE Sekhukhune branch of the SA Democratic Teachers Union has accused the Lebowa department of education of not honouring their record of agreement by harassing teachers.

The union claimed that its Sekhukhune branch members were being victimised by conservative principals. Sowetan 30/11/92

Branch chairman Sello Modiga said they were shocked to find that Sekhukhune circuit office did not even have a copy of the agreement.

Education spokesman Mr Seroka was yesterday reported to be attending a course in Port Elizabeth and unavailable for a response.

Taxi shooting victims buried

THE funerals of victims of the Pietersburg taxi shooting proceeded without any incidents on Saturday, but the planned joint burials failed. Sowetan 30/11/92

Speakers at Mr John Pholo's funeral condemned the shooting and appealed to people not to solve their problems by killing one another. Other burials of victims of the taxi shootings that claimed eight lives were held at Seshego and Zebediela on the same day.

Inquest into Malele's death

THE inquest hearing into the death of a victim of alleged Gazankulu police brutality resumes at Hlanganani Magistrtate Court tomorrow.

The family of Mr Edward Booi Malele, who was arrested on December 26 last year and allegedly severely assaulted by police until he died, had on November 10 successfully applied for an exhumation order so that another post-mortem examination could be done. Results of the further post-mortem are expected during this hearing. Malele, exhumed two weeks ago, had been buried on January 8 this year.

Sowetan 30/11/92.

grenade attack on Saturday night killed four people. Picture: AP

Hostel residents and ANC sign agreement

BIDPAY 1/12/92

ADRIAN HADLAND

GOVERNMENT hostel initiatives should be suspended immediately and transferred to the National Housing Forum, representatives of the ANC's PWV region and the Transvaal Hostel Residents' Association said yesterday.

In a joint agreement signed yesterday, the ANC and the hostel association expressed mutual dissatisfaction with government's handling of the hostels crisis.

The two parties objected to the use of Black Local Authorities for the upgrading and maintenance of hostels, said the process of consultation undertaken by the Transvaal Provincial Administration had been insufficiently inclusive and rejected the "extensive and costly" use of private sector consultants.

They also said the R326m set aside by government for the upgrading of hostels had not been disbursed satisfactorily.

"Government should immediately undertake to suspend all their initiatives at hostels where agreements have not been finalised and contracts signed by 30 November 1992," the statement said.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the pact, the first of its kind between hostel dwellers and the ANC, did not contradict September's record of understanding between government and the ANC.

Hostel dwellers, who said recently they would tear down any fences erected as a result of the record, consented yesterday to five hostels in the PWV being fenced.

The joint agreement stated that if certain hostel areas were not fenced, "upgrading, integration and development will not be possible".

The Madala and Nobuhle hostels in Alexandra, the Meadowlands and Dobsonville hostels in Soweto and the Ratanda hostel in Heidelberg all required "immediate stabilising measures", the agreement stated.

These measures include the walling or fencing off of the hostels, a 24-hour police presence, random searches of grounds and dwellers and a constant monitoring of all access points into and out of the hostels.

Attorney-general to decide on Ceba's arrest

THED RAWANA (278)

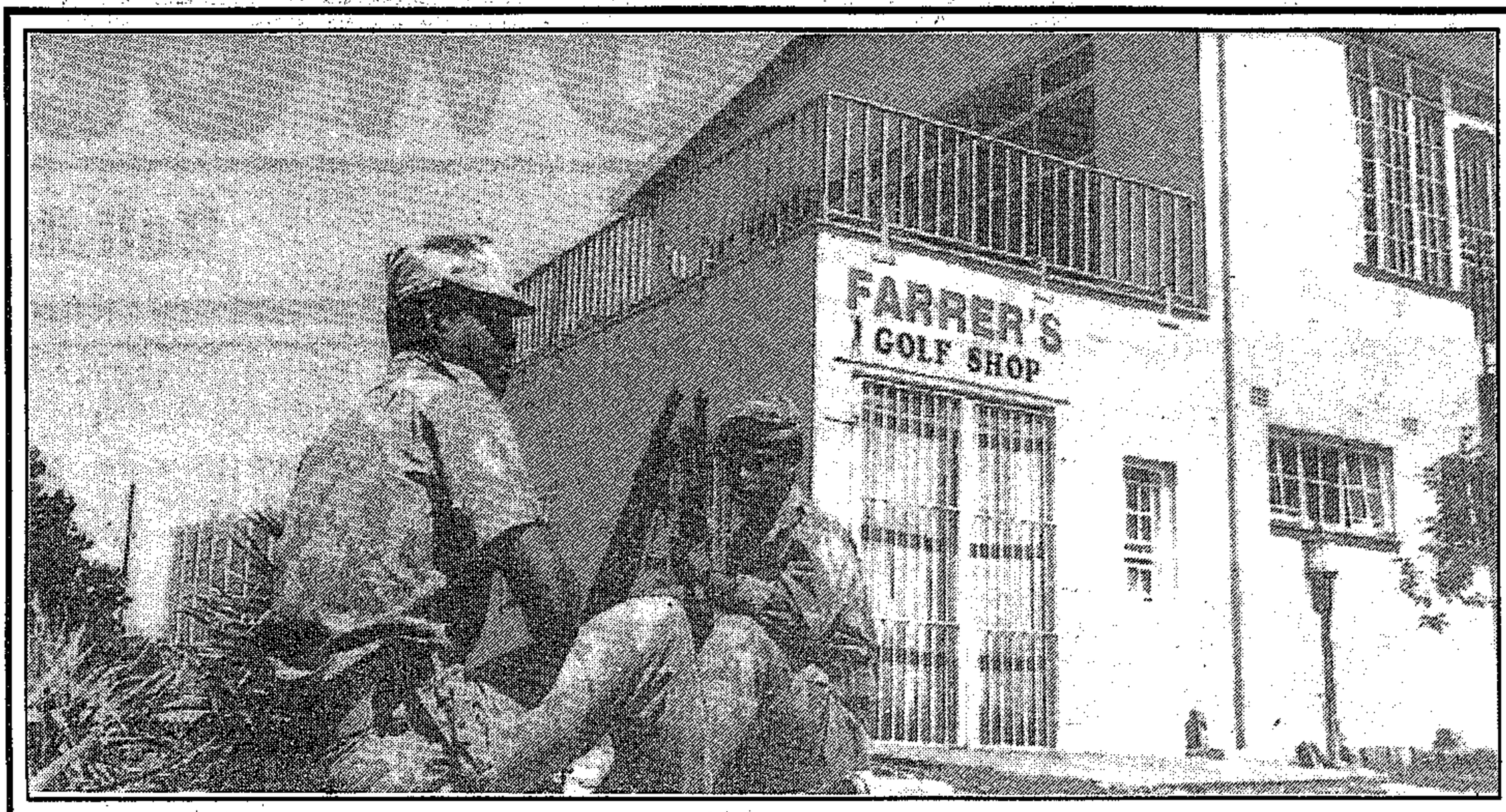
THE police informer which the Goldstone commission found had organised two attacks which claimed 19 lives in Thokoza last year would be arrested only if the attorney-general found sufficient grounds, police said yesterday. BIDPAY 1/12/92

An inquiry found that Mncugi Ceba, posing as an ANC self-defence unit head, ambushed a march by hostel residents in September last year, killing 16 and injuring 13.

He had also led a violent coup in the Phola Park Residents' Committee, of which three members were subsequently assassinated.

Police spokesman Capt Eugene Opperman said the commission usually directed its findings to the attorney-general, after which they would be sent to the police.

NEWS Gunmen turn two Sebokeng stokvels into killing fields



ON GUARD ... Armed police keep guard outside the King William's Town golf club yesterday after a gunfire and grenade attack on Saturday night killed four whites at a Christmas party. The armed wing of the PAC, the Azanian People's Liberation Army, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

11 die in Vaal attacks

Sowetan 1/12/92 (278)

By Lulama Luti and Len Khumalo

NIGHT ATTACK Revellers told to lie down before being shot dead by 10 robbers:

FIVE people were shot dead and 11 injured when gunmen opened fire on revellers at a stokvel in Sebokeng on Sunday night.

Armed with 9mm pistols, the killers stormed into house 598024 in Zone 3, and demanded money from owner Mr Mahlomola Thabane before shooting him dead.

On their way out they shot and killed four people whom they had ordered to lie down on their stomachs in the dining room.

Thabane's 15-year-old son Phehello was grazed by a bullet on the left shoulder and was suffering from shock yesterday morning.

The killings happened barely 24 hours after the death of six other people in the area who were blown up in a handgrenade blast during another stokvel.

Vaal police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer said investigations were continuing.

The names of the dead are Mr Thapelo Thabane a visitor from QwaQwa, Mr Mokete Koetlisi, Phineas and Seaboy (surnames unknown).

Senior superintendent at the Sebokeng Hospital Dr Coenie Momberg said three of those injured were in the hospital's intensive care unit.

They are Isaac Motetsu, Ben Motshweneng and an unknown man. Three others were treated, and discharged.

The names of those still in hospital are Frans Maphapha, Ntsoaki Sesele, Steven Matiatse, Elsie Ditabe, Samuel Mabele, Samuel Mabaso, Samuel Lema and Maria Maseboko.

According to Phehello, 10 men came to his home.

"About five of them went into the house while the others stood outside. As I was getting out of the house they shoved me into the dining room where they ordered us to lie down on our stomachs.

"They then asked my father for money and he gave it to them. They asked who Seaboy was, and when he identified himself, they shot him," he said.

Phehello said one of the men said "let's shoot these dogs" before they sprayed bullets on them.

Agreement on hostels reached

STAR 1/12/92

By Esther Waugh
Political Reporter

The ANC PWV region and the Transvaal Hostels Resident Association (THRA) have agreed to the fencing of five hostels in the area.

The agreement was signed yesterday in Johannesburg to fence Madala and Nobuhle hostels in Alexandra, Ratanda hostel in Heidelberg as well as hostels in Meadowlands and Dobsonville.

The ANC and Government agreed at the violence summit on September 26 to the fencing of 27 hostels on the Reef and in Natal.

Threat

But the Government last month told the Goldstone Commission's committee on hostels that it could not proceed with the fencing of hostels because of opposition by the Inkatha Freedom Party and the THRA.

In a report, which was drawn up by the Department of Local Government and Local Housing and submitted to the Goldstone committee on hostels on November 6, the Government said the THRA had threatened a rent boycott and marches and vowed that the contractors would not be allowed on site.

"It was also stated that fences would be destroyed," the report said.

The Government had argued that the fencing of hostels would increase violence and proposed that the National Peace Secretariat be asked to call a meeting of all the parties concerned and serve as a mediator to resolve the conflict.

It also requested mediation from the Goldstone Commission to resolve the conflict.

IFP spokesman Suzanne Vos said last night that the THRA was an autonomous body and "if it comes to an arrangement in full consultation, it is their decision".

She said the essence of democracy was that consultations took place on matters of mutual concern, rather than the imposition of bilateral decisions.

The IFP pulled out of talks with the Government following the ANC/Government Record of Understanding, which included the fencing of 27 hostels.

Issues

On November 15 — the target date for the implementation of the Record of Understanding — none of the identified hostels had been fenced and the ANC said it was still discussing outstanding issues with the Government.

Murder of six policemen condemned

By Anna Louw
East Rand Bureau

Police have condemned the brutal murders of six policemen on the East Rand, Natal and Vaal Triangle at the weekend which have increased the death toll of policemen who have died violently this year to 207.

A spokesman for the police directorate of public relations in Pretoria yesterday said last year's figure totalled 145.

Substantial rewards are being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers.

In the weekend attacks:

- East Rand Constable P K Mathala (29) was shot dead while on duty at the Olifantsfontein charge office on Sunday.
- Also on the East Rand, Daveyton assistant Constable Pieter Sothoane was stoned by about 60 men when he went to visit his brother in the Chris Hani squatter camp at 9 am on Sunday. A man was arrested.
- Sergeant M J Modise (41) was gunned down by two men with AK-47 rifles when he arrived at his Tsakane home on the East Rand on Sunday.
- In Evaton in the Vaal Triangle Constable G J Mofokeng was shot when gunmen sprayed a house with gunfire on Friday night. Two people were injured.
- In Mariannhill, near Pinetown, in Natal Constable Hlela Nhlamhe (27) and a friend, Langalkhe Ngcobo (22), were fatally wounded in the head on Sunday.

news in br

Boipatong killings

278

THE case against 65 KwaMadala hostel dwellers who appeared in court in connection with the June 17 Boipatong massacre was yesterday postponed to February 1 next year. Sowetan

Twenty-six of the accused will be held in custody. The others are out on R1 000 bail each. 2/12/92

Magistrate Mr GJ Reyner yesterday granted bail to one of the accused, Mr Robert Mthembu.

He has been ordered not to visit Boipatong, to report at the local a police station twice a week and to remain in the magisterial district of the Vaal Triangle.

2 killed, 18 hurt in attack

CT 2/12/92 (278)

LICHTENBURG. — Police yesterday morning shot dead at least two people and wounded at least 18 after a crowd allegedly attacked police yehicles with petrol bombs and stones in Boichutsu township here.

Police confirmed the incident and said two men were killed and 18 hospitalised, but the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum said three were killed and 36 injured.

● The death-toll of policemen so far this year climbed to 209 yesterday after the murders of two Daveyton constables in the East Rand township, police said. — Sapa

News in brief

Sowetan 3/12/92

Pageant picket protest

ABOUT 30 people held placard demonstrations outside three foreign embassies in Pretoria yesterday to protest against the participation of their beauty queens in the Miss World pageant at the Lost City.

The picketers were accompanied by United Nations observers and representatives of the National Peace Secretariat during the demonstrations at the Japanese, Israeli and US embassies. A small picket was also held outside the Bophuthatswana embassy.

Lighting up could cost you!

A CIGARETTE could cost up to R2 000 in Johannesburg - if one lights up on a bus. The city council has banned smoking on all its buses and offenders will face a fine of up to R2 000. Sowetan

The council said yesterday a survey conducted in July had found that 76 percent of all passengers were totally opposed to smoking, compared with a survey in May last year in which 62 percent supported the prohibition of smoking. 3/12/92

"The change in opinion is seen to be in line with a general increased awareness of the dangers of smoking and its unacceptability in confined spaces," said a spokesman.

'Kei, Ciskei at loggerheads

TRANSKEI yesterday lashed out at Ciskei military ruler Brigadier Oupa Gqozo for proposing the creation of an autonomous republic embracing Ciskei, the Border and the Eastern Cape.

Gqozo told a summit on regionalism on Tuesday the envisaged republic would exclude Transkei for what he said were historical and political reasons.

The Transkei Military Council in Umtata yesterday dismissed Gqozo's address as "rantings and ravings" and said it had "a hollow ring of political bankruptcy". Sowetan 3/12/92

Sasol workers want jobs

ABOUT 5 000 members of the SA Chemical Workers' Union will march on the offices of Sasol 1 in Sasolburg tomorrow to demand that they be reinstated Sowetan 3/12/92

Most of the workers were dismissed in 1987 during a legal strike while others were sacked during the past five years. The march will begin from AECI at 3pm and proceed to the offices of Sasol 1 where a memorandum will be presented.

War-weary Alexandra picks up the pieces

BIDAY 3/12/92 (278)

IN ALEXANDRA's streets where political rivals fought pitched battles nine months ago they now work side-by-side to clean up their township.

And in a township where about 60%of the 360.000 residents are unemployed, volunteer cleaners are only too happy to do the back-breaking work for a mere R8 a day, Sapa reports.

In March, Alexandra erupted into an orgy of violence which saw tens of people killed and hundreds left homeless when hostel dwellers loyal to the Inkatha Freedom Party clashed with township residents rallying under the banner of the ANC. Now, although there is still animosity among political groupings, peace is returning to Alexandra.

"People on the ground are speaking to one another and finding a new common vision of the future," says township interim crisis committee chairman Brian Wegerle.

The crisis committee, set up in April, functions as a local dispute resolution body under the naticnal peace accord with representatives of the ANC, Inkatha, Democratic Party, National Party, churches, business and the SADF.

Crisis committee member Dean Yates said Alexandra residents were suffering from "war-weariness": "People want peace. They do not want to kill anymore."

Wegerle believes eight months of intense work by the crisis committee is bearing fruit. "The situation has improved tremendously," agrees L C Khoza, Inkatha's representative on the committee.

A complete social reconstruction and new development plan for the township, which borders Johannesburg's plush northern suburbs, is envisaged. Some R3,5m has been allocated for reconstruction in the "Beirut" area, scene of much of the fighting near Alexandra's migrant hostels where houses were broken to the ground.

WILSON ZWANE reports the crisis committee yesterday announced its reconstruction strategy. It has set itself the task of:

- ☐ Reconciling polarised groups and creating a climate of tolerance and trust;
- ☐ Eliminating political, social and economic conditions which undermined peace;
- ☐ Fully communicating the principles of the national peace accord; and
- ☐ Forging a competent and commonly agreed socio-economic reconstruction and development processes which make the best use of all the available resources.

The crisis committee has appointed four task groups to deal with development, communications, security and relief.

Police, ANC closer on trains strategy

BIDAY 3/12/92 (278)

LLOYD COUTTS

THE SA Police and the ANC had moved closer to agreement on measures to contain train violence, both parties said yesterday.

A delegation of community organisations — the ANC's PWV region, the SACP PWV region and the SA Railway and Harbour Workers' Union — met the SA Rail Commuter Corporation and police yesterday to discuss new security force measures to curb violence on commuter trains.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the delegation welcomed police efforts which included searches at stations, random searches of trains and closed circuit television monitoring.

SAP liaison officer Lt-Col Dave Bruce said police had expressed their difficulties in dealing with train violence.

"We expressed our views regarding policing problems, the tripartite alliance stated its problems regarding policing, and we came to some understanding of each other's problems. We've got a long way to go but we are all working towards the same objective."

Bruce said the major problems facing police were community participation and intimidation.

Two Commonwealth observers attended the meeting, and delegates agreed to the involvement of observers from the Goldstone commission, the national peace accord and the UN at future meetings.

☐ Sapa reports that the Human Rights Commission (HRC) said in Johannebsurg yesterday at least 14 security force members had died in political violence in the past week.

This represented a "startling" escalation in attacks on the security forces, the human rights watchdog said in its weekly Repression Report.

Overall, the HRC said, 74 people had died and 128 others had been injured in the violence for the week November 25 to October 1, a sharp escalation from the 45 deaths recorded the previous week.

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Threat to destroy hostel fences

81 DM 3/12/92

INKATHA hostel leaders have threatened to tear down fences around hostels in the PWV — despite an agreement that "stabilising measures" would have to be adopted at five hostels in the region.

Inkatha's Alexandra Hostel branch chairman Phineas Sokhela said Inkatha branches would not allow "anybody to fence us".

The statement followed the signing of an agreement on Monday between the ANC's PWV region and the Transvaal Hostel Residents Association.

In the agreement, the first of its kind between the ANC and hostel dwellers, it was agreed that "stabilising measures" would have to be adopted at five hostels in the PWV region including the Madala and Nobuhle hostels in Alexandra and the Meadowlands hostel in Soweto.

The agreement stated that if certain hostels were not fenced, "upgrading, integration and development will not be possible".

ADRIAN HADLAND

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The hostel association claimed to have significant support in all hostels in the PWV region.

The Inkatha statement said residents of the hostels involved were not consulted about the agreement. "This agreement will bind only those who sign it. We shall use our hands to tear down the fences," it said.

ANC PWV deputy regional secretary Obed Bapela said Inkatha was attempting to politicise the issue without having studied the agreement.

"The agreement goes beyond fencing hostels, it encourages upgrading, development and the reintegration of hostels with the community," Bapela said.

Fencing was only one of the stabilising options available but this would be done in consultation with hostel residents, he added.

News in brief

Sowetan 3/2/92 (278)

Pageant picket protest

ABOUT 30 people held placard demonstrations outside three foreign embassies in Pretoria yesterday to protest against the participation of their beauty queens in the Miss World pageant at the Lost City.

The picketers were accompanied by United Nations observers and representatives of the National Peace Secretariat during the demonstrations at the Japanese, Israeli and US embassies. A small picket was also held outside the Bophuthatswana embassy.

Clean sweep for peace in Alexandra

STAR 3/12/92. (278)

Alexandra is not a name that springs to mind readily when one thinks of places in South Africa where people are working together instead of killing each other. But the current mood that is sweeping the township — literally — could change that.

In the harsh streets of "Alex" they are today working side-by-side to clean up

In March Alexandra erupted in an orgy of violence — the latest in a long line since 1986 — and many more residents were killed and left homeless after clashes between Inkatha-supporting hostel dwellers and township residents, many aligned to the ANC.

But now, says the township's Interim Crisis Committee chairman Brian Wegerle, peace seems to be breaking out.

The ICC was set up in April this year and functions as a local dispute resolution committee under the National Peace Accord, with representation from the ANC, the IFP, Democratic Party, National Party, churches, business and the SADF.

The committee envisages a new development plan for the township, bordering on Johannesburg's plush northern suburbs. Some R3,5 million has been allocated to an ICC development task force for reconstruction in the township's "Beirut" area — the scene of much fighting in the past.

But in addition to the more ambitious upliftment schemes, residents have taken to sweeping the streets themselves: in the two-week clean-up campaign which ends tomorrow, more than 42 000 bags — almost 1 050 tons — of rubbish have been cleared.

And in an area where about 60 percent of the 360 000 residents are unemployed, the volunteer cleaners are only too happy to do the back-breaking work for a mere R8 a day. — Sapa.

Rail violence: SAP urges public to help

278

STAR 3/12/92

By Montshiwa Moroke

The main obstacle in police investigations into train violence was the lack of co-operation from the public, Witwatersrand police liaison officer Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce said yesterday.

He was speaking after a meeting in Johannesburg between police and community organisations to discuss measures introduced by the SAP, SADF and the SA Rail Commuter Corporation to curb violence on Reef trains. Among the organisations present were the ANC, SACP and Civic Association of Southern Transvaal.

Bruce said the police had explained their strategies to curb violence. These included the redeployment of police as well as emergency train stoppages.

"We have a long way to go but we are working towards some objectives. We still have a problem in obtaining the assistance and support of the community in investigating crime. But we are working on this.

"People have an image problem with the police. The other problem is intimidation. People are scared to be seen co-operating with the police."

Delegates agreed to involve observers from the Goldstone Commission, the National Peace Accord and the United Nations at future meetings. Two Commonwealth observers attended yesterday's meeting.

Community leaders welcomed the measures and expressed the hope that these steps — including visible policing and the searching of trains and commuters — would be kept in place for as long as train violence continued.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 13.

● Railway worker shoots 3 — Page 8

2 shot dead as crowd and police clash

Police shot dead at least two people and injured at least 18 in Boikhutso, Lichtenburg, after part of a crowd of 1 000 allegedly petrol-bombed a policeman's home and attacked police vehicles on Tuesday.

Police said two people were killed and 18 injured, but the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum (Maref) claimed three people died and about 36 were wounded.

Western Transvaal police spokesman Lieutenant Koos Nortje said trouble started when members of the ANC, SACP and the Boikhutso People's Delegation intimidated people into not going to work and prevented taxis from going into Lichtenburg.

Maref said residents were planning a protest against the town committee when police were called.

Initially, police used teargas to disperse the crowd, but later, when SAP vehicles were attacked, rubber bullets and birdshot were used.

— Crime Reporter.

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Durg yesterday. She joins several celebrity guests at the Miss World pageant at the Sun City where she will be a commentator.

names in his diary.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

At least one killed as mob strikes in Ratanda

BIDAM 4/12/92 (278)

STEPHEN COPLAN

A MOB of about 200 men attacked residents at Ratanda near Heidelberg early yesterday, killing at least one person and injuring nine, police said.

Witnesses said the attackers were hostel dwellers. Eleven houses were destroyed.

ANC local branch chairman Obed Nkosi said the incident brought police impartiality into question. "Ratanda is an unrest area with a curfew effective from 9pm. It is unlikely that the hostel dwellers were able to travel the distance to the residents' houses without police knowledge."

The ANC said two people were killed.

Inkatha spokesman Humphrey Ndlovu confirmed that hostel dwellers were involved and said they were exercising their "God-given right" to self-defence.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports the ANC's southern Natal branch proposed yesterday that the Goldstone commission conduct an inquiry into limitations of political freedom in Natal/KwaZulu.

Southern Natal branch chairman Jeff Radebe also told the commission, inquiring into violence in Natal, that Inkatha was not giving its full support to local dispute resolution structures.

In June Inkatha pulled out of the national peace accord in the Natal Midlands because of attacks on its supporters.

Radebe said Inkatha had refused to implement sections of the national peace accord by allowing members to carry weapons.

Furthermore, the police and SADF had failed to disarm Inkatha members.

The commission was also told yesterday that allegations that G3 firearms had been unlawfully used in conflict situations, and had been routinely issued to tribal authorities for protection, were correct.

Legal adviser to the KwaZulu Police Lt-Col Thomas Reed said he was still a member of the SAP when he had taken up the illegal use of these firearms with Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Following these talks, an order had been issued that all G3 firearms should be withdrawn and replaced by shotguns or .38 revolvers, said Reed.

People to whom the firearms were issued had received training from members of the KwaZulu Police.

Meanwhile, the beheaded body of a four-year-old toddler has been found at the Umlazi men's hostel southeast of Durban. KwaZulu Police said the motive for the killing was not known and no arrests had been made.

In another incident in the same area, a woman was shot dead at a school soccer-field. A man was killed and several people injured while returning from a memorial service at KwaMashu, northeast of Durban.

...about farm labour issue

Police avert massacre

Sowetan 4/12/92 (278)

By Ike Motsapi

PETROL BOMBED Survivors believe they are fortunate to be alive after expected attack:

Two people were killed and nine seriously injured when about 200 men attacked 20 shacks and houses in Ratanda near Heidelberg yesterday.

Of the nine injured, two were girls both aged two years.

Police reinforcements were sent to the township as tension gripped this East Rand black residential area where more than 32 people have been killed since violence first flared up on July 22.

Yesterday's attack was expected, according to Mr David Storey of the Local Dispute Resolution Committee, who was at the scene with a United Nations observer team which is in the country.

Storey said a member of Inkatha was shot dead outside the Ratanda Hostel last Thursday.

Police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said a man was hacked and stabbed to death and nine people, including two girls aged four and five, were injured in the attack, which occurred about 2.15am.

The man has been identified as Daniel Zikhali, whose wife Joyce and daughter Zenzi were treated for stab wounds at the Heidelberg Hospital yesterday morning and discharged.

The other dead person has not yet been identified.

Eleven houses were also damaged by petrol bombs.

Mr Obed Nkosi, chairman of the local branch of the ANC, said the organisation was busy trying to locate relatives.

Police said in a statement issued in Pretoria that swift police action had prevented a possible massacre.

This was also confirmed by residents and survivors of the attack.

Mr Petrus Mahlangu, whose house was damaged by the attackers, said he was lucky to be alive.

"Fortunately, police arrived on the scene and the men ran towards the open veld," he said.

Mr Paulos Maseko (62) said swift police intervention helped prevent what could have been a massacre.

Police went to the scene after they heard shots being fired. They came across the assailants, who shot at them. Policemen returned the fire and the attackers fled.

Soweto taxi war over

Soweton 4/12/92

THE bickering which has plagued Soweto Taxi Services (STS) and claimed nine lives is over - for the time being.

This follows a hectic meeting in Soweto yesterday at which the former executive, led by Dan Morabe, and the present executive, led by Raymond Mchunu, pledged to throw their guns and knives into the sea and work for peace.

Present were the executive committee of the Southern African Black Taxi Association (Sabta), Johannesburg region, led by chairman Moferefere Simelane and STS general membership.

Four men have appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court charged with murder following the deaths of Mac Hlongwane, Watson Monakisi, Fisher Makhoba, Peace Sithole, John Dubazana, a Mr Mabizela, a Mr Mazibuko, a Mr Ngcongolo and a Mr Mofokeng.

■ End to a conflict which has seen nine people lose their lives.

278

Both parties committed themselves to working towards peace and making STS a giant in the Sabta region.

The warring parties, who were at each other's throats for the past three months, agreed to the following conditions proposed by the regional executive:

- A four-man committee to be co-opted to STS executive whose main duty would be to monitor the prevailing violence.
- STS constitution to be reviewed by the region.

The next elections will be held in February.

Police 'averted massacre'

JOHANNESBURG. — Police reinforcements were sent to Ratanda township south of here yesterday after a night attack by a 200-strong mob left at least one person dead and nine injured.

The ANC said two people were killed.

An SAP statement said swift police action prevented a possible massacre.

The Peace Action Group alleged that the assailants were hostel dwellers.

In a search of Ratanda Hostel later yesterday police confiscated assegais, saying the weapons will be sent for forensic tests.

● Meanwhile in Natal hopes rose that refugees from fighting in Ntumzana north of Durban may be able to return home soon.

The Natal/KwaZulu Regional Dispute Resolution Committee (RDRC) said there is now good potential for families who left Ntumzuma to escape violence during the past two years to return home. This follows a "tough but successful" meeting between concerned groups yesterday.

The RDRC yesterday also welcomed today's planned launch of the Umbumbulu Local Dispute Resolution Committee on Natal's troubled upper South Coast.

Delegates expected to attend the launch represent the ANC, Inkatha, the Commonwealth, business and church groups.

The RDRC's Mr D Mitchell stressed the importance of the Umbumbulu meeting, saying "more than 70% of incidents in Natal have been taking place in this area".

● Durban mayor Ms Margaret Winter will switch on the headlights of the mayoral car at a City Hall function today intended to help bring peace to Natal.

The mass "switch-on" will be marked with a motorcade, Zulu dancers and the release of 1 000 balloons. — Sapa

278 CT 4/12

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Lawyer was 'stabbed till helpless'

STAR 4/12/92

A man accused of murdering Johannesburg advocate Legwai Pitje told the Rand Supreme Court yesterday how his policeman friend stabbed the lawyer inside a car until Pitje "was helpless".

Mohali Mothlabi (24), and special constable Seatile Matlose (25), both of Kagiso, have pleaded not guilty to kidnapping, robbing and murdering Pitje on July 12.

Mothlabi said in a fight on the back seat Matlose stabbed Pitje. The two men then put him in the car boot.

The trial continues. — Staff Reporter.

STAR 9/11/92 (2)8

3 policemen hurt in blast

Three policemen were injured when a grenade was thrown at their armoured car in Ratanda township near Heidelberg, last night.

An SAP spokesman said a police patrol was attacked while attempting to disperse a crowd of about 200 people at 10.45 pm. The three policemen were slightly injured.

Police and Defence Force troops conducted a search in the township between 3 am and 4 am today, but no arrests were made. — Sapa.



RAY OF HOPE: All is calm as a new day dawns in the Vaal Triangle, hopefully heralding a season of peace and goodwill.
● Photograph: JOAO SILVA

Fragile peace in the Vaal, but for how long?

Star 5/12/92. 278

JOE LOUW

POLICE, community leaders and residents of the violence-torn Vaal Triangle are holding their breath, hoping that the lull in unrest-related violence experienced over the past two weeks holds at least beyond the festive season.

An unprecedented relative peace has descended on the Vaal since the signing two weeks ago of a declaration by the Vaal Peace Summit, binding 20 major civic and political organisations and their memberships to a series of resolutions dedicated to peace.

Vaal police liaison officer Captain Piet van Deventer told the Saturday Star yesterday that unrest-related incidents had dropped to "practically none" in the past week. He said the heavy police presence in the area had contributed to this, but also welcomed community initiatives as helpful in the effort to control violence and crime.

A major resolution at the summit called for community control over self-defence units (SDUs) which were accused by township residents of serious crimes including shooting, necklacing, rape, and hijacking of vehicles.

Residents attending the conference gave horrifying accounts of bullying young cadres involved in some SDUs who had run amok and were terrorising communities they were supposed to protect.

While the summit stopped short of calling for the dismantling of SDUs, a strict code of conduct was drawn up.

This week Vaal Council of Churches spokesman the Rev Peter Moerane expressed optimism that the accord would hold. Moerane is part of an SA Council of Churches and international monitoring programme which has been visiting trouble spots in the townships of Evaton, Boipatong, Sebokeng and Orange Farm.

"Everywhere we went in the past week, people were expressing great hope that things will now go back to normal," he told the Saturday Star. "Normally we receive numerous complaints from residents about harassment, but these past two weeks it has been quiet except for one or two criminal acts."

Vaal Chamber of Commerce chairman George Thabe confirmed there had been a "remarkable decline" in negative incidents affecting businesses in the area. "We suffered great ly this year and welcome a cessation of hostilities. We can only pray that this is truly the beginning of normalisation."

An informal tour round the Vaal's townships by a Saturday Star team revealed a dramatic difference in the atmosphere from the period after the Boipatong massacre in June.

Taxis and buses move freely and the barricades and trenches that obstructed traffic have been removed. Most of the huge piles of garbage have been cleared and most services have been restored to normal. Everywhere holidaying schoolchildren play happily in the streets and most of the pervasive tension and fear felt previously has subsided.

Another indicator of a return to normality is the ongoing negotiations between the ANC Youth League and the SAP's Colonel Paddy Mazibuko for the return of black policemen to their township homes.

Morris More, a Youth League spokesman, said he hoped the present talks would iron out whatever misgivings existed between residents and police in the area.

However, a major threat to the peace is the question of payment for services and rent.

Payment of rent, electricity bills and service charges has reached an all-time low, with an average of less than 10 percent being collected.

The administrators of Sebokeng, Bophelong, Sharpeville and Boipatong issued a sharp warning this week that unless there were "a sudden and dramatic" improvement in payments, drastic steps would be taken from next month.

"Already 230 posts have been retrenched," the notice stated. "Unless payments are made, the level of 65 percent of the administration of these townships would be plunged into bankruptcy".

Administrators said they would have no alternative but to drastically cut back on services from January 1.

● See Page 4

Suspect arrested over train killing

MONTSHIWA MOROKE

POLICE have arrested an alleged train killer as a result of assistance from a witness, Witwatersrand police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce said yesterday.

Bruce said the arrest was "unique" because it was the first time since the carnage started that an arrest had been made with the help of a member of the public.

The suspect was named as hostel resident Mkhuluzana Zulu (41).

Bruce said a second suspect was sought by police. Zulu was charged with killing Elmont Mandla, of Transkei, at Cleveland station on November 4.

A further charge of attempted murder of a second commuter was being investigated.

Bruce said that as a result of the suspect's arrest, an AK-47 assault rifle and a quantity of rounds of ammunition were discovered. Zulu had been charged with their possession.

Ballistic tests would be carried out to determine whether the AK-47 had been used in any attacks.

"However, this is not the murder weapon. We are looking for a 9 mm pistol.

"The mere fact that we have confiscated this firearm means we may have saved lives. People who commit crimes on trains are not boy scouts. They perpetrate the most barbaric acts," Bruce said.

Police had repeatedly stated that without the assistance of the public it was difficult to investigate cases of murder. In any criminal investigation, the police depended on witnesses who might have information to pass on.

Fiery Sotsu has become the Vaal comrades' hero

STAR 5/12/92 (278)

Fire-eating ANC Vaal leader Ernest Sotsu has been portrayed as one of the most dangerous activists in the violence-racked Vaal Triangle. JOE LOUW interviewed him, and found him to be lonely and near-destitute.

ERNEST Sotsu, once described as the most dangerous man in the Vaal Triangle, considers himself a man of peace.

The fiery Boipatong activist, who has been in the eye of violent political storms that have recently rocked the Vaal, is admired by Vaal youth as a true grassroots leader. Yet, at heart he is a lonely man.

Now 65 years old and almost destitute, Sotsu is proud of the fact that he has spent most of his adult life as an activist.

When violence engulfed the Vaal two years ago, Sotsu spearheaded calls for the formation of community self-defence units (SDUs).

Last week, a major peace initiative attended by most of the civic and political organisations in the Vaal examined and demanded the restructuring of the SDUs, which have become, in many areas, the scourge of the communities they are supposed to protect.

He speaks without bitterness of the traumatic events that have punctuated his life. On July 3 last year, he hurriedly returned from an African National Congress conference in Durban to his home in Boipatong to find his house burnt down and his wife and children murdered.

"At first I was consumed with rage," he said. "But I consider myself a true Christian and most of my anger has subsided now. I rejoice in my grandchildren, Sandile and Khaya, born since the massacre."

Sotsu believes his family fell victim to a hit squad which had targeted him because he was chief organiser for the ANC in the area.

Born in a small village of Qumbu near Umtata in Transkei, he was deeply influenced by the political activity stirred up by the ANC in the 1950s. He was soon involved in the Defiance Campaign and, by the time the Freedom Charter was launched in Kliptown in 1955, he was a full-time activist in the Vaal area.

By the 1980s, with the ANC banned, he was "knee-deep in the underground movement" recruiting youths and helping to build up Umkhonto we Sizwe. "I went on many very dangerous missions in and out of Transkei and Lesotho," he says. "I had to be very wily and pose as many different kinds of people."

He was finally captured at the Transkei border, charged with murder and terrorism and jailed for five years by the Matanzima government. In jail he met and "rubbed shoulders with" the young Brigadier Bantu Holomisa, who eventually set him free in 1984.

Sotsu plunged back into Vaal politics on his return to his home in Boipatong. He was a key leader in the campaigns against black city councils and the ensuing rent boycotts. But he felt a deep need to work with the thousands of workers in the various hostels, especially those at Sebokeng and KwaMasiza.

His clarity of thought and talent as an orator soon gained him many converts among the hostel dwellers.

But, while he was gaining allies, he was also attracting enemies. He became caught up in the internal squabbles of the National Union of Metalworkers, which eventually exploded to make the Sebokeng Hostel one of the Vaal's key flashpoints.

Sotsu was accused of being power-mad and embittered because of being sidelined by the ANC. He denies this.

Serious violence broke out in the Vaal just after the unbanning of the ANC in 1990.

"The need for communities to defend themselves became obvious. Inkatha impis were running rampant and to me it was very clear that the regime had a hand in destabilising our communities," he says.

"The ANC and Communist Party did not do much in the structuring of these units. This turned out to be a major mistake, for it left the door open for these units to be exploited by the regime. They were quickly infiltrated, not only by agents provocateurs, but also by the tsotsi and thug element.

"Soon we had a situation where the units were gettting totally out of control."

Sotsu says he supports the initiatives of the Vaal community organisations for peace but does not see much hope unless positive steps are taken to reorganise the SDUs.

"We are all hopeful for peace," he says, "but we will have to work hard. We will have to implement the resolutions that want the SDUs put under strict community control and revamped with a new set of operating rules holding them accountable not only to the communities but to a regional structure."

Unrest areas declared

(278) (57)

FIVE magisterial districts in the western Transvaal have been declared unrest areas, the police public relations division said yesterday.

The areas are Vryburg, Delareyville, Mariko, Rustenburg and Lichtenburg.

STAR 5/12/92

There was no official confirmation, but the decision appears to have been taken in view of fears of disruptions to this month's independence celebrations in Bophuthatswana.

It was earlier reported that Vryburg, in the northern Cape, had also been declared an unrest area. — Sapa.

'No clues' on weapons find

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

TWO weeks after weapons were found at Buyafuthi Hostel in Katlehong on the East Rand, police confirmed that no one has been arrested or questioned in connection with the large haul.

Police spokesman Capt Eugene Opperman said police had "no clue" about the origin of the weapons found in a room at the hostel.

The cache included seven RPG rockets, 28 magazines for AK-47 rifles, 2 242 rounds of ammunition for AK-47 rifles, 431 rounds for a 6.65 pistol and 23 AK-47 rifles.

The discovery was a result of a joint operation conducted by the SADF and SAP personnel after a tip-off, police said.

Opperman said police were unable to arrest or question anyone as inmates of the hostel refused to talk to the police.

A Civic Associations of Southern Africa (Cast) statement said the discovery did not come as a surprise. It added that a number of hostels identified by residents as "harbouring killers and arms" have been left in peace by the security forces.

The organisation said it was not impressed by the discovery because in the past such weapons had been handed back to the warlords.

The discovery confirmed former Inkatha Codesa delegate Bruce Anderson's allegation that there was smuggling of military equipment and distribution among Inkatha's warlords.

"The main depot of arms in Roodeport has not been visited by the police," the Cast statement said, adding the arms were obtained from Renamo.

"Unless the security forces are under the control of an interim government, (President) De Klerk will continue to use them to further his political objectives."

Police close in on five areas

FIVE magisterial districts in the western Transvaal have been declared unrest areas, police said on Friday. Citizen 6/12/92 (278)

The areas are Vryburg, Delareyville, Marico, Rustenburg and Lichtenburg.

There was no official confirmation, but the decision may have been taken in view of fears of disruptions during this month's independence celebrations in Bophuthatswana.

Cleveland attack: man held

POLICE arrested a 41-year-old hostel resident and seized an AK-47 rifle following an attack on commuters at Cleveland station in Johannesburg a month ago during which commuter Elmont Mandla was killed.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Lt-Col Dave Bruce said Mkhuluzana Zulu appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on Thursday and had been remanded in custody until December 17.

Col Bruce said the arrest was a breakthrough for police in that an arrest in connection with train killings had been made for the first time due to the assistance of a member of the public.

He declined to name the hostel where the accused lived, saying police did not wish to increase tension which could spark revenge attacks.

Calls can be made to the toll-free numbers 0800-1110-141 or 0800-1112-13.

■ **Reports by Sapa.**

'Cops fired without warning'

(278) Cipress 6/12/92

By JETHRO SEREISHO

BOIKHUTSO township, which means a place of rest, was the scene of bloody fighting this week.

Lethal force unleashed by the police on an unarmed but defiant crowd of about 4 000 residents at the Lichtenburg township claimed the lives of three protesters.

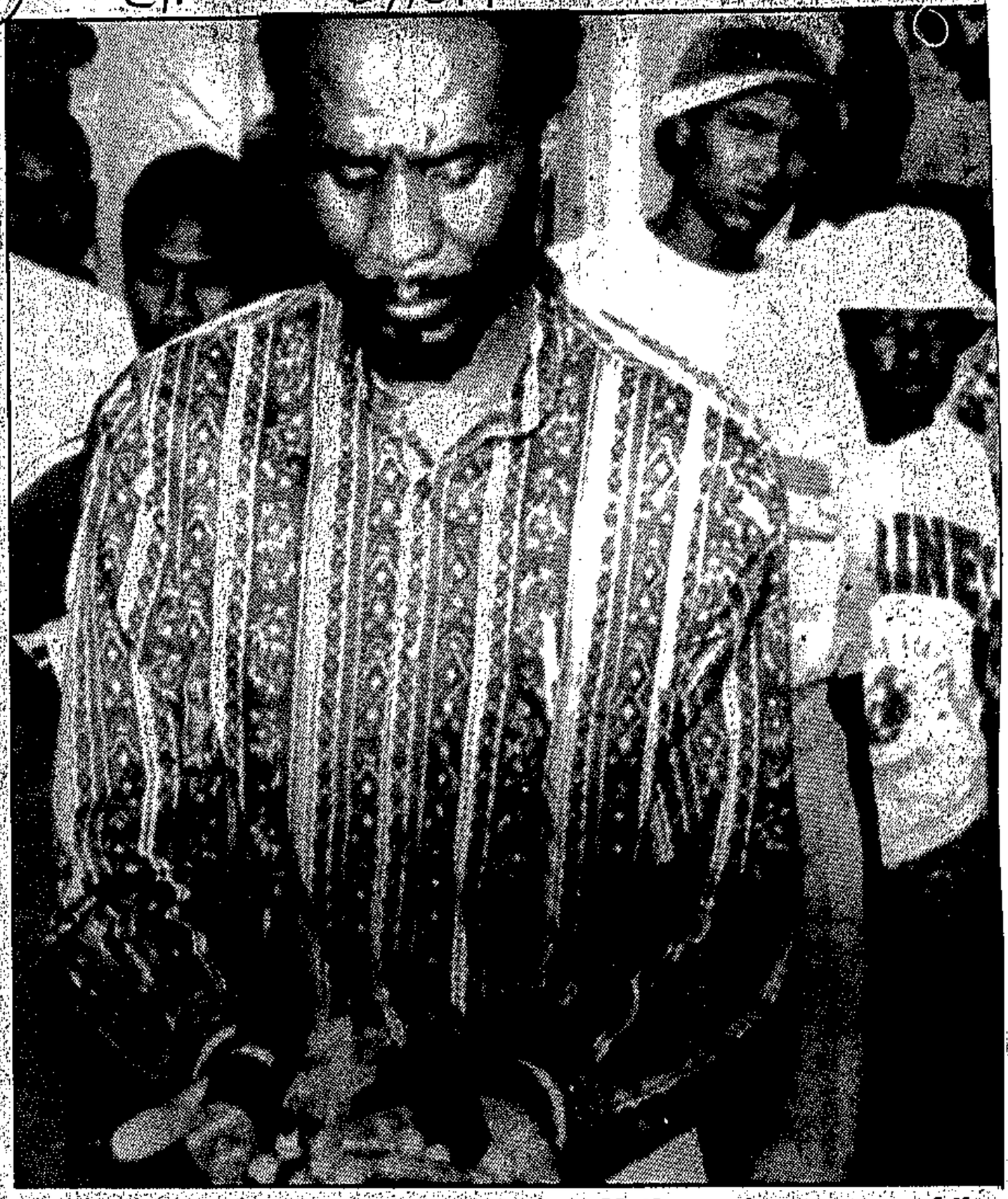
The fatal shooting of the three and the wounding of 36 other residents of Boikhutso followed police action to disperse the crowd who had vowed to besiege the town council's offices to force authorities to meet their demands.

Residents, who were protesting against high rents, electricity and water bills, were to confront the council about their demands when police launched the attack.

According to witnesses, police warned the crowd to disperse within five minutes as the gathering was illegal, but the people defied the police and chanted revolutionary songs.

Police then opened fire, killing three people and wounding three dozen others.

Local ANC spokesman George Mathuse accused police of shooting without warning.



LETHAL FORCE ... ANC member George Mathuse shows some of the ammunition police used against the protesters. ■ **Pic: THULANI SITHOLE**

"The shooting started when negotiations between the police and a delegation of residents were in progress," Mathuse alleged.

Those who were killed were identified as Koos Mutle, Lazarus Kenosi and Jonny Maxambo.

In the battle that ensued between the police and the protesters, a private car was set alight.

Police confirmed the incident, saying three people had been arrested for public violence and malicious damage to property.

More cops in Ratanda after attack

POLICE reinforcements were sent to Ratanda township near Heidelberg this week in the wake of an attack on residents by a 200-strong mob which left at least one person dead. (2-18)

Police spokesman Capt Eugene Opperman said one man was hacked and stabbed to death and nine people, including two girls aged four and five, were injured in the attack. CP Pres 6/12/92

ANC branch chairman Obed Nkosi claimed two people were killed.

A SAP statement said swift police action prevented a possible massacre.

Police said they went to the scene after they heard shots being fired. They came across the assailants who shot at them. Policemen returned fire and the attackers fled.

The Peace Action Group claimed in a statement that the assailants were hostel dwellers.

Police said spears and assegais confiscated from the Ratanda hostel would be sent for forensic tests.

Eleven houses were also damaged by petrol bombs in overnight attacks. – Sapa

Beauties march for peace

CT News 6/12/92

UNDER scorching sun and through streets and malls thick with bustling shoppers, contestants for the Miss Black South Africa beauty pageant marched in central Johannesburg on Friday afternoon.

They took to the streets to spread a message of peace and to call for an end to the violence that has killed 3 000 people this year.

"Peace in our land" cried a banner held aloft as the 26 contestants meandered through streets, halting traffic.

"We are marching to emphasise the need and the urgency of the situation. There is so much violence," said Miss Soweto Thembi Mhlayivana. (278)

The contestants, sporting white tracksuits, marched gleefully from a popular Johannesburg club past the ANC headquarters and then fought their way through the Smal Street Mall and finally rounded a five-star hotel – Sapa.

Godfather warned to quit

■ Moloi says campaign is aimed at destroying his businesses:

(278)

By Isaac Moledi Soweten 7/12/92

RESIDENTS of Mapetla in Soweto have been urged to resume a boycott of the businesses of tycoon Mr Godfrey "Godfather" Moloi.

Pamphlets distributed in the area say this should be done "to pledge solidarity with his victims".

The pamphlets, distributed house-to-house in the area, say Moloi was told to quit the area as he was now an enemy of the community.

He was likened to the Ciskei strongman Brigadier Oupa Gqozo and described as a "butcher of the community".

The pamphlets also say Moloi had stated last year that he hated Mapetla residents. Moloi allegedly ordered a Mapetla football team to quit the soccer grounds which he later used for his own players.

"The campaign is just to destroy my business, but whoever did it, I'm appealing to the rest of the community to come and pray with me. Let God forgive them," Moloi said yesterday.

He said he would not be threatened by "faceless and anonymous" people.

news in

Sowetan 7/12/92

Farmers fight crime

A DELEGATION of farmers from Losberg in the south-western Transvaal has requested a meeting with State President FW de Klerk to discuss the spate of attacks on farmers in the area.

The delegation, under the leadership of the Conservative Party MP for Losberg, Fanie Jacobs, agreed on Thursday that a feature of the criminal activities - which included murder and armed robbery - was well-organised attacks in which a political motive could not be ruled out.

The delegation said the criminal elements in many cases came from the squatter camp in neighbouring Fochville. Others came from Sebokeng and Johannesburg.

Moloi slams reports about planned boycott

■ Pamphlet was distributed in one street only:

Sowetan 8/12/92

By Thami Mazwai

SOWETO businessman Mr Godfrey "Louis Luyt" Moloi yesterday slammed reports in *Sowetan* that Mapetla residents have been urged to resume a boycott of his businesses.

He said a "pamphlet" calling for a boycott of his businesses was issued by nameless people and residents had ignored it.

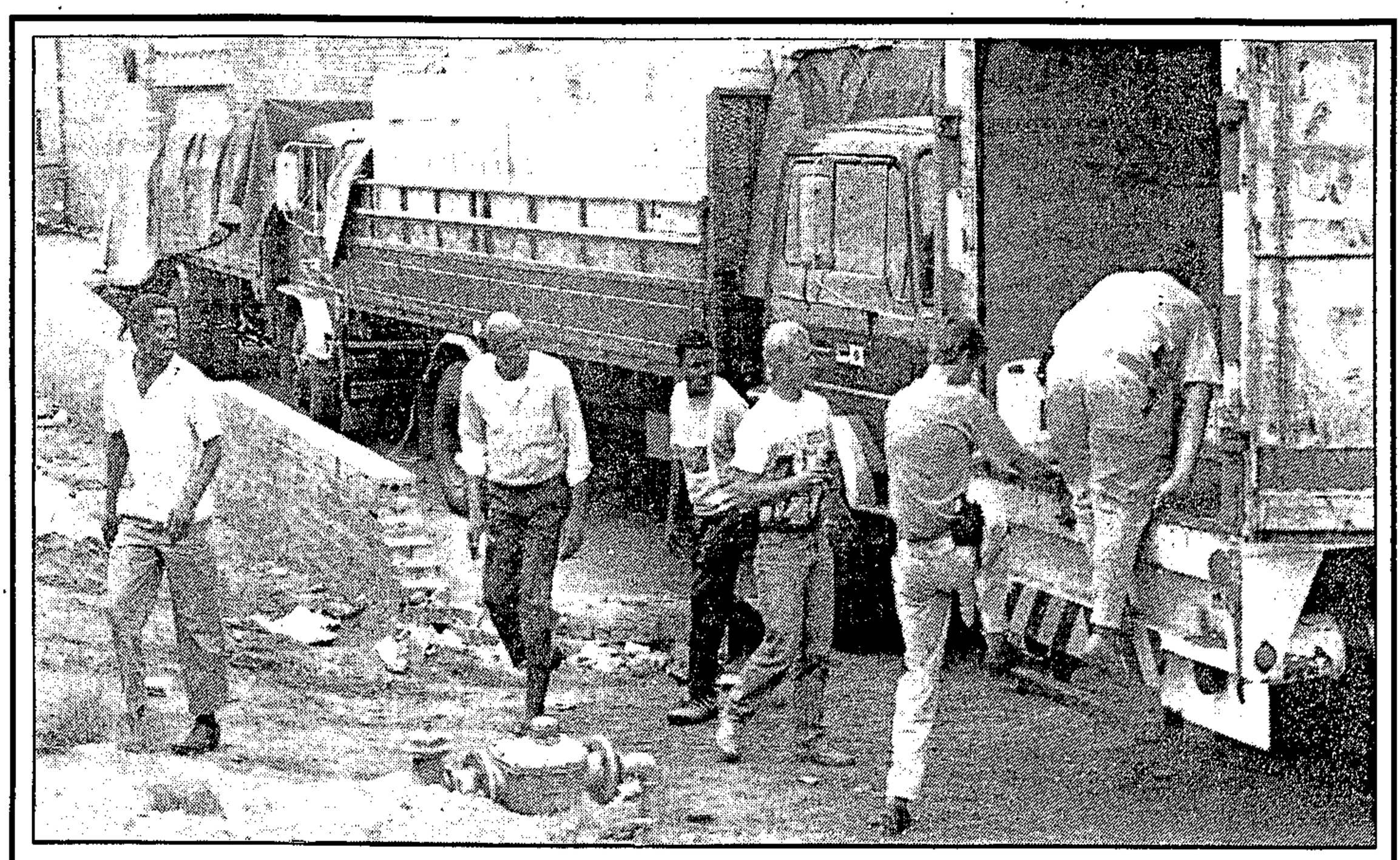
"It was distributed a week ago and only in one street," he said.

"My businesses have not been affected and I am operating normally," he continued.

He added that preparations for the annual party for the elderly he sponsors were in full swing.

He also objected to continuing negative reports that, "only created conflict in the community and ignored the good being done."

NEWS Arrest warrant for cop who failed to turn up at inquest



POLICE IN ACTION ... This truck is among the four which were destined for Mozambique with stolen goods. Soweto police thwarted the attempt when the drivers were about to drive out of the country. PIC: MBUZENI ZULU

Warrant out for cop

Sowetan 9/12/92

By Mzimase Ngudle

MEMORY LAPSE Family members grumble as officers are cross-examined:

278

A WARRANT FOR THE ARREST of a policeman allegedly involved in the killing of Umkhonto we Sizwe cadre Tumi Padi last year was issued in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Daniel Knoester, one of the six policemen who attacked Padi's home in Phiri, Soweto, failed to appear at the inquest and the magistrate, Mr JW Botha, immediately issued a warrant for his arrest.

Family members grumbled in the courtroom yesterday when three of the policemen had a memory lapse during cross-examination.

Constable Harry Mhlanga said he could not remember to whom he made his statement regarding the incident.

He could not remember whether he took an oath but could recall that he gave his statement to Lieutenant Herman Havenga, a colleague who was also involved in the attack.

Sergeant Moeledi Moagi said he had forgotten who made him sign his statement. He also gave his statement to Havenga and not to the investigating officer.

Asked why they gave their statements to Havenga and not to the investigating officer, both policemen said they did not know who the investigating officer was.

Detective Constable Mandla Ncele admitted that he usually imprinted an affidavit stamp in the absence of persons making statements, even days after the date on which they made statements.

Investigating officer Captain M Matadin told the court that Padi was killed on May 19 when he tried to pull out the pin of a handgrenade when police came to arrest him.

The police then fired 33 shots, killing him on the spot. His girlfriend, Ms Nokuzola Ncalo, was also shot dead during the attack. The hearing continues.

Police seize arms, cars in Vosloorus

STAR 9/12/92

By Charlotte James

East Rand police seized firearms, ammunition and two stolen cars when they swooped on two houses in Vosloorus on Monday afternoon. Six men and a woman were arrested.

An SAP spokesman said police from the Motor Vehicle Theft Unit swooped on the houses where they found a Browning pistol, an AK-47 rifle and ammunition.

(218)

A stolen Mercedes-Benz and a Toyota Corolla were discovered on the scene. Police also found police camouflage clothes, including two shirts, a pair of trousers, a cap and a belt.

An investigating officer said the probe would continue because the police were on to something big.

form from among 22 400 entries are: Moffat Mangole, Naphtal Nxumalo, Steve Makgalemele, Sello Rabothata and Ephraim Lukoto.

meeting is open to the public - all who have a drinking problem and those who want to help loved ones to stop drinking.

Businessman injured in handgrenade blast

Sowetan 10/12/92 (278)

By Josias Charle and
Own Correspondent

NO MOTIVE Attack not related to politics:

A SOSHANGUVE BUSINESSMAN was seriously injured early yesterday when a handgrenade was hurled through his bedroom window and gouged holes in the concrete floor and walls when it exploded.

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"I can't see any other choice," Mr Simon Mashika said of his friend's injuries.

Skhosana was admitted to the Garankuwa hospital after his left side was injured during the 2am blast at his house in Block AA, Soshanguve.

Mashika said he could think of no motive for the attack as Skhosana was not involved in politics. He also denied the attack could be related to a "taxi war".

Police spokesman Major Andrew Lesch yesterday confirmed the incident and said Skhosana was injured in the left leg, face and right shoulder. His wife was not hurt.

Lesch said this was not a political attack.

"He is a businessman and is not involved in politics", Lesch said. No arrests had yet been made. Police are investigating.

A spokesman for the Garankuwa Hospital said Skhosana underwent surgery and his condition was "serious but stable".

Mashika said he was woken by the sound of the explosion and found his friend lying on the ground when he went to investigate.

"It was a very loud bang and when I went to investigate I saw Paulus and his wife lying on the floor of their bedroom," he said.

"He was bleeding a lot from a wound in his cheek and from his left hand and foot.

"His foot looked like a spread out hand. I think they will have to cut it off."

SARACINA STA

Killer cop gets 18 years in jail

278

EMPANGENI policeman Warrant-Officer Hendrik Steyn was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment yesterday for the murder and attempted murder of two African National Congress supporters.

Steyn (30) was convicted this week of murdering Michael Mthethwa and attempting to murder Simon Msweli during a shootout with the police near Kwambonambi in Natal on August 14.

The shootout left three policemen dead.

■ ANC members' deaths were carried out in a cold-blooded manner:

Sowetan 10/12/92

During sentencing in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court on Wednesday morning, Mr Justice Page said while there had been mitigating circumstances which did not warrant the death sentence, the crimes had been carried out in such a cold-blooded manner that a severe sentence was required.

Justice Page said although it was clear that Steyn had deliberately fired at the two men, he was unable to say with certainty that Msweli had not been dead at the time. After the shootout Msweli and Mthethwa were loaded into a police bakkie so that they could be taken to hospital.

On the way Steyn instructed the driver to stop.

The two ANC members were then offloaded and Steyn fired shots at them.

prayer meeting

Kid to deliver plea

Sowetan 10/12/92

By Sonti Maseko 278

Women Calling for Peace hope to spread reconciliation message:

TODAY at the Standard Bank Arena in Johannesburg a child will tell thousands of people gathered there how the violence ravaging the country has devastated his family.

Through the child's testimony, an organisation, Women Calling for Peace, hopes to send a message of peace and reconciliation and mobilise people against violence.

The occasion is a prayer meeting for peace and to save the children.

Everybody is invited to the session, the last prayer meeting for the year which would also be for peace during the Christmas season from 2pm.

"Again the women will be coming together, as they do every Thursday to pray for peace and to save the children," said co-ordinator of the meeting, the Reverend Motlalepula Chabaku.

Supporting the action of the Women Calling for Peace is chairman of the National Peace Committee Mr John Hall, who said yesterday, "Handling the problem of violence, poverty and despair required a contribution from all citizens in the country, of which the most powerful is prayer,".

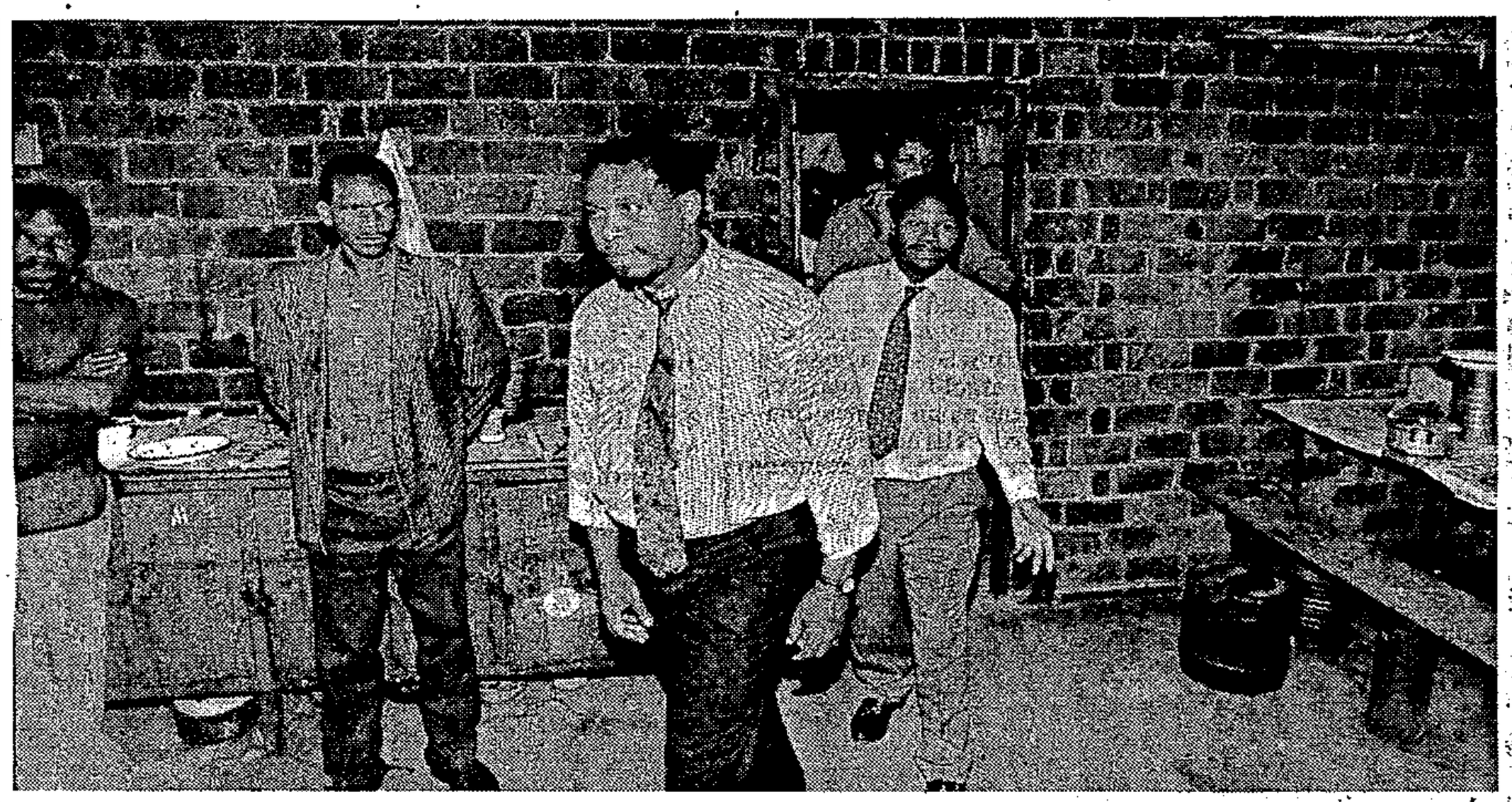
Churchmen throughout the country, the Reverend Frank Chikane, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Pastor Ray McCauley and Professor Johan Heyns, also strongly support the women's initiative.

"It is your children who are dying, pray, we need you," Bishop Tutu said.

Pastor McCauley commended the women, "for holding up the hands of the leaders in the country in prayer, to give them wisdom and insight".

Buses will be made available to transport people to the arena from various points in the Reef. Arrangements for transport can be made





ANC PWV region chairman Tokyo Sexwale, centre, inspecting Meadowlands hostel yesterday. Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

UN, OAU tour hostel

ADRIAN HADLAND

SOWETO's troubled Meadowlands hostel was visited yesterday by UN observers and OAU representative Shaddy Sibajene in an effort to comprehend the violence that has reduced large sections of the hostel to a burnt-out shell.

The visit comes in the wake of a recent agreement signed by the ANC's PWV region and the Transvaal Hostel Residents' Association in which reconciliation between hostel dwellers and nearby communities was deemed essential before upgrading and development could be undertaken.

ANC PWV region chairman Tokyo Sexwale said joint rallies between hostel dwellers and members of surrounding communities would be organised as a way to encourage the peaceful reintegration of the region's 32 hostels.

Sexwale reiterated the demand of the association/ANC agreement that funds earmarked by government for hostel upgrading be transferred to the National Housing Forum.

He called on business, the churches and the UN to contribute to the upgrading programme and said visits to other hostels were to be arranged.

Meadowlands hostel chairman Wesley Dlamini, who showed the UN, OAU, ANC and media representatives the condition at the hostel, said the hostel issue had to be depoliticised if any progress was to be made.

Businessman injured in handgrenade blast

Sowetan 10/12/92 278

By Josias Charle and
Own Correspondent

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"His foot looked like a spread out hand. I think they will have to cut it off."

news in brief

Sowetan 11/12/92 278

Four injured in rail attacks

FOUR people were injured on Wednesday and yesterday morning in incidents on or near railway properties in the Germiston area on the East Rand, Witwatersrand police spokesman Warrant-Officer Andy Pieke reported. On Wednesday at 6am a man was injured when pushed from a moving train between Delmore and Germiston stations.

Less than two hours later a man was found with stab wounds near the Elsburg Station. At 5,30pm a 49-year-old man was stabbed in his back and then pushed out of a moving train between Katlehong and Wadeville stations. He was admitted to the Willem Cruywagen Hospital where he has still to regain consciousness.

PAC man shot dead in street (278)

Staff Reporter

Pan Africanist Congress member Mzwandile Enoch Ngaleka (38) was shot dead in Katlehong's Ramokonopi Section on his way to work on Wednesday morning.

STAR 11/12/92

A relative, Abel Masike, said Ngaleka left his home at 5 am. A while later, a neighbour reported that he was lying in a pool of blood in the street.

Masike said Ngaleka was shot in the head. His body was later removed by the police.

The SAP is investigating the shooting.

Magistrate acquits cop who shot cowering boy

By DAN DHLAMINI

THERE was elation and bitterness in the Potchefstroom Regional Court this week when the magistrate acquitted a cop who fatally wounded a student who hid under a bed.

Bongi Nyokong's mother Elizabeth Mathapelo Boqo and relatives wept bitterly while Constable Ephraim Fente Rampete exchanged smiles of victory, shaking hands with colleagues and advocate EM Coetzee, who successfully defended him in the murder trial which emanated from an inquest two years ago.

In discharging Rampete Magistrate LP Virtue said independent pathologist Dr Jonathan Gluckman's admission this week that there were some mistakes in his statement weighed in favour of Rampete.

The magistrate said Dr Gluckman's inquest report on how Nyokong, a Tlokwe Secondary School Standard Nine pupil died on February 23 1990, had prompted the Attorney General's decision to prosecute Rampete in a criminal court.

The elderly Dr Gluckman who has been a pathologist for the past 40 years made newspaper headlines recently when he said police were responsible for most deaths in detention.

This week Dr Gluckman accused Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel of trying to discredit him over allegations that criminal police actions caused the deaths of detainees.

During cross examination Dr Gluckman conceeded that he had made a mistake when he said the shot which hit Nyokong had been fired about 12 inches away from the deceased whereas it was much nearer as testified by both Dr Klupp and Rampete.

Earlier, State pathologist Patricia Klupp testified that Nyokong's injuries were in line with allegations that he was shot at a very close range while under the bed.

Her evidence correlated with that of Rampete who said Nyokong had grabbed the barrel of the gun and in the ensuing struggle a shot went off hitting him in an arm. Nyokong died of his injuries at Potchefstroom's Kallie de Haas hospital.

The magistrate said there were no eyewitnesses who saw exactly what happened inside the bedroom of school teacher Marcus Mosete on February 23 1990,

Magistrate Virtue said it was clear that Rampete's intention was not to kill Nyokong, but to arrest him because he could have shot him during an earlier chase.

He said police were targets at that time and their attackers were dangerous.

Sipho in the wars again

City News 13/12/92 278

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

CONTROVERSY surrounds the severe and brutal attack of an ANC member a week ago in Johannesburg. He was found unconscious and bleeding profusely with multiple head injuries.

Michael McCuaig, 27, alias Sipho Dhlomo of Emdeni in Soweto, had a close shave with death after he was attacked by unknown men and left for dead in Troyeville's Bezuidenhout Street two weeks ago.

Dhlomo claimed he was attacked by security police but he doubts whether he would be able to identify them.

However, Dhlomo said that two days before his attack, he received a death threat from an anonymous caller.

"The caller accused me of supplying comrades with firearms and causing trouble in Meadowlands," Dhlomo said.

A township source told City Press that comrades in the area were angry with Dhlomo after he nearly got them killed in Meadowlands.

Dhlomo said he was not prepared to report his assault to the police because in the past they were unable to investigate similar complaints he had made to them.

A staff member at the hospital said Dhlomo was badly injured and critical on admission.

"Both eyes were swollen and he couldn't see until three days later. He had sustained about 10 gashes on the head. It looked liked he was hacked."

Dhlomo said he did not know where the attack took place or even how many people were involved.

"I know the security police don't like me. In September I was stabbed by police in Orlando," Dhlomo said.

Neighbours told City Press that Dhlomo had gone missing for some time shortly before his adopted parents left for the Transkei.

Dhlomo was staying with Sylvia Sicelo, mother of Sicelo Dhlomo. Sicelo, 18, was found shot dead in January 1988 after he gave an interview to CBS television for a documentary. Sipho had then offered himself to the family and adopted the name "Sipho" meaning a gift.

Dhlomo said he was working for the ANC but this could not be confirmed.



VICTIM . . . Sipho Dhlomo was assaulted and left for dead. ■ Pic: TLADI KHUELE

Shots at Vosloo meeting

Soweton 14/12/92 278

■ Councillor fired after house, car damaged, say police:

By Lulama Luti and Sapa

A VOSLOORUS councillor was pelted with stones, his council vehicle set on fire and his house damaged after a public meeting in Vosloorus yesterday, police have confirmed.

Several shots were fired during the violence but liaison officer Captain Ida van Zweel said police had received no reports of any injuries.

Earlier, a Vosloorus Civic Association (VCA) spokesman alleged seeing the councillor, Mr Sam Petrus Mkize (59), firing shots at people leaving the meeting in the township's stadium.

He alleged that at 12.15pm yesterday, Vosloorus residents were leaving the stadium after a meeting organised by the VCA concerning the cutting off of water and electricity supplies to the township.

He heard shots and on running outside had seen Mkize with a gun. "People were closing in on him," said the spokesman.

In her account Van Zweel said that as those leaving the stadium passed the councillor's house, Mkize had pulled up in a council car.

After being stoned by members of the crowd, the councillor opened fire.

His car was burnt, causing R30 000 damage. He was slightly injured in the left ankle and his house was stoned.

The police were investigating charges of attempted murder and of public violence, Van Zweel said.

No arrests had yet been made.

Allegedly shot

A senior official of the VCA, Mr Jabu Dumane, identified the man allegedly shot by the councillor as Mr Themba Mngwevu.

He was allegedly shot at after a public meeting which was held at the local stadium.

Dumane said Mkize fired on residents returning from the meeting "without any provocation".

Dumane said yesterday's public meeting resolved to intensify the consumer boycott of white businesses in Boksburg. The boycott started on December 1.

House builders quit troubled Vaal townships

STAR 14/12/92

278

The housing shortage is chronic, but white developers are frightened to enter the area where they are robbed of materials, vehicles and theatened with death, reports JOSHUA RABOROKO.

Most white property developers building homes for blacks are pulling out of Vaal Triangle townships as a result of the escalating violence, despite the critical shortage of homes in the area.

The property developers maintain that their new homes have been vandalised, building materials have been stolen and vehicles hijacked by unruly elements who have made the area "altogether ungovernable and extremely dangerous".

Personnel at some of the offices have been attacked and robbed of money, while some are living in fear of their lives after death threats have been made.

Losses

According to sources, only two of the 15 property developers are still operating in the beleaguered areas.

However, it is feared they, too, might leave after colleagues reported losses of millions of rands.

Property developer Johan Killian has said he lost R250 000 as a result of materials being stolen and vehicles hijacked while building new homes in Zone 17, Sebokeng, in the past nine months.

In the latest of these attacks an employee was driving in Sebokeng when group of people armed with AK-47s stopped the vehicle and ordered him out last week.

They left with the bakkie that was carrying R16 000 worth of building material. Killian said his vehicle was valued at R20 000.

He said that since February business had been very bad in the townships as a result of criminal and other elements.

"We just cannot operate our companies in the present conditions," he said.

Killian said it was difficult to operate in Boipatong in the aftermath of the massacre in June.

Violence had brought everything virtually to a standstill, he said, adding: "If you go there, you are not sure you will come back."

Most of the developers have left the remaining jobs with black sub-contractors who were also experiencing problems because they were seen to be sell-outs.

Killian said he had built more than 800 homes in Vaal Triangle townships since 1984, but had never encountered the problems he had to face this year.

"This is the worst year in my business," he said.

He explained that their problems were compounded by the fact that building societies and financial institutions were reluctant to grant home loans to blacks.

Another property developer, Andre Pienaar, said building a new home in Sebokeng was almost impossible. He said before a house was completed, material was stolen and deliveries disrupted by unruly elements in the townships.

"It is dangerous to operate a business with a gun virtually pointing at your head all the time.

"We are living in fear of our lives and have decided to quit the townships in the wake of the growing violence," Pienaar said.

He had built homes in Zone 6 and 7 in Sebokeng.

His remaining jobs were passed on to black sub-contractors — probably with the view to empower them economically, he said.

Most of the developers have left and indicated that they might return when things become better in the trouble-torn Vaal Triangle townships next year.

Pienaar said he would probably take contracts to build for private companies, rather than go into "the troubled waters".

Killian said it seemed the whole building system had "fallen flat on its face" in the townships after numerous charges had been laid at police stations.

Estimates

This a very sad story indeed at a time when hundreds of people are without homes and living in squatter camps in the area.

It is estimated that more than 100 000 people are homeless and living in squatter camps and backyards in the area.

A police spokesman said more police were being deployed in the area.

There were many robberies, including the hijacking of vehicles, but the spokesman could not say if they belonged to any particular property developer.

The police would investigate every case after charges had been laid.

Gunmen kill Vaal policeman

(278) CT 14/12/92

JOHANNESBURG. — Another policeman has been killed in the Vaal Triangle township of Sebokeng, Witwatersrand police said at the weekend.

Constable Dawid Tsotetsi was shot dead by four men with AK-47 rifles when he arrived at his home. The gunmen fled on foot after taking his pistol.

● Two young men were found dead in Alexandra township, north of Johannesburg, at the weekend, apparently also shot with AK-47 rifles, police said.

● In Imbali, near Maritzburg, on Saturday night an Inkatha Freedom Party official, Mr Philip Vulindlela, survived an ambush — reportedly the third on him in the past week.

● The ANC in the Southern Free State cancelled their planned protest march on Saturday from Botshabelo to Thaba Nchu township in Bophuthatswana.

A Vosloorus councillor, Mr Sam Makize, 59, was pelted with stones, his council vehicle set on fire and his house damaged yesterday following a meeting on water and power cuts in the south-east Witwatersrand township, police have confirmed. — Sapa

Reef hostels expect a peaceful Christmas

Blorky 15/12/92 (278)

RAY HARTLEY

REEF hostel residents were looking forward to a peaceful Christmas in stark contrast to the violence which ripped through the area during the festive season last year, police and community spokesmen said yesterday.

In the past month there has been a sharp decrease in incidents of violence in areas around hostels. Politicians, hostel organisations and police said yesterday they hoped the relative peace would last.

Police emphasised there would be no relaxation in their vigilance over Christmas.

Transvaal Hostel Residents' Association general secretary Leonard Mweli said the signing of an agreement on upgrading of accommodation between the association and the ANC earlier this month had reduced tensions in and around hostels.

Mweli said tensions had been lowered since "the people saw the leaders of the hostels talking to the ANC" about ways of improving living standards in hostels.

Police spokesman Lt Brahm du Preez said a three-pronged police strategy of searching, patrolling and seizing weapons had paid dividends. Although no figures were yet available, violence had declined "substantially".

Last week the Human Rights Commission reported a nine-month low of 263 deaths in political violence countrywide, with a significant decline in the PWV area.

Mweli warned raised expectations about hostel upgrading by the TPA were not being met, and said money had been "wasted on consultants" when it should have been spent on building and renovation. He said hostel dwellers were beginning to question the sincerity of TPA "consultations" when recommendations were ignored.

Residents of Thokoza hostel had been promised extensive upgrading by the TPA,

☐ To Page 2

... shop at the hospital, that he examination.

Hostels

Blorky 15/12/92 (278)

☐ From Page 1

but the hostel had simply been painted and residents were asked to pay more rent when they returned to their rooms, he said.

Mweli said hostel residents needed to have more say in what was being done with the R326m set aside for renovations by the TPA. Some of the money could go towards training hostel residents for the job market, he added.

The ANC has called on the TPA to hand the money to the National Housing Forum.

TPA spokesman Magda du Toit said the TPA could not comment on the ANC demand as the money was still in the hands of the Local Government Department.

She said the TPA needed more time to respond to the allegations made about upgrading at the Thokoza hostel.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the bilateral agreement with hostel residents had led to greater integration into surrounding communities. But he stressed that fencing had been included in the agreement as part of upgrading.

Inkatha spokesman Ed Tillet said increased police patrols to protect those attending Inkatha meetings had reduced attacks on hostel dwellers.

Agreements between hostel residents and the ANC, PAC and civic organisations had played a major role in quelling violence along with the "cooling down of the political temperature" after the ANC's mass action campaign, he said.



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BERGKELDER

Causes of taxi war pinpointed

B1DAY 15/12/92

UNBRIDLED commercial rivalry and intolerance among rival taxi associations were the main causes of taxi violence in Alexandra township, the Goldstone commission said yesterday.

Releasing its report on the taxi violence in Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, the commission said the immediate and root causes of the violence lay with the taxi operators themselves.

But the report also pointed a finger at the authorities, saying it was clear the sudden booming of the minibus taxi industry in Alexandra was not foreseen and no timely strategy was devised to accommodate it and to deal with the industry's problems.

There was no formal taxi rank. At one rank, more than 500 taxi operators plied their trade, but there were no facilities such as shelters and toilets.

The commission recommended the first step towards the resolution of the conflict in Alexandra between the Alexandra United Taxi Association (AUTA) and the Alexandra Randburg Midrand Sandton Taxi Association (ARMSTA) was to establish proper channels of communication between them.

The establishment of formal ranks in Alexandra was an important priority.

The commission suggested a joint committee be formed to administer taxi ranks and routes.

It suggested the private sector assist national taxi organisations in providing training in business, marketing and entrepreneurial skills. — Sapa.

Mandela: church cannot retreat now

B1DAY 15/12/92

BILLY PADDOCK

ANC president Nelson Mandela yesterday called on the church worldwide to warn adherents against the dangers of superficial change in SA that would leave power and privilege in the hands of whites.

Speaking at the centenary of the Ethiopian Church in Southern Africa in Potchefstroom, Mandela said the church "cannot afford to retreat to the coziness of the sanctuary, tempting as it may be, in these confusing and challenging times".

The church in SA had no option but to join agents of change and transformation in the task of acting as midwife at the birth of democracy.

Support

He rejected the contention that the church had been left out in the cold since February 2 1990 and had to take "a lonely walk in search of an identity and a role" following its earlier central contribution to the fight against apartheid.

In trying to marshall the support of "the powerful and influential institution that the church is", the ANC president remained cautious and said he would not support policies which subordinated churches in any way to the government of the day.

He suggested the role of the church during transition and beyond should be:

☐ To warn adherents in SA and in the International Ecumenical Movement against the dangers of superficial change that would leave power and privilege in the hands of whites and a few affluent blacks;

☐ To keep in public focus the legacy of apartheid and help to design strategies for addressing it;

☐ To position itself to act as the conscience of the present and future society — as a "ministry of values";

☐ To take an active part in the mobilisation of society for democracy which should include education aimed at creating a culture of tolerance and at enhancing the moral fibre of the society;

☐ To play the essential role of fostering national reconciliation "underpinned by confession and restitution". The church could help the reconciliation process through a clear and unambiguous rejection of false reconciliation, as it did during the years of its fight against the apartheid heresy, he said;

☐ To focus energy on the war against violence and to help identify root causes "so this scourge can be eradicated";

☐ To take an active part in building a new nation through social reconstruction of the family and community, democratising political institutions and the economy; and

☐ To gear itself to take over some of the burden of education because this could no longer be left to the state alone.

Mandela said he was not being prescriptive to the church, but was convinced that unless society made full use of the potential the churches had, the democratisation of SA would be slow and distorted.

Call-up refusals to be investigated — SADF

B1DAY 15/12/92

STEPHANE BOTHMA

EVERY individual case of non-reporting for national military service would be investigated and the offender prosecuted if necessary, the SADF said yesterday.

Reacting to the public refusal in Cape Town yesterday by a group of 21 young men facing January call-ups to report, the SADF said the Defence Act still provided for the conscription of white male citizens.

"The status quo will be maintained until the Defence Act is amended," a spokesman said.

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) in a statement expressed full support for the 21 individuals.

"Since February 1990 many people have assumed that the whites only call-up was something that would not survive for very long in the 'new' SA.

"Now, almost three years later, thousands of young white South African men are again facing call-ups for military service," the ECC said.

The SADF would not comment on the number of conscripts called on to report for the January intake.

"However, all eligible white males are called up for duty and allotted to various areas of service.

"Furthermore, every individual case of non-reporting will be investigated and, if necessary, prosecutions will be instituted against offenders," the spokesman said.

The ECC criticised the SADF's approach, saying that those who objected to serving in the SADF under the whites only conscription system were under threat of being convicted as criminals for doing so.

The continuation of whites only conscription served government's purpose of maintaining the SADF as its own private army, thereby dragging out the conflict and retarding the entire process of finding peace, the ECC said.

The call-up system was developed in line with the policy of apartheid which had been rejected by most people in SA, the ECC said.

Meanwhile, the SADF has already received several countrywide applications for its voluntary short service system introduced last week.

The voluntary period service system was intended to provide some relief for Citizen Force and commando members, the SADF said when it announced the system last week.

Causes of taxi wars spelt out

By Helen Grange 5 Star 15/12/92

The root causes of violence in the Alexandra taxi industry lie in a struggle among taxi operators, who are intent on achieving their own ends without regard for the commuting public.

This is the finding of a Goldstone Commission committee which began an inquiry into the Alexandra taxi wars on September 30.

In its report, the committee recommended that the two main taxi associations, the Alexandra United Taxi Association (Auta) and the Alexandra-Randburg-Midrand-Sandton Taxi Association (Armsta), establish a line of communication, and that members should practise tolerance and refrain from physical attacks.

The committee said the chairmen of both taxi associations had agreed the current status quo was completely unacceptable. The chairmen had already met, and there were discussions on ways to achieve lasting peace through co-operation.

Expanding on its findings, the committee said it was clear that the rivalry for members had reached a point where one taxi association was trying to outbid the other in saying how many members it had.

This manifested itself in petty tricks such as turning up at a meeting in large numbers when the expectation was for a smaller group, or disrupting attempted negotiations by a display of ultra-sensitivity regarding arrangements and procedures.

A factor fuelling the tension was the sheer numbers of operators plying their trade, a basic ingredient to be found in other parts of the country where the minibus taxi trade could be found.

Factors aggravating the commercial competition included the high cost of vehicles, maintenance and insurance. (278)

In Alexandra, there was no formal rank for minibuses. It was said in evidence that an estimated 500 or more vehicles operated at one place in Wynberg, Sandton, during peak hours.

"Bringing order to the situation has been attempted only by the warring taxi associations themselves. It is not surprising that, when tensions mount, the ranks are the places where trouble erupts," the committee report said.

Evidence had also emerged that permits were being fraudulently obtained. This allegation is being investigated by the police.

Gunman calmly kills two

278
ARG 15/12/92

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A gunman wielding an AK-47 told his accomplices to start their getaway car and, when he heard the engine running, calmly started shooting people lying on the floor of a Sebokeng house.

Two men were killed and three people were injured in the attack last night.

Major Piet van Deventer of the Vaal Triangle police said four men in a BMW pulled into the property at a house in Zone 12 at about 11pm.

They knocked at the back door and asked where the owner of the house was. They then forced their way inside.

In the lounge they ordered everyone to lie down on the floor. One of the men had an AK-47 rifle and the others pistols. They demanded money and one of the victims gave them R30.

The man with the rifle ordered the others to go outside and start the car. On their way out they took a video machine, a hi-fi and several other items. After loading the car they started the engine. The man inside then opened fire as his victims lay on the floor.

Terrorist attacks on doctors

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Vaal Triangle doctors have been increasingly targeted for attack and at least four have been murdered in the past few months.

In the latest attack, the Kruger Avenue rooms of Dr C Teichler in Vereeniging were wrecked when vandals broke in and spray-painted slogans on the walls, smashed equipment and overturned plant pots. He was forced to abandon his rooms.

The slogans sprayed on to the walls included "One settler, one bullet" — apparently a reference to his career, which included being a missionary doctor in some of Africa's most deprived areas.

The attack on Dr Teichler's rooms comes after Dr Helga Kuhn was killed by gunmen in her rooms in Palm Springs, near Evaton, on December 3.

Dr Tower Blake was shot in the chest by robbers outside his rooms in Kruger Avenue, Vereeniging, on November 20. He survived.

Dr Koos Bornman was killed and robbed of his vehicle outside his rooms, also in Kruger Avenue, on September 24.

Dr John Ntsepe, who practised in the black residential areas, was shot in the leg last September and died earlier this year. Dr S D Mokgabudi, of Dicksonville, near Sharpeville, and a friend were found dead from bullet wounds.

Dr A H Patel was robbed of his car at gunpoint in Evaton two months ago. He had been serving black people in the area for nearly 40 years. Dr A Karim was assaulted in the same area a week ago.

2 metro

Oasis of peace in an ugly war

STAR 16/12/92 (278)

By Shirley Woodgate

The only flowers between Alexandra's strife-torn "Beirut" and "Iraq" areas grow in the grounds of the Inkanyese Waldorf Centre — where children are tended with even greater care.

The turquoise building surrounded by razor wire has not only survived battles between the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and the ANC in the area, but has served as a haven of sanity for 250 youngsters scarred by the violence ripping their community apart.

Since 1985 the frightened and the homeless have found daily refuge in the classrooms where their trauma has been addressed.

Spokesman Carol Liknaitsky traced the history of the nursery school back to five people who decided to "bridge what had been split apart in society" and find a place where children of different cultures and language groups could meet through arts and crafts and by playing together.

A small beginning led to the formation of a trust which placed its Baobab Community Centre where it was needed most, in the heart of the toughest neighbourhood in Alexandra.

They involved the community in making tables and chairs, negotiated with the ANC and IFP for "safe" routes to the school, dodged the gunfire and lived with the bloodshed and uprooting of whole families who fled to safer places.

It is quieter now and last week teachers and children stepped beyond the razor wire and attracted 800 people to a carols-by-candlelight march through Alexandra.

Liknaitsky has appealed to those children who left at the height of the violence to return. Inkanyese will also train teachers for similar situations. Telephone Carol Liknaitsky at (011) 443-4013 or (011) 793-3457.

People's court probe

POLICE are investigating allegations that the ANC is operating a "people's court" in Bekkersdal after one person was admitted to hospital after being lashed 79 times with a sjambok all over his body. 278

According to a statement issued by West Rand police Internal Stability Unit, the police went to Mandela squatter camp in Bekkersdal last week after receiving information about a "people's court" operating in the area. 80 weten

When police arrived at the scene they found four men who claimed they had been abducted and forced to stand trial in a "people's court". 17/12/92

Three of the men were "sentenced" and punishment was administered with a sjambok. One of the men received medical attention at Leratong hospital for injuries. The fourth man was ordered to pay a "fine" of R600, police said.

Police took possession of documents which indicated that there was a "people's court" in the area.

Conference to focus on violence in taxi industry

Staff Reporter 278

The bloody taxi violence in South Africa would become the focus of a national conference organised by the National Peace Secretariat (NPC) in January, the organisation announced last night.

NPC spokesman Val Pauquet said that all interested parties, including representatives of taxi associations, the Minister of Transport, financial institutions and transport unions would be invited.

The meeting, organised in conjunction with the Goldstone Commission, was expected to be held in Johannesburg.

Pauquet said the conference would seek ways of identifying issues that caused fighting in the multimillion-rand industry.

The chairmen of all Regional Dispute Resolution Committees around the country would be asked to supply input on issues pertaining to their particular areas.

Dr Antonie Gildenhuys, chairman of the National Peace Secretariat, said: "The taxi industry has developed into a very important industry in South Africa.

"It is totally unacceptable that human lives be sacrificed for the promotion of commercial interests within the taxi industry."

He added: "The taxi industry must be competitive on a free enterprise basis without coercion or intimidation of anyone."

Chris Fismer of the NPS will head a sub-committee responsible for this initiative.

For further information, telephone Val Pauquet on (011) 886-0717 or fax her on (011) 886-0084.

More doctors now victims of attacks

(23) (278) STAR 17/12/92

By Joshua Raboroko

Vaal Triangle doctors have been increasingly targeted for attack and at least four have been murdered in the past few months.

In the latest attack, the Kruger Avenue rooms of Dr C Teichler in Vereeniging were wrecked last week by unknown people who painted slogans on the walls, smashed equipment, overturned pot plants and damaged the rooms so badly he had to abandon them.

Dr Teichler was not available for comment yesterday.

The slogans on the walls included "One settler, one bullet," — apparently in reference to his being a missionary doctor in some of Africa's most deprived areas.

This attack comes after Dr Helga Kuhn was killed by gunmen in her rooms in Palm Springs, near Evaton, on December 3.

Dr Tower Blake was shot in the chest by robbers as he climbed into his car outside his rooms in Kruger Avenue, Vereeniging, on November 20. He survived.

Dr Koos Bornman was killed and robbed of his vehicle outside his rooms in Kruger Avenueon on September 24. His wife found his body the next day.

Dr John Ntsepe, who practised in the black residential areas, was shot in the leg and later died.

Dr S D Mokgabudi, of Dicksonville near Sharpeville, and a friend were found dead from gunshot wounds.

The clinic formerly used by Dr D J Maree in Zone Seven, Sebokeng, is now occupied by residents after he quit the township apparently in fear.

Dr A H Patel was robbed of his car at gunpoint in Evaton two months ago. He had been serving people in the area for almost 40 years. Dr A Karim was assaulted in the same area a week ago.

Dr Patel's son, Dr S Patel, was robbed about six months ago.

Get the joyriders off the taxi routes

W/Mail 18/12-22/12/92 (278)

The Goldstone Commission report on taxi violence on the Reef does not go far enough in apportioning blame, argues taxi driver

RAY NXUMALO



ONCE, passengers could sit comfortably in a minibus taxi and enjoy the ride. Nowadays, they are closely packed in overloaded vehicles driving at breakneck speeds and screeching to a halt to offload. The kamikaze roadhogs jerk violently and pull off, beating the red light.

Such is the intense pressure brought about by overtrading. Drivers square up to each other and get ready to fight over a customer or a route. Road safety takes a back seat.

For years, taximen have complained that the Local Road Transportation Board (LRTB) issues more permits than the ranks can accommodate, that it is killing the industry and creating miniature monopolies. It is not uncommon to find a person holding more than five permits.

Overcrowding at taxi ranks was one of this week's findings of the Goldstone Commission on the causes of taxi violence in Alexandra. The commission is right to highlight fierce commercial rivalry as the cause of violence, but stops short of saying that this flows from the bureaucratic bungling of the transportation authorities.

Drivers, who see themselves as the industry's caretakers, lament that with overcrowding created by the LRTB, the slices of the cake are becoming thinner by the day. Soaring unemployment means that taxis have a dwindling clientele, as more people are forced to stay at home.

The problem is general: the commission takes Alex as a microcosm, deciding not to extend its inquiry to other areas like Katlehong, Springs and Boksburg. "We do not believe the causes of violence in these places to differ much," it says.

The commission stresses that before1986/7 there was only one taxi association in Alexandra and that no fighting had taken place. A dispute over funds led to the expulsion of members from the Alexandra Taxi Association (Ata), who then formed the Alexandra-Midrand-Randburg-Sandton Taxi Association (Armsta).

Ata — which drivers described as controlled by "unimaginative and conservative old men" — stuck to its old routes, while Armsta, praised for its vision and fresh ideas, looked beyond Johannesburg and made inroads into new areas. This led to hostilities, with scores of operators from both associations being ambushed and killed.

On top of this came overcrowding at the ranks. The commission observed that "it was therefore not surprising that when tensions mounted, the ranks were the place where trouble erupted". Inevitably, innocent commuters were caught in the crossfire.

When the commission investigated the cause of violence in Cape Town, it was recommended that the issuing of permits should be restricted by the number of ranks available.

Drivers are adamant that until the LRTB stops giving thousands of permits, without working in conjunction with the municipalities and the taxi associations to identify ranks and routes, pirate taxis will be there to scavenge. And this will always lead to violence.

Another sore point for drivers is that professionals and public servants are allowed to acquire taxi permits willy-nilly. Most argue that such people are invading their territory.

The Goldstone Commission report mentions an Alexandra policeman who owned two taxis, bringing into question his impartiality in investigating complaints from the rival association.

Schoolteachers, bank clerks and even traffic officers are known to hold permits, and the drivers argue that "such people sit comfy in their day jobs while the industry is decaying".

Other taxi associations, in a bid to avoid huge infiltration by "outsiders", require a person to have driven a taxi for a certain stipulated period — usually three to five years — before being considered for membership.

The new member will be duty-bound to drive his taxi for no less than a year before he can consider hiring a driver. The rationale is that the probationary period helps break him in to the demands and pressures of the industry.

Ethnicity can be a compounding factor. Ethnic violence in the East Rand townships of Tokoza and Katlehong has brushed off on the long-distance taxis operating between there and the homelands.

Allegations have been made that residents from the predominantly Xhosa-inhabited Phola Park shack settlement have attacked taxis with Natal registration plates. Taxis bearing Ciskei or Transkei number plates have been found gutted and the occupants attacked.

Such attacks seemed to decrease when only Transvaal-registered taxis were allowed to bring commuters in.

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Star 18/12/92.

2 Daveyton ANC men shot dead

Crime Reporter 278

The ANC's deputy chairman of the Daveyton branch on the East Rand, Wiseman Cebisa, and another branch member were shot dead at 2 am yesterday.

The ANC PWV region said in a statement it was shocked by the "cold-blooded murder" of Cebisa and Themba Dlabongo.

East Rand police spokesman Captain Ida van Zweel confirmed the killings. She said their bodies had been found in the veld at the Chris Hani informal settlement. Five AK-47 cartridges were found at the scene. Police are investigating, Van Zweel said.

According to Daveyton ANC branch officials, the two were dragged from their shacks by unknown men. Both had bullet wounds in the head.

The motive for the murder has not yet been established.

The ANC PWV region condemned "the continued murder of ANC activists by faceless forces whose primary aim is the destabilisation of our communities". The organisation called on the authorities to investigate the murder urgently.

Taxi violence

THE national peace secretariat is to hold a conference aimed at fighting taxi violence and achieving co-operation within the SA taxi network.

The secretariat said yesterday the conference would be held in collaboration with the Goldstone commission, probably in Johannesburg in January. The Transport Minister and representatives of taxi associations, transport unions and financial institutions would be invited to attend.

REPORTS: Business Day Reporters, Sapa.

B1DAY 18/12/92

The hell-ride continues

By MOSES MAMAILA

GETTING into a suburban train this year was like walking through the valley of death.

More than 250 commuters were killed this year, which marks a sharp increase in train violence compared to the 38 train deaths reported in 1991, according to the Human Rights Commission.

Three hundred and fifty-five people have been killed on trains since the launch of the terror campaign in 1990 – the year which marked the beginning of the end of apartheid rule.

While political organisations continue to trade in accusations and counter accusations, those responsible for the attacks remain faceless and untraceable.

The armed attackers usually board the train in a group and target a particular coach. After brutally abusing or killing innocent commuters, they alight just before arriving at the next station.

Many victims are pushed to their deaths from moving trains, although some are stabbed or shot before being pushed off the train.

The unabating train violence prompted community organisations to embark on a train boycott on May 4 in a desperate bid to force the railway authorities and the government to stop the carnage.

Thousands of train commuters stayed away and braved long queues at the taxi rank.

During the week-long boycott not one incident of train violence was reported, said ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa.

Despite the security measures introduced after the boycott, the carnage continued.

As more police were deployed the determined killers applied new tactics.

The gunmen proceeded to ambush and assault commuters as they alighted from the trains at various stations.

A disturbing phenomenon was that in most cases the attackers, who coldbloodedly killed innocent people, were never arrested.

Recently, however, police spokesman Lt-Col Dave Bruce announced a major breakthrough in solving the train violence with the arrest of a hostel dweller linked to an attack on commuters at Cleveland station.

While the arrest of the suspect, Mkhuluzana Zulu, might sound insignificant considering the countless attacks on trains, police are adamant that a breakthrough has been made for the first time due to the assistance of a member of the public.

Protesters march on bishop's office

By DAN DHLAMINI (278) CP News 20/12/92

THE year-old turmoil in Klerksdorp's Holy Family parish of the Anglican Church this week culminated in a march to the bishop's office in town.

About 150 disgruntled congregants took to the streets of Klerksdorp singing hymns and wielding banners and a memorandum demanding the reinstatement of Rector Peter Mohasoa.

The marchers, under the vigilant eye of UN observers, were disappointed to find Bishop David Nkwe's offices locked with nobody to accept the memorandum.

The memorandum demanded that the transfer of Mohasoa be reconsidered immediately and that church keys, a vehicle and chequebook be returned immediately.

The disgruntled congregants also claimed that Nkwe was dividing the congregation and accused him of not having visited the Holy Family since his ordination.

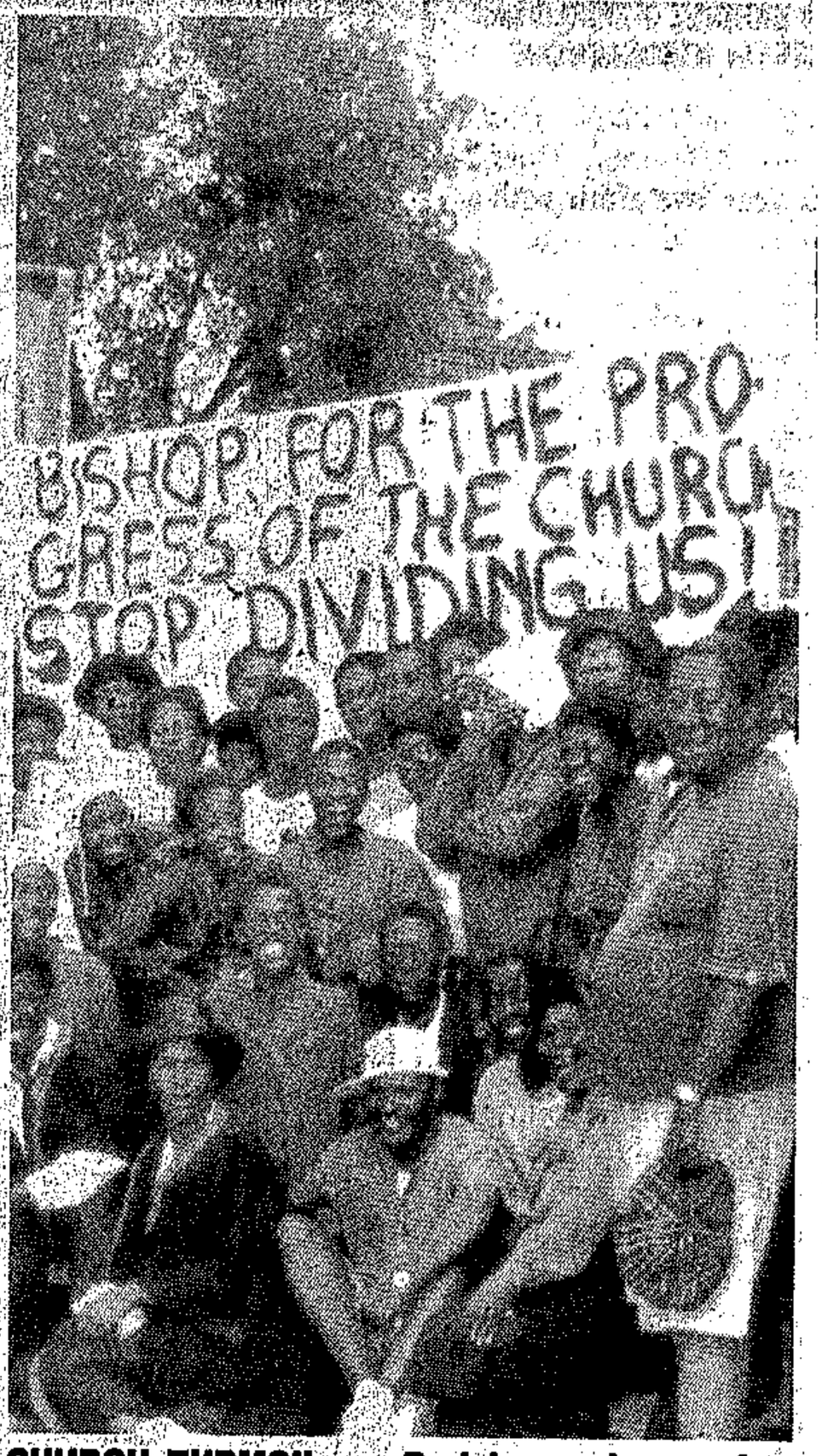
Mohasoa told City Press he viewed his transfer as having some "other motive".

He said he had long-term projects in the area which he wished to complete.

Nkwe confirmed that he had relieved Mohasoa from his duties on the grounds that he did not want to be transferred to Bloemhof or Koster.

Nkwe said the transfer could be considered as a promotion for Mohasoa.

Political comment and newsbits by K Sibiya, headlines and sub-editing by B Keswa, both of 2 Herb St, New Doornfontein, Johannesburg.



CHURCH TURMOIL ... Parish members voice their grievances. ■ Pic: DAN DHLAMINI

TPA stays mum on cash crisis

WILSON ZWANE

THE TPA was tight-lipped at the weekend over reports that the Soweto City Council had blamed white officials for the dire financial straits the council found itself in.

TPA spokesman Gert de Jager said he could not respond to reports that highly paid whites, seconded to the council, had neglected their duties, leading to TPA charges of serious maladministration in the Soweto and Diepmeadow municipalities. BIDAM 21/12/92.

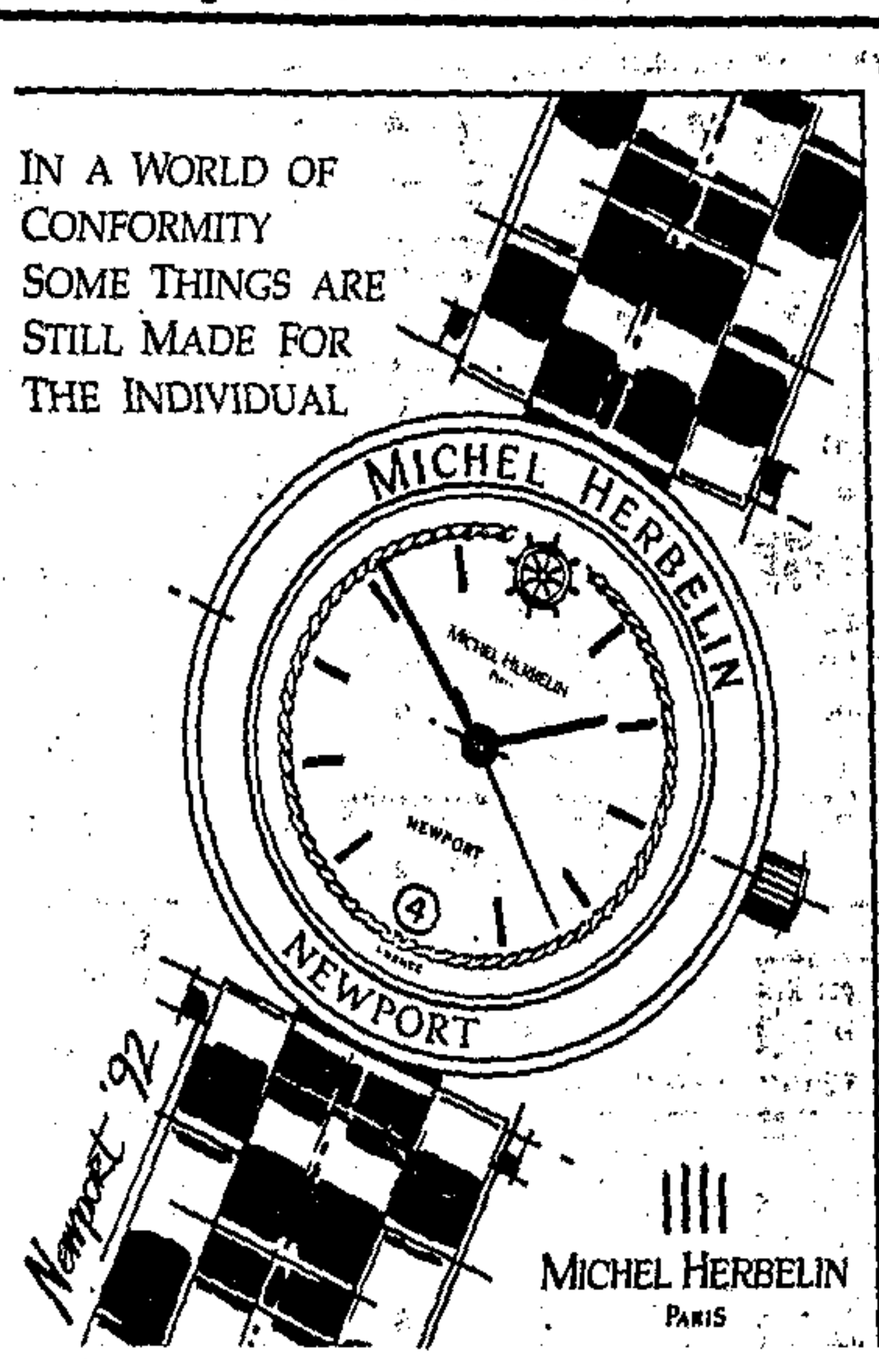
Should the allegations be put formally to the TPA, Administrator Danie Hough could respond, he said.

Last month, the TPA ordered the two Soweto councils to provide a report on how financial irregularities and maladministration were to be combated. It threatened that if the report was not satisfactory, provincial authorities would assume control of the townships.

New Nation reported on Friday that the Soweto Town Council had responded by announcing its intention to dismiss white officials. The council lashed out at these officials, saying they who received large salaries but were inefficient.

The Soweto council could not be reached for comment.

De Jager said the fate of the councils would be decided by the executive committee of the TPA some time this week.



ANC stays on peace track

WILSON ZWANE

THE ANC PWV region has reaffirmed its commitment to the national peace process. BIDAM

The organisation said at the weekend it had decided — after months of consultations and deliberations — to urge all its branches to participate in the peace accord structures.

Earlier this year, the organisation called on its branches to review their participation in the peace accord. The call was precipitated by an escalation in violence. 21/12/92

It said the flaws which the peace accord had did not warrant withdrawal from its structures.

"The region remains convinced that the peace accord has the potential of laying a firm basis for peace in our country."



PAC regional secretary Tunediso Modise, regional chairman Ntsundeni Madzunya and secretary for relief and aid Bonga Majola at the PAC West Rand region media briefing at the weekend which claimed Apla was responsible for the decline in violence in the PWV area. Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

PAC's claims on violence in PWV area 'ludicrous'

STEPHEN COPLAN

POLICE have descibed as "ludicrous" PAC claims that the activities of its armed wing Apla are behind a decrease in violence in the PWV area.

The SAP has suggested that Apla might have been responsible for train attacks on the Reef.

Any decline in train and other violence could be attributed to increased police action and national peace committee initiatives, police said.

PAC West Rand regional chairman Ntsundeni Madzunya said on Friday that his organisation had noted a sharp decline in political violence since Apla attacked whites at King William's Town and Queenstown. This was in contrast to "international scarecrow" suggestions that the attacks would increase violence.

The general decrease in political violence, train attacks and attacks in which more than six people died indicated that Apla's threat of retaliation for every black killed had "borne fruit", Madzunya said.

The decline in the wake of the Apla attacks in the eastern Cape and subsequent threats proved that a "mercenary" element under the state's control was primarily responsible for violence in the PWV area.

"It is common cause in international relations that the threat of military action by those who have a demonstrable capacity to retaliate always serves as a preventative measure in the conduct of aggression by opposing forces," Madzunya said.

The response of ordinary citizens, who were joining the PAC in large numbers, showed there was a perception "on the ground" that Apla was responsible for stemming violence.

The PAC had declared 1993 constituent assembly year but believed "the bullet cannot be abandoned until the ballot has been secured".

The PAC and Apla would refuse to co-operate with the Goldstone commission's probe of Apla's activities.

In response to growing international criticism of the PAC, Madzunya said the organisation's policy had always been "to accommodate the wishes of the oppressed" and to shape its own destiny.

The PAC still owed allegiance to the OAU, which had recently criticised the organisation for not distancing itself from Apla's attacks.

Trees go to retain view

GAVIN DU VENAGE

THE Forestry Department has been forced to remove hundreds of pine trees it had planted along the scenic Long Tom pass and to halt aforestation that would have affected tourism and ecology in the Lowveld.

Seedlings planted over an area of 35ha, with a commercial potential of R500 000, were removed after local residents and the Wildlife Society lodged objections.

More than 2 000 residents of the Lydenburg/Sabi district petitioned the department to remove the trees, which they said would obscure the panoramic view for which the pass was famous.

Wildlife Society conservation ecologist Andrew Duthie said the department had undertaken to remove up to 20% of the young trees planted along the pass that links the Highveld to the Lowveld.

The trees would have obscured "the entree to the Lowveld", as well as threaten natural vegetation in the area, Duthie said.

Seasonal flowers that bloomed spectacularly would have disappeared as they could not compete with the trees.

Department spokesman Bos-

Eskom power t

IN A gesture of goodwill, E offered to supply electricity t Rand township of Vosloorus fre until January 7.

But the local town council, trols the power supply, is switch on the lights. It will on residents guarantee they will pay for other services, such a refuse removal.

The council cut electrcity su weeks ago because, it said, few of township residents were accounts.

Vosloorus Civic Associatior Jabulani Dumani said at the kom had written a letter to th Thursday requesting it to re electricity supply until Janua on which Eskom and the cor pected to sign an agreement utility to take over the supply from the council.

Dumani said Eskom had u to charge the council for el sumed between December January 7 date Eskom had

□ Eskom official Jan de B utility's offer to the council attempt to alleviate the pligh during the festive season.

Comment could not be obt

Soweto council defies TPA order to cut costs

SOWETO City Council management committee chairman Jabu Mnguni has defied the TPA which has threatened to dissolve the council unless it puts its finances in order

Mnguni said yesterday the TPA could not dictate to him as he was governed by an Act of Parliament — and not by the administration.

"The TPA has no right to tell me what to do with my staff. I cannot be dictated to by the TPA — I am governed by the Black Local Authorities Act. The TPA can ask me, but not tell me, what to do," Mnguni said.

He said he could go to the TPA when he was short of funds.

Referring to a recent incident when council staff demanded their annual bonuses, he said: "I managed to pay bonuses, without help from the TPA.

"We can cut costs 10% as ordered by the TPA. I know

THEO RAWANA

I have to do some reshuffling, but I am still conducting my investigations."

Mnguni said he was busy with his legal advisers.

"I cannot just retrench people. I will conduct legal retrenchments."

A TPA spokesman said the administration would not comment on Mnguni's statements.

Transvaal administrator Danie Hough ordered the Soweto and Diepmeadow councils last month to show they had taken remedial steps by December 15 or face dissolution.

Among the cost-cutting measures ordered by the TPA was a 10% reduction in staff.

The TPA said its executive committee discussed the councils' representations yesterday and would decide on them in early January.

Top Sabta man resigns

PRETORIA — An executive member of the SA Black Taxi Association (Sabta) resigned from the organisation yesterday, saying the executive was just a rubber stamp for outside parties which made the decisions.

Fani Enos Makena said in a statement the Sabta executive was no longer in control.

Makena said he was resigning also as treasurer of the Transvaal Taxi Association, but would remain as chairman of the Pretoria United Taxi Association.

He said Sabta was reluctant to change "incorrect policies that were hurting membership".

The time had come for Sabta to stop looking for scapegoats. It should "rather examine the organisation itself for the real problems and find answers that work". — Sapa.

Police to implement ideas to combat taxi violence

STEPHEN COPLAN

THE police would implement without delay the constructive recommendations made by the Goldstone commission in connection with taxi violence, SAP commissioner Gen Johan van der Merwe said yesterday.

In its report on taxi violence in Alexandra township in Johannesburg, the commission suggested that "firm, fair and consistent law enforcement" was needed to stem lawlessness and combat the lack of discipline in the taxi industry.

Van der Merwe said cases of taxi-operating by individual policemen and allegations of the fraudulent issuing or obtaining of permits were being investigated.

The report said that in the past a policeman had served as chairman of one of the Alexandra taxi associations.

It was "heartening" that the report found allegations of corruption and unwillingness on the part of police to investigate cases properly and to combat violence were baseless. Misunderstandings, rather than misdeeds, seemed to be at the root of complaints, Van der Merwe said.

A18095

Shootout after taxi fired on

(278)
ARG 22/12/92

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A car chase and gunbattle erupted between police, traffic officials and men who shot at a taxi in Randburg today.

Two men were wounded and an eight-year-old boy was hit by a stray bullet.

Police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said that at 6.20am the occupants of a Nissan Skyline opened fire on a minibus taxi in Randburg.

When police and traffic officials arrived they found Tinus Swart, 8, who had been hit in the leg at a bus-stop.

Police followed the sound of gunfire and a block away found a wounded man who told them that occupants of the Skyline had fired at a taxi.

Soon afterwards traffic police saw the Skyline at Bryanston shopping centre where a wild gunbattle took place. No one was injured and the Skyline sped off, pursued by traffic officials.

The Skyline raced down a cul-de-sac where more shots were exchanged between the men and traffic police.

Four men gave themselves up while a fifth, carrying an AK47, ran into the veld. Police are still searching for him.

Police act on taxi violence

(278)

ST 22/12/92

PRETORIA. — Police have began implementing recommendations by the Goldstone Commission after its probe into taxi violence in Alexandra township, Police Commissioner General Johan van der Merwe said yesterday.

The commission released its report on taxi violence in Alexandra last Monday and placed the blame for violence squarely at the door of taxi operators, saying unbridled commercial rivalry and intolerance between rival taxi associations were the main causes of tension.

But General Van der Merwe said in a statement he had issued instructions that the commission's recommendations on ways to increase police efficiency be investigated and, where necessary, implemented.

The commission recommended that fair, firm and consistent law enforcement was needed to combat lawlessness in the minibus taxi industry.

General Van der Merwe said police were probing allegations of the fraudulent issuing or obtaining of permits. — Sapa

Bystanders hurt as gunmen fire on taxis

AN EIGHT-year-old boy and two other people were wounded in a shooting incident in Randburg yesterday, and police arrested seven people and seized two pistols and an AK-47 rifle after a car chase through Bryanston.

Police spokesman Capt Eugene Opperman said the boy, Tinus Swart, was wounded in a leg.

He was delivering newspapers when the occupants of a passing car fired shots at a taxi. Two more people were found wounded nearby.

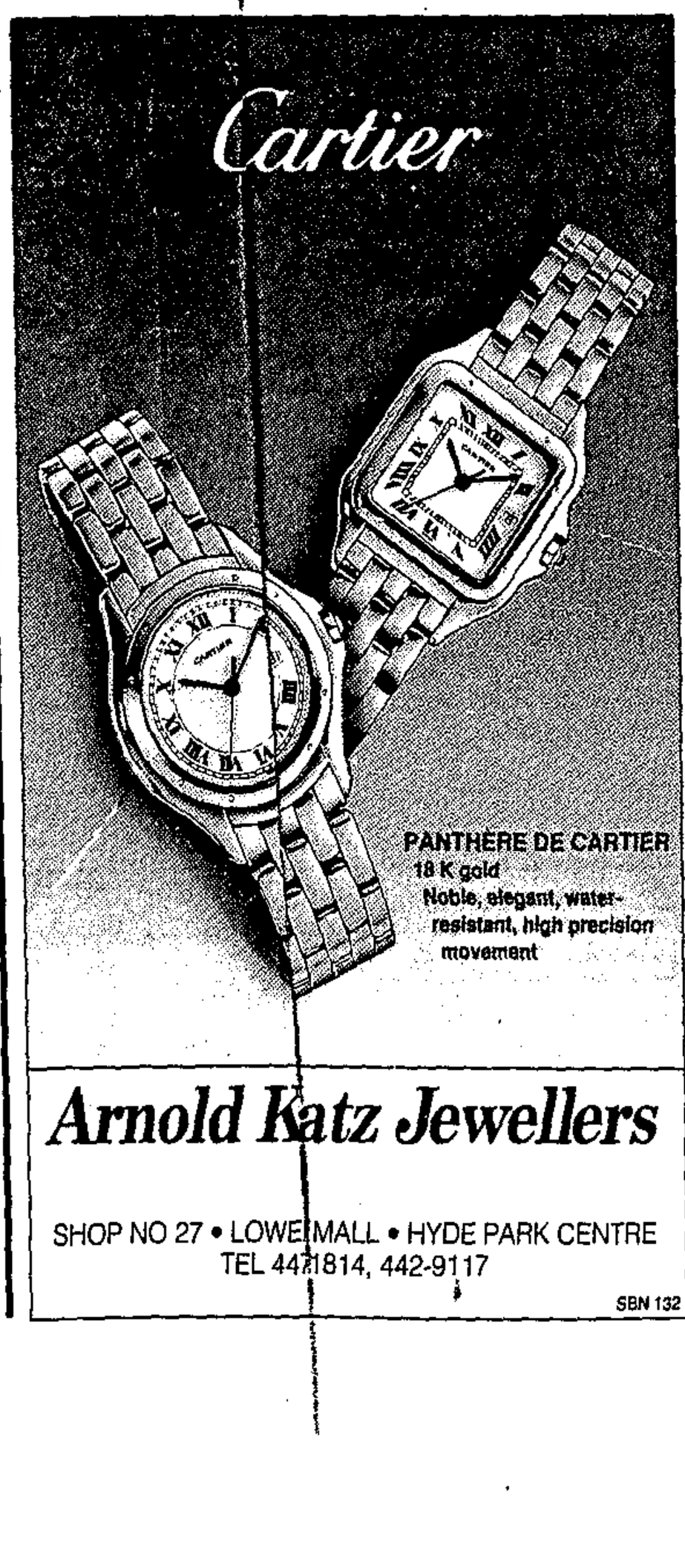
The victims told police the occupants of a Nissan Skyline had fired shots at taxis in the area.

The car was later seen at a Bryanston shopping centre and shots were exchanged between the occupants and police.

During the ensuing chase, the car came to a halt and four of the occupants handed themselves over. Three gunmen who had fled were later arrested.

Opperman said the incident was linked to a taxi war in the Randburg-Alexandra area.

Tinus is recovering at the Garden City Clinic. — Sapa.



Refugees to return home

DURBAN — Refugees who fled the Ensimibini area near Port Shepstone because of political violence will return today as three years of bitter conflict between rival factions comes to an end.

A spokesman for the Port Shepstone local dispute resolution committee said refugees would gather at Gamalakhe Stadium, about 15km from Margate on the Natal South Coast.

Their return stems from an initiative of the Commonwealth observer mission. The mission arranged for the refugees to meet tribal leaders two weeks ago to decide on ways to reintegrate them into the community.

It is estimated at least 160 people will return to Chief Ndwalane's area.

Chief Samuel Mavundla will address his followers at the stadium, while Ndwalane and his committee will meet the refugees at the chief's house. Observers from the Commonwealth, EC, OAU and the UN will also be present. — Sapa.

John Seiler, used to the sanctuary of Norwood, takes a nervous, escorted drive

Dipping a toe into the waters of Alex

STAR 23/12/92. (278)

I AM no less culpable than most other white residents of Johannesburg, Sandton and Randburg. I had never been into Alexandra township.

I had seen it in a smoky haze, from the flat of a wealthy estate agent on Linksfield Ridge during a visit. Since we moved to Johannesburg, I had come near it while driving to and from Benny Goldberg's shop on Louis Botha Avenue, when I saw Casspirs, either brown or yellow, and felt a complex twinge of fear that Alexandra violence might have dribbled over into Wynberg and might even attack the quiet streets of my suburb, Norwood.

Guilt that I had not visited the township, and relief that my world was detached from that one, linked only by the ambiguous web of rhetoric and sentiment that simultaneously binds and separates most liberal whites from their black compatriots.

My wife and I went to Alexandra a few days ago. We parked our car at the Alexandra Clinic to be met by a local councillor who wanted to show us the impact of violence on former residents of "Beirut" and the desperate need for "temporary" housing more substantial than the present form.

Our first insight was that the clinic was outside Alexandra, but despite this the venue had become difficult for many Alexandra residents to reach, because walking to it meant coming into or perilously close to the no-go zone of Beirut.

Our next insight was that the police station is also outside Alexandra. Our third was finding an SAP Casspir with a brace of armed policemen, waiting to escort our host's car.

Our host drove very slowly, partly to point out the deserted blocks of Beirut, partly to avoid breaking his axle in the large potholes of the neighbourhood streets.

Some houses were totally destroyed, others almost undamaged, some lived in (by Zulu residents who presumably felt more comfortable near the two hostels than they did in other parts of Alex — or who may have recently arrived in Alex from other places).

There were some police within Beirut, but even more at the border between it and the rest of Alex: a street named oddly (to my American ear) "Rooseveld".

Was this a long-ago sign of respect for the president who gave the world the "Four Freedoms" from which flowed the UN Declaration of Human Rights and which in a general way impelled the US policy of anti-colonialism towards the end of World War 2? Was it misspelt intentionally, as a clever pun on what might in the 1940s have been an open stretch of useless grassland?

This musing in my head kept me from panic as we drove down Rooseveld past hostel M1, the one from which most attacks against Alex residents have come. The only traffic aside from us and our Casspir were two other Casspirs and an SAP car.

A new general store, with expensive security bars, stood closed and silent just across Rooseveld from M1. Despite being built for hostel custom by someone with some ties to the inhabitants, it had not survived the anarchy of the border street.

We saw no one in or around the hostel, aside from a few men kicking a soccer ball in the brown field next to M1 and despite many open and glassless windows, no rifles appeared, and we passed by in embarrassed relief.

The crux of our visit was a talk with several people who had fled Beirut in March, taking with them as much of their household belongings as they could muster, at a time of especially violent raids from the hostels.

Hundreds of families who fled there live still in "temporary" shelters in various Alex churches, sometimes in church community buildings, but even in the churches themselves, making difficult the provision of normal church services and other functions.

The ones we saw were living in a large gym, a community centre for 47 families, maybe 100 children of school age, another 100 pre-school children.

Each family had its universe in the gym demarcated by a wall of its belongings — chairs, mirrors, lounge furnishings.

Most had a bed at the centre of its rectangle, some an odd chair or two. Cooking was done on a communal hot plate. Small children wandered around, curious and friendly.

The older children were in Alex schools, but had no place to study when they got "home". Play was limited to the open space outside the centre, within eye and nose of the terrible-smelling and barely moving Jukskei River.

Despite the obvious physical shortcomings of the centre, the striking, almost palpable impression was the vitality and conviction of the people there.

They have a committee. They are represented on the Interim Crisis Committee, the Alex local dispute resolution committee. They are firm that they will not leave their present "temporary" quarters for any other "temporary" housing, for fear that the upgraded shelters being contemplated by the ICC and the Alex Council, hopefully with Government money, would become permanent.

While they recognise the problems faced by their former neighbours who are staying in church buildings, for themselves only one move is acceptable — back to their houses in Beirut, with security and money to rebuild and refurbish a prerequisite. The ICC now says money will come in six months. Earlier, it had talked of three months.

The rest of Alexandra is peaceful, despite its varied social nature. Housing runs a wide gamut from professional housing at various places to ramshackle huts that reminded us of Maputo's over-run highway verges and public parks.

Some of these huts are occupied by Mozambicans, others by Rastafarians, each in separate neighbourhoods, separate from one another. Both are separated by an open fringe — the focus of contention about low-cost housing — from the sturdy middle-class houses of East Bank.

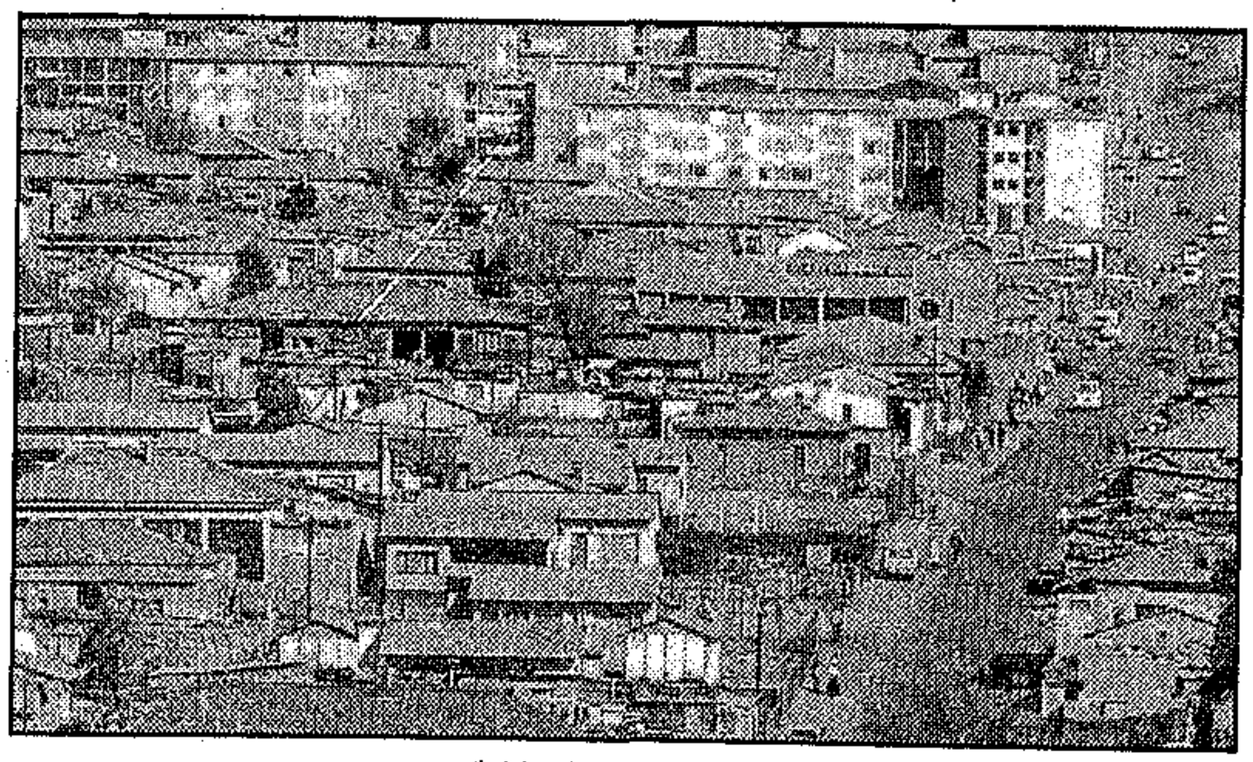
East Bank and Far East Bank are in turn cut off from Lombardy and Rembrandt Park by a 75 ha site just recently approved by the Johannesburg City Council for a golf academy, rather than the affordable housing recommended by the Planning Directorate.

I write this in the comfort and security of my Norwood home. Swimming pool, a garden, a dog, a cat — the usual accoutrements of white middle-class suburban life.

I do not feel guilt about it. It is far from pretentious. And, while I appreciate and to some extent share the fears and anxieties of my Norwood neighbours (and, of course, whites living near Alexandra or with businsses in Malboro made inoperable by hoodlums moving in from Alex), I see avidly now that avoiding Alex — or looking at it from the beguiling vantage point of Linksfield Ridge — only exacerbates fear and anxiety.

Most Alex residents, whatever their ethnic background or political persuasion, want the same security and opportunity for themselves and their families that I want for mine. Recognising their central motive, and helping them to achieve these goals urgently, is what we need to do now. □

● *Dr Seiler is a visiting American political scientist.*



Living on the edge . . . Life in Alexandra is a daily struggle.

NEWS 91 suspects arrested after mine deaths



No place like home...Neuro-surgeon Dr Isaac Thatedi (second from right) arrived home this week after 33 years of exile in America. The Sharpeville-born former journalist was met by musician Hugh Masekela, Dr GG Mbere and Press photographer Alf Kumalo at Jan Smuts Airport. See story on page 4. PIC: LEN KUMALO

20 reported dead in Reef mine fight

Sowetan 28/12/92

278

By Lulama Luti

■ **DIFFERING VIEWS** Fracas started over woman say some, food say others:

MORE THAN 20 people are believed to have been killed and about 50 injured when fighting broke out between inmates at the Durban Roodepoort Deep Gold Mine hostel near Roodepoort on Christmas Day.

Sowetan confirmed 12 deaths and 34 injuries, but eyewitnesses interviewed yesterday believed the number could be more than 20.

A driver from the Roodepoort Ambulance Service said when they were called to the scene on Saturday night, they picked up six corpses. Three other bodies were found the previous night, he said.

Police spokesman Major Piet van Deventer yesterday said only eight people had been killed, according to information they had received.

He added that more people could have died in hospital.

Van Deventer said 91 suspects were arrested on Saturday.

He said fighting was apparently sparked off by an argument over food.

A sister at the Durban Deep hospital yesterday said 11 people were admitted to the hospital while two others died on admission.

Matron in charge at the Leratong Hospital Mrs E Vanqa said 23 people were admitted to the hospital on Friday and Saturday nights.

They either had stab or hack wounds while others had gunshot wounds.

She said an unidentified elderly man died on admission.

A mine official who identified himself only as De Wet, declined to comment and said a statement would be issued later.

Survivors of the attack gave different accounts from their hospital beds during an interview with *Sowetan* yesterday.

How the fighting started

While some said they did not know how the fighting started, others said it began after a Xhosa-speaking inmate had quarrelled with a Shangaan inmate over a woman.

Mr Elias Rangwanana, who said he was from Maseru, said the fighting arose from an argument over a woman between a Shangaan-speaking man and a Pondo.

"I don't even know how I came here," he said from his hospital bed.

"I thought the whole thing was resolved on Friday night, I did not know that we would be attacked on Saturday."

A labourer from Umzimkhulu in Transkei, Mr Albert Banzi (35), said at about 9pm on Friday night they were attacked while drinking at Number 6 at the C compound.

"When I came out of the beerhall I saw people carrying an assortment of weapons approaching the entrance and that's when I started running.

"Everybody else inside was running for cover and it was then that I was hit and stabbed several times and my clothes were soaked in blood," he said.

Mr Goodwill Nyasulu from Malawi said he was asleep on Saturday evening when suddenly there were loud knocks on the windows.

"I woke up to find the whole place full of people who hit at us indiscriminately. I ran out and they followed me to the kitchen," he said.

He added that blows continued to rain on him until he fell on the kitchen floor and one of them said: "I think we're through with him" and they left him for dead.

High-tech train set for test run

RAY HARTLEY

THE first high-tech security train designed to foil railway violence goes into operation next week.

The 14-coach train will be tested on the Soweto line on January 4. If tests prove succesful, it will go into full operation two days later.

The train is equipped with concealed video cameras which automatically focus on coaches in which commuters have pressed emergency buttons.

SA Rail and Commuter Corporation official Brian Carver said the cameras would be monitored by security officials close to potential conflict areas and swift action could be taken against instigators of violence.

Other features include extra-strong windows and interleading doors with rubber housing between coaches to thwart incidents in which commuters are thrown from trains.

The new windows, manufactured locally by Nustart from polycarbonate sheeting produced by AECI, would cut down on money spent on replacing glass windows, frequently smashed during stoning incidents, Carver said.

The new rail guard would go into operation in the new year in a further bid to eliminate train violence, he said.

A new spirit of cooperation existed between the SA Rail and Commuter Corporation, the ANC and police following a successful police strategy implemented this year of randomly searching trains, he said.

Consensus reached on hostels revamp

ADRIAN HADLAND

CONSENSUS had been reached on upgrading programmes at 35 hostels in the Transvaal, a TPA spokesman said last week.

The TPA has had almost R200m allocated to it by government for the upgrading of 92 hostels in the province.

The administration has pursued a policy of seeking consensus with hostel residents on the measures to be taken at each hostel.

Plans for changes at 26 of the hostels have already been completed, while talks are still in progress at another nine.

"In 24 instances, approval for projects has been requested (from the national housing department) and in 13 cases approval for the projects has been granted," a TPA statement said.

The TPA spokesman said negotiations were under way at a further 48 hostels.

Representatives from the ANC PWV region and the Transvaal Hostel Residents' Association, however, have called on government to transfer the responsibility of hostel upgrading, together with the more than R300m allocated nationally for the purpose, to the National Housing Forum.

The two associations claimed the TPA had not consulted sufficiently with hostel dwellers before implementing upgrading programmes.

"The aim of the TPA's hostel strategy is to improve living conditions of hostel dwellers by means of the upgrading of existing facilities for single persons and/or conversion of hostels into family units," a TPA statement said.

"It must be stressed that the TPA regards proper and representative consultation of the utmost importance in achieving the upgrading or conversion of hostels in the Transvaal," it added.

The Local Government and National Housing Department said that, nationwide, planning for 41 upgrading projects was under way at a cost of about R3,5m. Building operations had been approved for a further 30 sites, the cost of which would be almost R98m.

Sapa reports that fighting among inmates of the Durban Deep Hostel on the West Rand left six people dead on Saturday night, bringing to eight the number killed at the hostel since Christmas day.

Police have reported at least six other deaths in violence in the Transvaal since Thursday.

Three men died at Hostel 4, Sebokeng, in the Vaal Triangle; a man was stabbed to death and a woman was found hanged in Alexandra township, near Johannesburg; and the body of an unidentified man with his genitals cut off was found in the veld near Bekkersdal on the West Rand.

In Natal on Friday, two men were found shot dead at KwaNdengezi between Durban and Maritzburg, and the bodies of three men were found at Swayimani, outside Maritzburg.

Mine fight toll now nine

Sowetan 29/12/92

By Sowetan Reporter and Sapa

■ Situation at West Rand mine calm but tense after bloody fighting over the Christmas weekend: 278

THE death toll in the weekend fighting between inmates of two mine hostels on the West Rand has risen to nine, police spokesman W/O Andy Pieke said yesterday.

Two people died and 36 were injured on Christmas Day when a fight broke out, apparently over food. According to a mine spokesman, Mr Greg Kukard, six men had died and nine were injured when a group of Xhosa-speaking workers attacked workers from Mozambique on Saturday.

The ninth victim of the fighting died in hospital, according to the police.

Kukard said the situation at the mine was calm but tense. The mine was, however, operating normally.

The names of the dead would not be released until their next-of-kin had been notified.

Kukard yesterday said management would also conduct an investigation into the causes of the unrest and would take appropriate action against employees involved.

Pieke said police has arrested 88 mine employees.

White gunmen fire on blacks

CT 29/12/92 (278)

JOHANNESBURG. — Two black men were wounded by white gunmen over the weekend in what appear to be right-wing revenge shootings.

The men were both shot in Randburg on Sunday.

Police said they had yet to establish a motive for the attacks, but were investigating the possibility the incidents were the latest in apparent revenge shootings for attacks on whites.

"At this stage it is too early to determine whether the attacks were racially motivated, but we will be looking at that as a possible motive," a police spokesman said.

Six whites have been killed and more than 35 wounded in four politically-motivated machinegun and grenade attacks in South Africa and Transkei since November 28.

Fired from a car

The first victim in Sunday's shooting, a 29-year-old man, was discovered lying next to a road with a bullet wound in his neck. He told police his attacker was a white man who had fired at him from a car.

Three hours later police discovered the second victim a couple of kilometres away with bullet wounds in his chest and throat. He also identified his attacker as a white man driving a car.

Both men appeared to have been shot with a small calibre weapon, possibly a .22-calibre revolver.

They were in a satisfactory condition in hospital.

Although the attacks were similar, there was insufficient evidence to link the two shootings, the police spokesman said.

Taxis attacked

The attacks came a day after a black truck driver escaped uninjured when his vehicle was fired at by a white man in Vryburg.

In earlier attacks, white extremists in the Free State shot and killed a black man and injured 15 others in two separate attacks on taxis.

All five shootings come less than a week after right-wing groups accused the government of being unable or unwilling to stop attacks on whites in the country's rural areas, and threatened to launch retribution attacks against suspected blacks.

Apla has been linked to two of the attacks on whites.

These attacks were the first military-style assaults on white civilians since February 1990 when President F W de Klerk began dismantling apartheid. — UPI

20 hurt in brutal attack

Sowetan 29/12/92

By Tsale Makam

■ SADF SOLDIERS Orlando East residents allegedly assaulted during a seach: 278

ABOUT 20 Orlando East residents in Soweto were assaulted and three youths hospitalised after they were allegedly assaulted by SADF soldiers searching for a stolen gun.

Mr Vuyani Tyali (19) and Mr Zanele Malinga (18) were discharged from Baragwanath Hospital yesterday afternoon, their bruises still visible.

Tyali, who had scars around his neck, said the soldiers had hung him from a tree and demanded the gun.

Vuyani's mother, Mrs Cynthia Tyali, said the soldiers came in the early hours of Saturday morning demanding a gun. "They slapped me and my son. They poured cold water all over me and took my son away."

Vuyani said he and Floyd Njema were taken to a dam behind Orlando Stadium and later to the army base at Lenasia where they were further tortured.

Soweto police spokesman Captain Joseph Ngobeni yesterday confirmed that charges had been laid against the soldiers and that police were investigating.

Tyali was taken home at 7pm on Saturday, his face swollen and his body bruised.

According to residents, the soldiers were patrolling the area on Christmas day. At about 10pm they entered a house where there was a party and started drinking.

One soldier stayed behind after the others were forced out of the house by their captain. He was allegedly hit on the head and his gun stolen. When the other soldiers discovered what happened all hell broke lose.

They took the injured soldier from house to house. But the soldier pointed out at every boy as the one who took the gun.

Miss Mantoa Sebeso said she met the soldiers in the street at 11pm. "They held me by the scruff of my neck and slapped me. One pushed me against the hippo and started strangling me. I was so scared they would kill me. I suggested they go ask at another house where there was noise."

NEWS Immigrant lie

2 bodies in shaft - cops to appear

Sowetan 30/12/92

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■ Two will face murder and robbery charges in Klerksdorp court in the new year:

By Mzimasi Ngudle

TWO policemen will appear in court early next year to face murder and robbery charges following the death of two men whose bodies were found in a ventilation shaft in Klerksdorp on Christmas eve.

Western Transvaal police spokesman Lieutenant Petrus Ramatsoele said Lance-Sergeant Carel Blom (25) and Constable Gavin Carter (19) had been suspended from duty as a result.

A third suspect would be arrested in due course, he said.

Ramatsoele said the two men will appear in the Klerksdorp Magistrate's Court on January 7 on charges of murdering and robbing Mr Bobo Tshowala (29) and John Ngathini (35).

Tshowala, a co-owner of two liquor stores in Jouberton, Klerksdorp, and Ngathini, were allegedly robbed of R1 000 and six bottles of liquor on April 21.

The two went missing the following day and mystery has surrounded their fate since.

Information on the two missing men was supplied to the police by a suspect in another case on December 22.

On Christmas eve, and only hours after arrest of the two policemen, the skeletons were found in an old ventilation shaft at a mine in Klerksdorp.

Ramatsoele said the arrests came after police received information following the arrest of a man on charges of illegal possession of gold dust.

Skeletons of missing men found in shaft

The skeletons of two missing men were found underneath a pile of stones in a mineshaft outside Klerksdorp only hours after two policemen were arrested on charges of murder and robbery, an SAP spokesman said yesterday.

Lance-Sergeant Carl Albertus Blom (25) of the Klerksdorp police and Constable Gavin Corter (19) of the Internal Stability Unit at Diepkloof, Soweto, were arrested on December 24.

The arrests follow the disappearance of Klerksdorp liquor store manager Bobo Tsholo and security guard John Nghathini in April after a robbery at the store during which R1 000 and six bottles of liquor were stolen and a Toyota bakkie also went missing.

Only hours after the arrests of the two policemen, police discovered the skeletons of the two missing men in a mineshaft near Klerksdorp. Parts of the bakkie were also found in the shaft.

They appeared in court on December 25 and were let out on bail of R400 each.

Police are still searching for a third man. — Sapa.

NEWS Man arrested after a scuffle with 5 alleged pickpockets ● Stand by for matric results

Man (25) dies after assault

Sowetan 30/12/92 278

By Mzimasi Ngudle

■ Brother tells of alleged beating by four policemen at John Vorster:

A SOWETO man died last week after he was allegedly assaulted by four white policemen at John Vorster Square, his brother has alleged.

Mr Musa Hlongwane (21) said the police and traffic officers had arrested him and his late brother, Mr Norman Hlongwane (25), on December 18 following a scuffle with alleged pickpockets.

Police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said the police were still investigating.

Musa said five robbers had accused Norman of being a spy after Norman pointed out a thief who stole a hawker's shirt.

The men accosted them later at the taxi rank and a fight ensued.

Two white traffic officers arrived and four assailants who were brandishing knives ran away. Musa managed to grab the knife from the fifth assailant.

The assailant told the traffic officers that Musa and Norman were robbing him.

The traffic officers then phoned the police. Musa, Norman and the assailant were taken to John Vorster police station.

Musa said that the two traffic officers, together with two policemen who were found at the police station, assaulted him and his brother.

They were allegedly punched and kicked until Norman fell to the ground unconscious.

They were later taken to Hillbrow hospital after "one policemen refused to lock us in the cell because of our physical condition," Musa said.

Musa was discharged the same day, taken back to the cells and released three days later.

Norman was admitted and died in hospital six days later. The family has laid charges of assault and murder.

Meanwhile, three white men allegedly assaulted two black men near Vereeniging on Monday in what witnesses believed was a racist attack.

Two of the alleged attackers, Mr Johannes Van Vuuren (26) and Mr Lucas Venter (31), appeared in court yesterday and were released on warning, police confirmed.

Mr Joseph Mahlatsi (42) and Mr Thabo Matsie were coming from work on Monday when two white men walking on the bridge attacked them without any provocation.



CP mobilises home guard units

B|DAY 3|12|92.

SUSAN RUSSELL

CP HOME guard units in the Ladybrand area announced yesterday they were to establish camps to train communities in self-defence and weapon skills after recent attacks on whites.

This decision was taken by the leadership of 14 CP home guard units in the Ladybrand area at a meeting in the southern Free State town of Marquard yesterday.

CP MP for Ladybrand Charl Hertzog said yesterday's meeting was part of a nationwide mass mobilisation. Local home guard units would improve and extend the existing neighbourhood watch system, he said.

Training camps would instruct communities in weapon proficiency and self-defence against attacks on pedestrians or motorists.

Hertzog encouraged all countrymen (volksgenote) to involve themselves.

Yesterday's meeting follows two further incidents in the border area this week. A 15-year-old white teenager, Daniel Keis, was knocked down and slightly injured by a black taxi on Monday while jogging.

On Tuesday a white motorist was forced off the road by two black taxis while driving between Ladybrand and Hobhouse.

The SAP has assured the National Transport Policy Forum it will provide maximum protection to taxis and other vehicles after attacks on two black minibuses last week left one person dead and three others injured.

Two black taxi minibuses were shot at on Wednesday and Thursday last week, days after 15-year-old Leonie Pretorius was killed in a grenade attack on her parents' Ficksburg farmhouse.

The transport forum, representing all SA taxi associatons, met the SAP in Ficksburg on Tuesday to discuss the situation.

Forum road safety campaign coordinator Molefe Rapodile said yesterday the forum had complained about unlawful roadblocks manned by bogus police personnel, and the negative attitude of some traffic officers.

Rapodile said the SAP had told them extra policemen and soldiers had been deployed, and a helicopter and two aeroplanes were on standby.

"The police dealt with our problems most satisfactorily and assured us that roadblocks would be clearly marked and would be staffed by identifiable police officers," he said.

Police officer beaten to death

STEPHEN COPLAN

JOHANNESBURG policeman Jerry Tlou was beaten to death by a group of 50 taxi drivers and their accomplices in Hillbrow on Monday night, Witwatersrand police spokesman W/O Andy Pieke said yesterday.

B|DAY

The policeman, who was off duty and not wearing a uniform, approached a man suspected of theft in order to arrest him when the group surrounded him and beat him to death, Pieke said.

He said two men had been arrested for murder but had subsequently been released.

Taxi drivers questioned by the police alleged that the policeman attempted to rob one of the taxis, sparking off the incident, Pieke said. He said the police hoped to clear up the details of the attack soon, and had questioned 18 people so far.

31|12|92.

Pieke said the gun carried by the policeman could have reinforced the perception that he was a robber. He added that the SAP strongly condemned all vigilante activities.

Tlou was rushed to hospital in a police vehicle after waiting for an ambulance for more than two hours and was pronounced dead on arrival, Pieke said.

He said he hoped that the group was not aware that Tlou was a policeman, because the attack might then be interpreted as one directed specifically against a member of the SAP.

Police hope arrests end Pretoria train attacks

B|DAY 31|12|92.

STEPHANE BOTHMA

THE arrest of three men, allegedly responsible for a spate of killings and robberies shortly before Christmas, could put an end to train attacks in the Pretoria area, police believe.

Four attacks on Pretoria Metro trains — the first train killings in the area this year — took place on December 18, 19 and 24 and left three men dead and one injured.

The first arrest was made on Monday this week at the Belle Ombre station outside Pretoria, and was followed by two more arrests at the Pretoria station on Tuesday and at Mabopane yesterday, Northern Transvaal police said.

"All indications were that the motives for the attacks were robbery and not political, and we therefore believe the arrests will put an end to the incidents," a spokesman said.

Sapa reports police also announced a man had been arrested in connection with the deaths of two policemen on Christmas Eve in Vosloorus.

East Rand police liaison officer Capt Ida van Zweel said the arrest of a 21-year-old man on Monday followed the shooting of a municipal policeman and a fingerprint expert who were gunned down after responding to a housebreaking report.

The suspect was due to appear in Boksburg Magistrate's Court yesterday. A second man is being sought in connection with the incident.

And in Durban, police arrested a man yesterday in connection with the death of a man who was abducted and shot and whose legs were hacked off with a bush knife before he was buried in a shallow grave in Tongaat, on the Natal North Coast.

The arrest ends a month-long saga which involved the abduction and alleged abuse of two boys by six men at the beginning of December.

The suspect, along with three others arrested in connection with the incident, are due to appear in court shortly.

Two youths who witnessed the killing and mutilation of the man were abducted by the six men and held captive in a shack at a Tongaat refuse site for nearly two-and-a-half weeks.

Women and dogs shot on smallholding

WEST Rand police discovered the bodies of two women and the carcasses of six dogs on a smallholding near Randfontein after a worker found a note on the door asking that the police should be called.

The body of Myrna Barnard, 59, was found on her bed with a bullet wound in her head. Her elderly mother, Florence Cherry, was also shot in the head.

One of the dogs was shot and killed next to Cherry, and five others were killed in the bathroom.

Police have seized a firearm and a note claiming responsibility for the murder and are searching for a Gideon Barnard, who could assist in the investigation. — Sapa

Three men gunned down in Soweto

278
Soweto
31/12/92

ARMS SEIZED Police arrested two men and confiscated two pistols and ammunition:

THREE men were shot dead and one man was seriously wounded when a lone gunman opened fire while they were sitting in a car in Mapetla, Soweto on Tuesday night.

And in a killing spree on the West Rand, police discovered the bodies of two women and the carcasses of six dogs on a smallholding near Randfontein after a worker found a note on the door asking that the police should be called.

Also in Soweto, a South African Defence Force private was killed and nine other soldiers were slightly injured when the armoured vehicle in which they were travelling overturned on the Old Potchefstroom road.

Soweto police spokesman Captain Joseph Ngobeni reported yesterday that the motive for the Mapetla killings appeared to be a dispute over dagga which was believed to have been stolen from the attacker earlier.

But a family member, Mrs Mathilda Mosome, disputed the involvement of dagga and said this was untrue.

The injured man was taken to Baragwanath Hospital. Police found 9mm cartridges at the scene of the attack.

The Soweto Murder and Robbery Squad is still investigating and no arrests have been made, Ngobeni said.

In two other separate incidents, Soweto police arrested two men and confiscated a Makharov pistol and one round of ammunition and a semi-automatic pistol and six rounds of ammunition, also on Tuesday.

West Rand police said the body of Mrs Myrna Barnard (59) was found on her bed with a bullet wound in the head. Her elderly mother, Mrs Florence Cherry, was also shot in the head.

One dog was killed next to Cherry and five were killed in the bathroom.

Police have seized a firearm and a note claiming responsibility for the murder and are searching for a Mr Gideon Barnard, who could assist in the investigation.

The dead soldier, who was trapped under the vehicle, was identifed as Private Abraham Khoathela. - *Sapa.*

RIOTS & DISTURBANCES — T.V.L

1993

JANUARY — ~~FEBRUARY~~ MARCH

Danger on both sides of the fence

278

ST Times 3/11/93

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By CHARLES LEONARD

FICKSBURG taxi driver Bongani Mthimkulu does not have 1993 on his mind.

He lifts one hand from the minibus steering-wheel and points at the fast oncoming light. Exactly a week before another taxi driver was in the same position on this road. He was shot dead by three white extremists who, fuelled by their leaders' war talk, were driving around in their bakkie firing indiscriminately at black taxis.

"That could very easily be the killers again," says Bongani. Twenty metres away it is clear that the vehicle is also a bakkie, and Bongani shifts his grip on the steering-wheel. The bakkie, a white one this time, whooshes past towards Ficksburg.

Scared

"I would not have had a chance," says Bongani softly, almost to himself.

Early in 1992 Bongani had a brush with death. It happened in Qwa-Qwa when a gunman mistook the taxi in which he was a passenger for another one involved in a taxi war.

Again the driver was killed. The other occupant was shot through the heart and a bullet pierced Bongani's chest, missing his lungs by centimetres.

"Of course I am scared," he says glumly as he turns the nose of the taxi back towards Ficksburg for the return journey.

"But I can't just stop. This is my bread and butter — I have a family to look after."

In taxi-driver lingo "doing dead miles" means a return trip alone after you have dropped off your passengers at a distant destination.

For drivers in the volatile eastern Free State "dead miles" has a sinister undertone, because you are even more vulnerable on your own.

Bongani is visibly relieved as the rainy sky gets an orange tinge. He pulls into his hometown, Ficksburg, and the smile is back on his face again.

Journey No 2 had its origins in front of the Ficksburg town hall, where two cabinet ministers were shouted down by angry farmers and right-wingers just before Christmas, following attacks on white farmers in the district.

It is here that well-known right-winger Eddy von Maltitz gets out of his bakkie on Thursday.

Listening to this self-described "militarist, politician and farmer" leads to the thought that some of his utterances border on the farcical, but he still has a larger-than-life presence in Ficksburg. People take him seriously.

"The National Party, the ANC and Apla are all in the same camp," says Eddy with a knowing smile. "My biggest problem is the United States — they are the 'Third Force'. I am fighting the US."

Raging against the typical conspiratorial enemies of the far right-wing, his attention shifts to Jewish people.

"It is the Jews sitting behind the ANC," he says. "But I'm not anti-semitic. I'm just realistic."

Then Eddy finally concedes to a request to go on one of his nightly patrols, with what he calls his "reactionary" vehicle.

Vulnerable

He knows what he is doing as he leads a convoy of four bakkies in the pouring rain, visiting scared farmers on their farms. Like the taxi-drivers, they are always on the lookout for the faceless enemy.

The people are glad to see Eddy as it makes them feel reassured.

"I believe there will be a war here," says Eddy. "But we are all ready for them; we are not scared. I promise that our men won't take out innocent people but will take out their leaders — we know who they are."

The patrol ends early. "The men are worried about their families alone at home tonight."

Back to a war zone

Apress 3/11/93. (278)

When home is the only place to go ...

By THEMBA KHUMALO

SCORES of displaced families at Mzimhlophe in Soweto have started streaming back home after fleeing marauding impis from the nearby hostel.

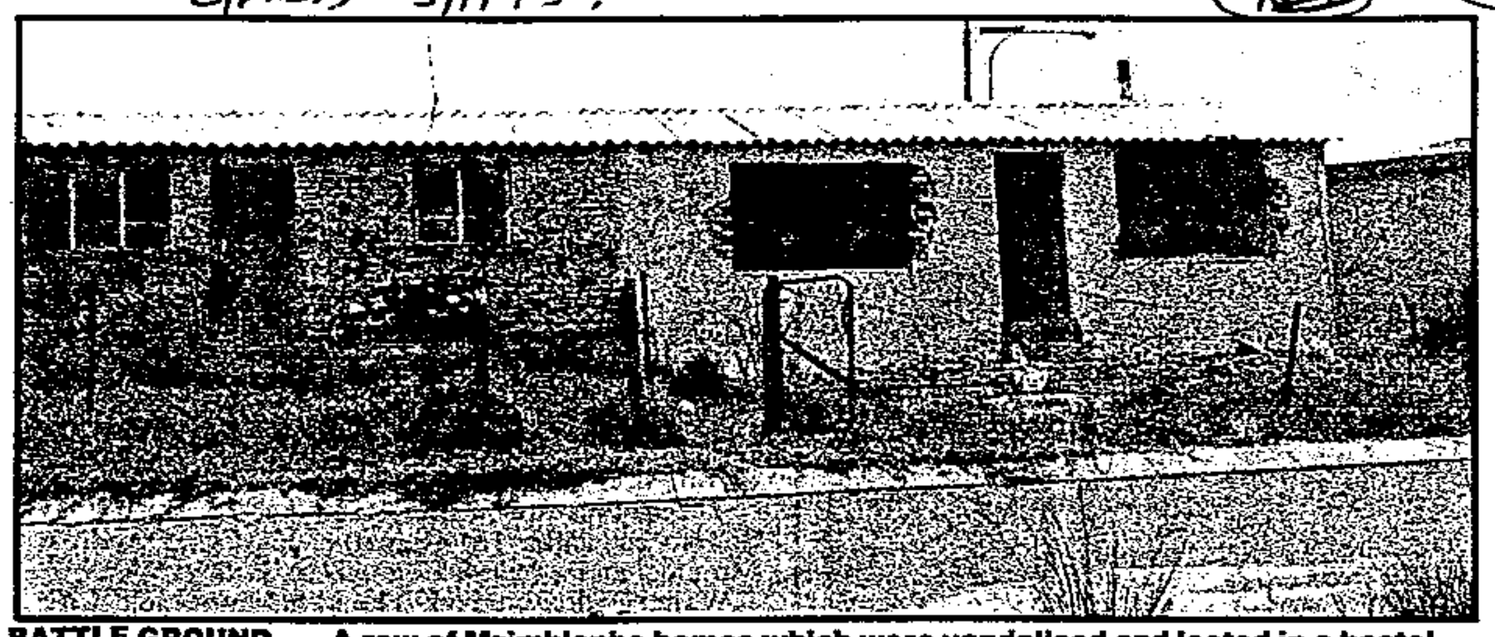
Early last year there were pitched battles between hostel dwellers and the pro-ANC township youths.

The families, who fled in April when the Inkatha-aligned hostel inmates attacked their homes to avenge the necklacing of a woman from the hostel, began returning to their houses in November after the fighting subsided.

Most of the returning families found their houses had no electricity, furniture, doors or windows after hostel inmates plundered their property.

The attack, which left hundreds of township residents homeless, was apparently sparked by the necklacing of an elderly woman whom the youths kidnapped at Vincent Road while she was waiting for a taxi.

This is alleged to have angered hostel inmates who are believed to have launched a series of revenge attacks against residents, killing women and children.



BATTLE GROUND ... A row of Mzimhlophe homes which were vandalised and looted in a hostel attack on residents last year. All that remains are the empty shells. ■ Pic: MIKE MZILENI

Only houses facing the hostel at Meadowlands Zone 1 and the hostel complex opposite the township remain deserted. The dusty road between the hostel and the township is a no-go zone for both residents and hostel dwellers.

The silence that has engulfed Meadowlands township and the hostel is in sharp contrast to the noise along Vincent Road where taxis pass, ferrying passengers to and from Johannesburg.

Although there is no formal peace agreement between the warring factions, there have been no reports of fights since township residents returned.

However, township residents are wary of the tranquility that prevailed during the festive season. They said there was no more fighting because the "Zulus have gone home for Christmas and they will return with more weapons and the fight will start afresh".

But the youths in the hostel said they were tired of fighting and on Christmas Day they fetched their township counterparts to celebrate with them.

"Our indunas chased them away and told them there was no formal peace treaty between the warring factions. We were disappointed by this and we told our friends when we escorted them out not to worry as everything will be arranged for peace," the hostel youths said.

Although some residents have returned to their Mzimhlophe homes, most houses are no more than skeletons with broken windows and doors.

The ANC in the PWV and the Transvaal Hostel Residents Association have signed an agreement which will improve relations between the residents and the hostel dwellers. The pact also calls for the upgrading of living conditions at the hostel.



NO-GO ZONE HOME ... Mzimhlophe resident Selathli returned to her house to spend Christmas at home.

Killing 'MK' three was a matter of survival, says teacher

HOW I GUNNED DOWN THUGS

C/Press 3/11/93

278

By MOSES MAMAILA



A SEBOKENG teacher this week gave a chilling account of how he shot dead three alleged MK soldiers shortly after narrowly escaping death at the hands of dozens of combatants.

Armstrong Motale, who refused to die when his assailants pumped four bullets into his body, lived to tell how he and his family narrowly escaped being victims of the now notorious Sebokeng Zone 12 gunmen.

"I am coming out to speak about this not because I am proud. On the contrary, I am shattered. The horrific incident has put me under so much strain I can never forget it. But it was a matter of survival. My assailants were threatening to kill me and I just had to defend myself," Motale said this week.

"I am myself an ANC member. I started serving the organisation long before it was unbanned and senior members of the movement in the area know that very well," he said.

Relating the dramatic November 12 incident, Motale, a popular tavern owner in the area, said he had gone to the funeral of the Zwane family who had been wiped out by mystery gunmen in Zone 12.

On returning from the graveyard, a group of more than 50 youths approached him and accused him of disarming MK guerrillas in the area. He tried to persuade them that was not possible since he lacked the might and the will to embark on such an operation

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On returning from the graveyard, a group of more than 50 youths approached him and accused him of disarming MK guerrillas in the area. He tried to persuade them that was not possible since he lacked the might and the will to embark on such an operation which "even the SADF failed to carry out".

But the youths, who were armed with shotguns, demanded that he should drive with them to his home to reveal "the guns".

He said the local ANC leadership intervened and tried to convince the "young lions" that the matter could be dealt with in a non-violent manner.

But the youths refused to listen and maintained that they were MK members and that civilians could not command them. They said they were accountable to the military command of MK and not to the political leadership of the ANC, he said.

At gunpoint, Motale was ordered to drive his BMW to his home in the neighbourhood.

He said: "They made it quite clear I was going to die, whatever happened. They started inquiring about my young son, making it clear that my family too was being targeted."

Five cadres rode with him in his car, and other gunmen raced behind in other vehicles.

He stopped his car near his home and made a dash for the yard. Two shots were fired at him but they missed.

"I drew my gun in the yard and fired two warning shots and I saw some of the youths dashing for cover. I went back towards the car and one of the gunmen fired at me. Three bullets cut through the left part of my stomach and one struck me in the rib.

"I staggered and fell next to the car, still holding my gun. One of the youths moved towards me carrying a big stone. I fired at him.

"Miraculously I reached my house. I was bleeding profusely. My wife, who was hysterical after hearing the shots, run outside.

"A few moments later I heard four shots being fired and I thought that my wife had been killed. I went mad and vowed that they would have to kill me too.

"After reloading, I went outside and fired indiscriminately at my attackers. They fired at me

■ To Page 2



'I killed thugs'

From Page 1.

too but fortunately they missed," he said.

Still bleeding profusely, Motale then drove to the Evaton police station and was taken to hospital.

Later he was told that during the intense shooting three gunmen were killed, but his wife escaped unhurt.

He spent about a month at a private clinic in Vereeniging.

Motale, who has not fully recovered, said he was still amazed at how he survived when about 50 combatants with apparent military skills tried to eliminate him.

"I do not believe it was luck but that God did not want to take my life at the time," he said.

As a measure of goodwill, Motale, who has vacated his double-story tavern-cum-home, has offered to loan it free to returned exiles.

"My whole life has been disrupted, but I bear no grudges. What happened was unfortunate, but unavoidable. I hope the guys on the other side feel the same. I pray that we will shake hands and let this unfortunate incident be a closed chapter."

However, the house offer was politely turned down by ANC PWV publicity secretary Ronnie Mamoepa.

"We are grateful that he could make the offer, but we can't accept it. It is his house and he must live in it. If we allowed situations where the organisation took over houses from people who were victims of political thugs, we would be setting a bad precedent," Mamoepa said.

"We are also concerned about the situation in the area and hope we can make suitable arrangements for Motale and his family to get back to their home and live in peace," he said.

He invited Motale to a meeting with senior ANC officials to resolve the matter.



Top E Rand men shot in heists

(278)

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

Cpress 3/1/93

TWO well-known East Rand educationists were shot, one fatally, in two separate attacks during the festive season.

Sports administrator and deputy principal, Mpini Molotshwa, 44, was shot dead on Christmas Eve when three armed men burst into a house where a party was being held and opened fire before fleeing with their loot.

Three other revellers were injured in the attack and taken to a nearby hospital.

In another incident two weeks earlier, former Nkumbulo High School principal and businessman, Paul Matsinye, was seriously wounded when suspected robbers shot at him while he was closing his business premises near the notorious KwaThema hostel.

Police spokesman Capt Ida van Zweel confirmed the incidents.

Residents of the East Rand township have complained of the soaring crime rate in the hostel area.

Matsinye, who holds a masters' degree in education, was shot in the chest and the bullet penetrated his right lung. He was rushed to the Far East Rand Hospital where he was resuscitated.

Matsinye left teaching two years ago to run the family business following his father's death.

Burst in

On Christmas Eve, Molotshwa was enjoying a party in KwaThema with friends at a house when three men suddenly burst in.

At the time of his death, Molotshwa was deputy principal at Phulong High School.

The owner of the attacked house, Raymond Gama, said one youth entered the room they were sitting in and pointed a revolver at him.

"Suddenly two other guys came in and ordered other revellers to lie down.

"While they were responding to the order, a shot was fired from a shotgun.

"They ransacked the house, taking money, watches, assorted liquor and cigarettes.

"We only discovered after they had left that Molotshwa had been hit in the chest," said Gama.

The robbers escaped in a minibus belonging to taxi owner Nelson Nkosi. The gang shot him and he was admitted to Pholosong Hospital.

Another reveller, Joe Xaba, sustained two bullet wounds after he was shot while lying on the ground. Xaba was treated and released from the hospital.

Gama was badly hit on his right eye with the butt of a gun.

"This was the first time my house has been targeted. I still cannot believe what has happened," Gama sighed.

Van Zweel said no arrests have made, adding that investigations were continuing.

Molotshwa was buried on Thursday at the local cemetery.



Yeltsin in Moscow.

Two killed in Bekkersdal unrest

STAR 4/1/93

278

By Gien Elsas
West Rand Bureau

Two men were killed and four people were injured in renewed fighting between Azapo and IFP supporters in Bekkersdal on the West Rand last night and, according to Azapo, police colluded with the IFP.

Azapo spokesman Dr Gomolemo Mokae said police yesterday raided the home of one of their members, Mandla Nono, who was buried on Saturday.

Mokae said Azapo members were guarding Nono's house after IFP attacks last week and were disarmed by the police.

He said that after they were disarmed, IFP members attacked the home.

Mokae said one resident was killed and four Azapo youths seriously injured.

Mokae said that before the attack police told the bereaved family: "Anyone found with arms will be handed over to the IFP."

Commenting on the attack, SAP spokesman Major Henriette Bester said police were called to Bekkersdal at about 5 pm after receiving reports of shooting in the township.

At 7.15 pm they found the bodies of two men who had been hacked and stabbed.

A man identified by the police as a Mr Chubela claimed he saw two buses with Inkatha supporters enter Bekkersdal.

He claimed that the men in the buses attacked commuters waiting at a taxi rank.

Cheers for top DET matriculant Mpho

Women in protest over notorious gang

Sowetan 4/11/93

278

ABOUT 100 Thokoza women yesterday marched on the local police station to protest against the reign of terror allegedly conducted by the so-called Khumalo Gang in the East Rand township.

The alleged gang is led by gun-totting priest Archbishop Mbhekiseni Khumalo who is the head of the Light-of-God Church in Zion.

The march follows the killing of five people on New Year's Day.

The five were Panani Sibisi (29), Thapelo Leotlela (26), Donda Mbatha (20), Aaron Shongwe (32) and a youth identified only as Rabie.

■ Five New Year's Day deaths blamed on Khumalo Gang of Thokoza:

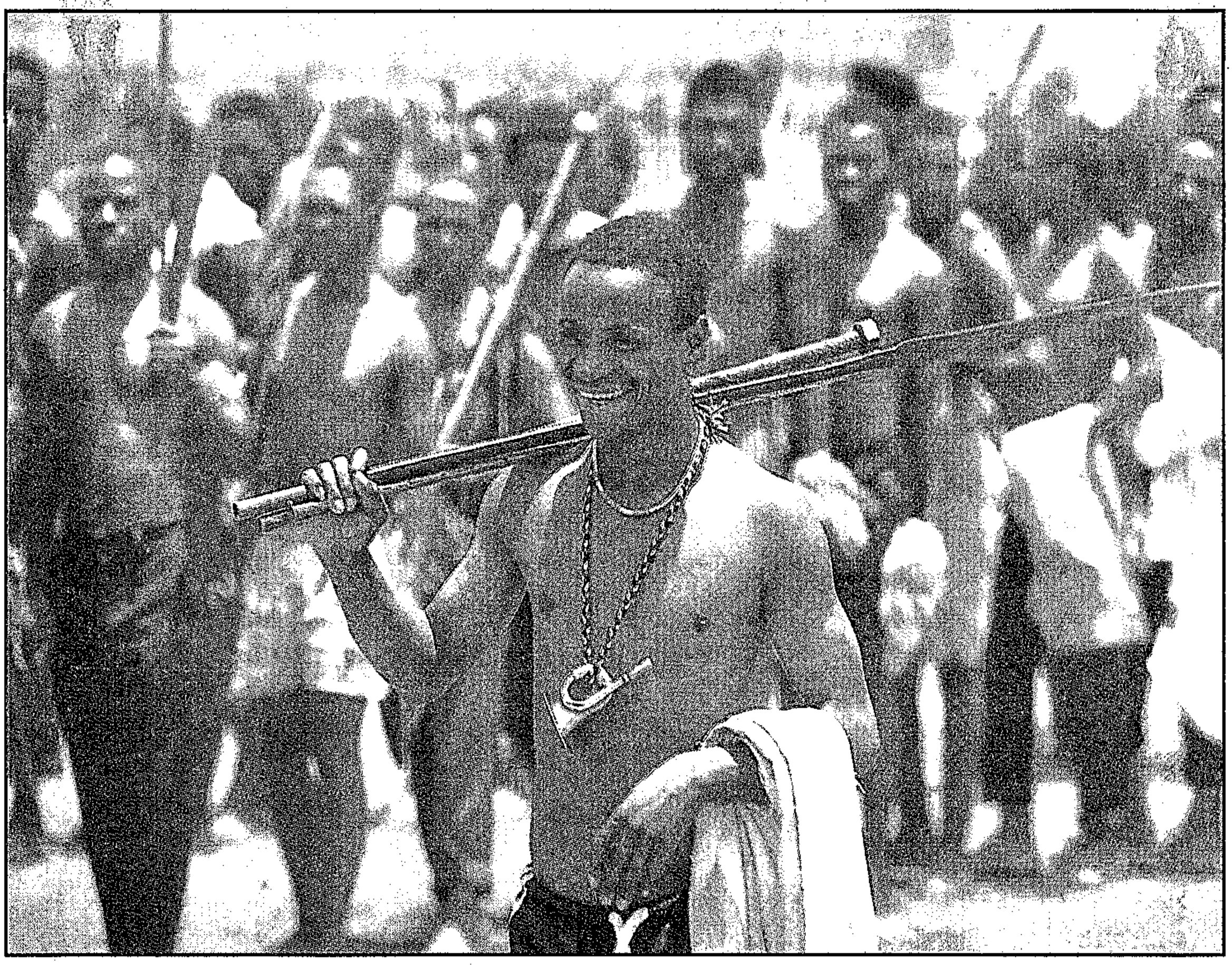
The marchers blamed the so-called Khumalo Gang for the killings.

A witness said the killings took place at 2am on Friday while the youths enjoyed themselves at a New Year's Day party.

She said three of those shot died on the spot in Mnguni Street and the other two in Nhlapo Street in Thokoza.

The woman said a youth who was seriously injured and was admitted to Natalspruit Hospital had to be whisked away after the gang allegedly followed him to the hospital.

The angry women could not hand over their memorandum because a policeman refused accept it at Thokoza police station.



Up in arms . . . Bekkersdal residents gather yesterday to discuss defending their community after two members of the Azanian People's Organisation were killed and four seriously injured in fighting between supporters of Azapo and the Inkatha Freedom Party on Sunday night.
Picture: Ken Oosterbroek

Peace meeting call to halt Bekkersdal feud

5TAR 5/11/93. (278)

Peace monitors in the violence-ridden West Rand township of Bekkersdal have called a meeting today between leaders of the feuding Azanian People's Organisation and Inkatha Freedom Party in a bid to halt violence that killed two people on Sunday.

The monitors called for the meeting between signatories of the 1991 Bekkersdal peace accord at the Paul Nel Hall.

Tensions mounted in the township following the hacking to death of two Mandela Park residents at the taxi rank.

Local ANC officials said both victims had been residents of the township's ANC stronghold and that they had been killed by men wearing IFP T-shirts. Four others were injured.

A local IFP official said supporters of his group had launched the attack to draw attention to problems experienced with Azapo members.

About 200 ANC supporters performed a war dance in Mandela Park last night in response to the attack. Armed with spears, knives and pangas, they danced in a circle as muti prepared by a traditional leader was splashed over them.

But a local ANC official stressed the ritual was only for purposes of self-defence.

Azapo and ANC supporters yesterday blamed IFP supporters for the recent violence. In turn, the IFP charged "thugs" from Azapo with forcing its supporters into conflict.

Azapo members said they were attacked twice by IFP supporters yesterday. No one was injured in the morning attack, but a man was wounded in the afternoon. — Staff Reporter, Sapa.

NEWS Inkatha Freedom Party says it welcomes moves to end violence ● Action by teachers

Azapo's demand

Sowetan 6/1/93 Sowetan.

By Joe Mdhlela

THE AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION (Azapo) in Bekkersdal yesterday said peace talks between itself and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) should involve other organisations in the area.

It appeared yesterday that peace talks between Azapo and the IFP were on the cards.

But Azapo branch secretary Mr Father Ratsoeu said it was premature to talk about a peace meeting. "The peace talks we envisage should involve other liberation movements. They need to be present as observers," Ratsoeu said.

Azapo members would not subject themselves to the discipline of the local dispute resolution committee, Ratsoeu said.

He accused the police of siding with the IFP as the feud which has claimed the lives of five people in the West Rand township continued to rage.

IFP spokesman Charles Loliwe said his organisation was for peace and welcomed initiatives to have hostilities between the two organisations ended.

"We are for peace... we want to talk to Azapo. However we must point out that three of our members have been killed by Azapo."

He said it was not true that they were the instigators of the violence.

"The truth of the matter is that we are forced to retaliate in order to protect ourselves."

■ BEKKERSDAL WAR

Peace talks should involve other organisations

278

The allegation about police might appear to be a concoction "but we know that the ordinary residents of the township will support this claim," contended Ratsoeu.

The fighting started after a slain Azapo member, Mr Mandla "Billity" Nono, was buried on Saturday afternoon, he said.

"Later the same evening the house of Mandla's parents was attacked, with people identified as Inkatha members breaking all the window panes and terrorising the occupants of the house. As I am talking to you, Mandla's parents have fled and abandoned their house," said Ratsoeu.

Police spokeman Major Henrietta Bester denied police were helping Inkatha attack Azapo members.

She said a group of youths, allegedly Azapo members, had attacked Zulu-speaking people, killing one and seriously injuring a second person.

Sowetan established that several houses in Bekkersdal had been attacked. In one house a woman was stabbed several times as she hid under the bed by men carrying "traditional weapons".

the nation in brief

Visiting girl vanishes

A 10-YEAR-OLD Zimbabwean girl, missing since a visit to a Norwood, Johannesburg, store on Christmas Eve, is feared to have been kidnapped.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Warrant-Officer Andy Pieke yesterday said Lindiwe Moyo and her mother were visiting South Africa from Zimbabwe and were staying in a Norwood home which they were looking after for a friend. Norwood police were puzzled by the girl's disappearance and have opened a kidnapping docket.

The missing child speaks only Shona and is apparently slightly retarded.

She was last seen wearing black ski pants and a white T-shirt with printed pink flowers.

Man held for murder

PRETORIA police have arrested a man in connection with the alleged murder of ANC marshal Mr William Sethosa, who was stabbed in Atteridgeville on December 26. The suspect is due to appear in court soon on a charge of murder.

'Witch smelling' ritual

THE FAMILY of a Swazi woman are to arrange a "witch smelling" ceremony after the woman reportedly gave birth to "a large lizard".

Police shoot suspect

A MAN arrested in connection with car radio thefts was shot dead near Potchefstroom when he tried to escape from police yesterday.

The man was arrested at Tarentaal on the Potchefstroom-Johannesburg road. He had tried to run away after taking police to a nearby veld to point out where he had hidden some radios. A western Transvaal police spokesman said the suspect ignored a verbal warning and four warning shots.

Hand sent to morgue

A HUMAN hand which washed up at Durban's South Beach sealed in a plastic bag on Monday has been sent to a police mortuary. An attempt to establish the identity of the person from whom the hand came would be made by taking fingerprints, police spokesman Captain Bala Naidoo said yesterday.

Bank robber arrested

NAMIBIAN police arrested a Windhoek bank robber less than six hours after he made off with about R15 000 on Monday.

Chief Inspector Sean Geyser said the man, wearing running shoes, black shorts, a red shirt and a blue balaclava, demanded money while pointing a

Natal hostels set alight

(276)

Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG — Youths set alight about six or seven hostels and an office complex in Bruntville, Mooi River, at about 10 am yesterday for the fourth time in four days.

On Saturday, the hostel compound's kitchen was destroyed in an attack in which a gas cylinder was set alight.

On Sunday, attackers tried to set fire to the hostels with petrol-soaked mattresses, tyres and wood. According to the IFP the hostels were also petrol-bombed on Monday morning.

No policemen were present, a Mooi River resident said, and youths were still milling about an hour after the first building was set alight.

Youths also threw stones at the buildings. Another resident was threatened by a youth who had an AK-47 assault rifle.

The hostels, which each accommodate about 50 people, were empty. The resident said people sympathetic to the IFP usually lived in the hostels, but were away for the holidays.

Bruntville Hostel was at the centre of a recent Goldstone Commission investigation which recommended that it be fenced as soon as possible.

Star 6/11/93

Bekkersdal peace indaba

Warring political movements in the troubled West Rand township of Bekkersdal are planning to hold a meeting today after a series of frustrating delays.

Bekkersdal Monitoring Committee spokesman Vuyisile Ndabeni said a day of to-and-fro negotiations yesterday with leaders of the Azanian People's Organisation and the Inkatha Freedom Party had finally resulted in a firm commitment by the parties to meet and discuss peace proposals.

A meeting which had been scheduled for yesterday failed to take place.

The whole process had been restarted yesterday, culminating in a commitment to hold today's meeting, Ndabeni said. — Sapa.



focus on taxi feud

7/1/93.

278

The expulsion of the president of the Pretoria Taxi Association by the Transvaal Taxi Association - affiliates of the Southern Africa Black Taxi Association - has sparked off a major row. **Joshua Raboroko** reports:

A SERIOUS conflict that could have grave consequences is looming in the Transvaal taxi industry.

At the centre of the discord is the expulsion by the Transvaal Taxi Association (TTA) of the president of the Pretoria Taxi Association (PTA), Mr Enos Makena, at a meeting last month.

The TTA warned this week that "many heads will roll should any official or member try to bring the association into disrepute".

"We do not regret the action against Makena and we will do it again for the sake of black economic development," an official said.

Makena's axing means that he has also been expelled from the executive committee of the giant Southern Africa Black Taxi Association (Sabta).

Makena was one of the disgruntled taxi owners who last year called for the resignation of all office bearers of the Foundation for African Business and Consumer Services (Fabcos) to which Sabta is affiliated.

They also demanded that a commission of inquiry be appointed to investigate the use of the organisation's finances during the past four years.

In a memorandum claimed to have been signed by 13 of the 18 regions of Sabta in the Transvaal, the taxi owners said they wanted to stop corruption and the misuse of money to finance Fabcos and its marketing wing and the over-payment of some members.

Their demands were;

- That the Sabta executive committee resign;
- A steering committee be elected;
- Repossession of vehicles be stopped;
- Full payment of Wesbank monies back to members; and
- Future Bank, formed by Fabcos, be rejected.

An executive member of the PTA, Mr Solomon Mgidi, said that the Sabta Foundation Scheme, designed to assist prospective taxi owners with finance, no longer served the purpose.

"Many members are having their kombis repossessed at an alarming rate, while hundreds of thousands of rands of members' bank interest is being paid out to marketing and Sabta," the memorandum said.

Insurance premiums paid by Sabta were unacceptably high, especially when other insurance companies provided cover at far lower rates, the memorandum added.

Sabta public affairs manager Mr Mike Ntlatleng said the conflict was sparked off by misunderstanding between an official and a former employee of Sabta Marketing.

He was afraid the row could lead to bitter warfare, dragging in innocent passengers and taxi-owners.



The taxi business ... going through hard times.

Ntlatleng said that the Sabta executive committee would only resign if asked to do so by members at an executive annual meeting. And even then, regions and provinces should have dealt with the matter.

"There was no need for a steering committee to be elected at this stage as that would be unconstitutional," he said.

As far as the organisation was concerned, no executive had raised the matter at the last annual meeting.

Ntlatleng agreed that there had been large-scale repossession of kombis due to non-payment and other difficulties faced by the owners.

According to taxi owners and finance houses, minibus sales have dropped from an average of 600 to 400 a month in the past two years.

A large number of payment defaults has resulted in some financial institutions demanding much higher deposits and shorter repayment periods than before.

Sources said sales had dropped by about 80 percent in the last six months of 1992.

Ntlatleng attributed the non-payment to the downturn in the economy.

"Many owners are going through a lean period. Customers are getting fewer because of unemployment, the drought and poverty among most blacks."

He explained that Future Bank was a joint venture between Wesbank and Fabcos to provide loans to the informal sector, including taxis.

"One of the major tasks of the bank is black economic empowerment. It is trying to create a more emphatic approach to people who have previously been barred from conventional banks," he said.

The notion to reject the bank was "nonsensical" and those calling for its disbanding must change their minds.

Ntlatleng said that every taxi owner could insure his vehicle and could make arrangements with a company of his choice.

He denied that there was any misuse of money by Fabcos and Sabta. They had fought against the infiltration of the taxi industry by whites.

"We have always been against the infiltration of the taxi industry by these people because that often resulted in taxi wars," he said.

"If any member is dissatisfied with our services, our door is open for negotiations.

"We want peace in the taxi industry. Let us stop the wars," Ntlatleng said.

Star 7/1/93

Walkout by IFP disrupts meeting

By Julienne du Toit

A meeting in Bekkersdal to resolve a dispute between the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Azanian People's Organisation ended indecisively last night. 7/1/93.

According to the chairman of the Bekkersdal Monitoring Committee (BMC), Vuyisile Ndabeni, IFP members walked out after being outnumbered by Azapo and ANC supporters in the Paul Nel Hall.

The meeting was called after violence in the township on Sunday, when two people were killed and four injured.

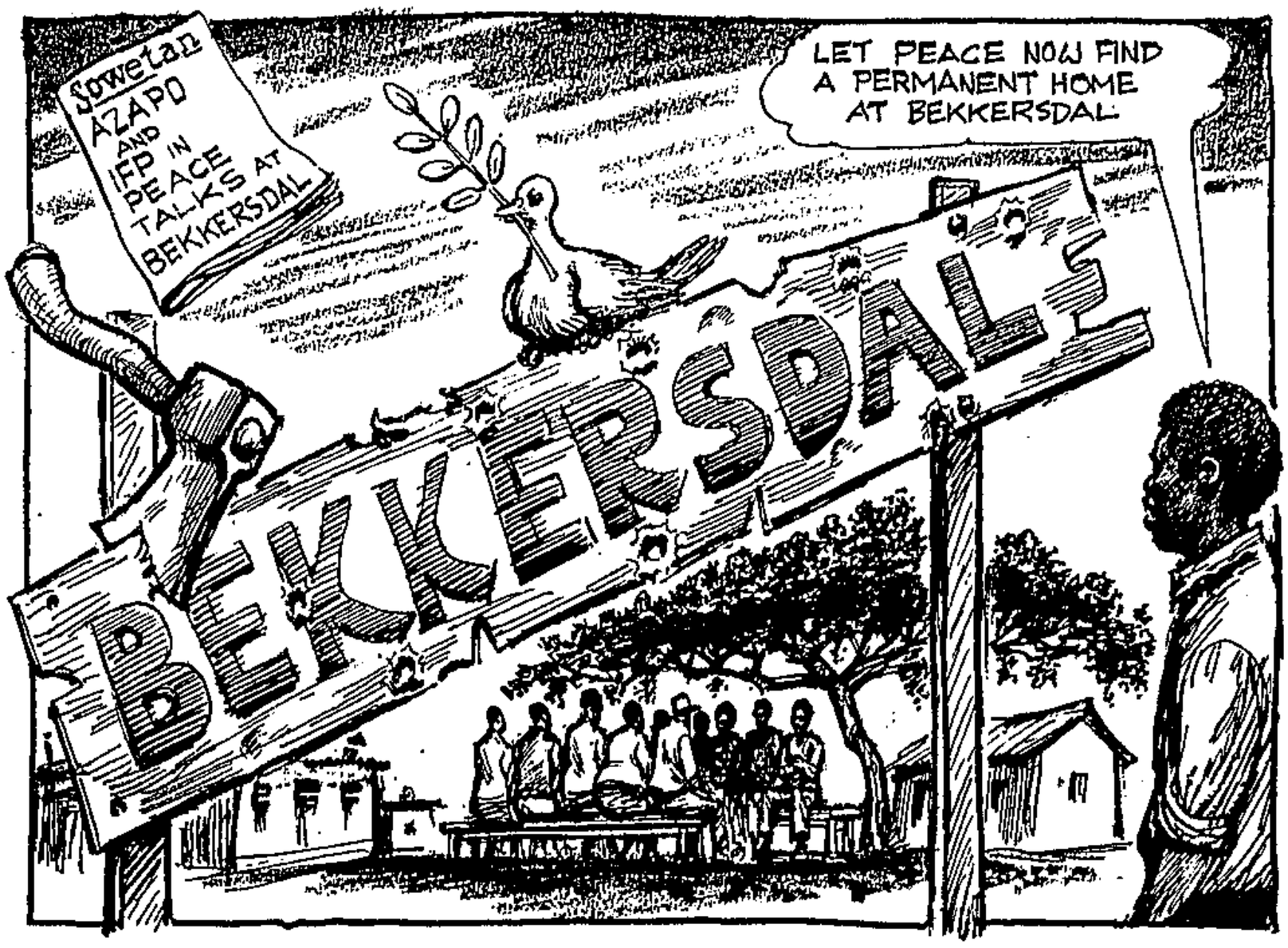
Ndabeni admitted the BMC had not enforced the quota of each organisation strictly enough.

The IFP contingent also claimed, on its return, that the hall was not a neutral venue.

A working group, comprising two representatives each from Azapo, IFP, the Pan-Africanist Congress and the ANC, would meet today to discuss logistics for a meeting tomorrow.

● In the township yesterday, three gunmen opened fire at a taxi rank, wounding one man in the leg. Police said the the gunmen were chased away, apparently by members of Azapo.

FOCUS *Disgruntled taxi owners throw spanner into the works*



focus on **taxi feud**

7/1/93. Sowetan 278

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Azapo declares a war

By Joe Mdhlela

MANDLA Nono lies buried in grave A3418 with the Azapo flag flying over it at the Bekkersdal Cemetery on the West Rand.

This young life, only 23, was terminated two weeks ago by a rival's arms of war. Nono's life was committed to the liberation of all the oppressed black people of "occupied Azania".

But the organisation of which his life was an asset has made this sobering vow: "Never again will we fold arms and turn the other cheek when our members are killed in great numbers. Henceforth we will fight fire with fire, gouge out an eye if ours has been gouged out."

The pledge was made by Azapo's Transvaal president, Mr Nkosi Molala, at the funeral service of activist Nono.

Addressing the mourners, Molala said: "I hope what I say today is shared by my comrades in the national executive committee."

Molala's statement was greeted with a tumultuous roar of "yes", "Amandla" and "Buwa".

Even in this climate of apparent militancy, organisations in the embattled Bekkersdal talk about striking peace.

Spokesman for Inkatha Freedom Party in the area Mr Charles Loliwe said it would be silly to think that Inkatha was not committed to peace and coexistence with other organisations.

28 KILLED *Nono the latest victim since violence erupted in 1990:*

"Peace does not go alone. If you prepare for peace, you must equally make provision for war, so that the very war should protect the peace you may achieve"

"We are committed to peace and we would like to iron out our differences with Azapo," he said.

Loliwe said he appreciated that there could be problems but it was through negotiation that they could be overcome.

However, it would be naive to wish away the fact that there are tensions in the area,and that their members are being killed.

"It is precisely because of these problems that we need to talk together," he said.

Secretary of the local branch Mr Father Ratsoeu showed *Sowetan* graves which have become home to 28 Azapo activists since 1990. Five died this year.

"They all lie here," pointing at various graves where his comrades have been buried. "How long should we come here to bury our comrades?" he asked.

"We are tired of folding our arms and watching our comrades getting killed. We have to defend ourselves and to that end we will use all resources we can lay our hands on to repel the enemy," he said.

During the past February, the community of Bekkersdal celebrated the first anniversary of the dawning of peace in the area. The peace accord between the warring factions, Azapo, ANC, PAC, was signed in February 1991.

Up to that point 300 people had lost their lives, with thousands seriously injured in a "war" that appeared to have political undertones.

Compounding the problem was the fact that thousands of homeless people had been "resettled" in squatter conditions.

The majority of the people who live in these informal houses are either unemployed or under-employed, so that their immediate dependents "must be innovative in order to survive".

The use of AK-47s, handgrenades, pangas, knives, petrol bombs and the dreaded necklace are commonplace at Bekkersdal, boasting a population of 100 000.

That young life buried at grave number A3418, appear to have aggravated matters and made peace prospects harder to realise.

"Why should we talk peace when our members are decimated at every turn?" asked Miss Lydia Lentshe, branch leader of Azapo women's movement Imbeleko.

In a eulogy for the slain Nono, Molala made the following remarks: "Peace does not go alone. If you prepare for peace, you must equally make provision for war, so that the very war should protect the peace you may have achieved."

This, in a nutshell, reflects the volatile situation at Bekkersdal.

It is not always easy to talk peace.

"We are committed to peace and we would like to iron out our differences with Azapo"



Father Ratsoeu standing next to Mandla Nono's number A3418 grave.

NEWS

Police warn leaders in Bekkersdal

(278)

STAR 8/11/93.

Police have warned political leaders in troubled Bekkersdal that steps could be taken to declare it an unrest area if violence is not brought under control.

This was the message to leaders in the West Rand township as they met on Wednesday night to resolve the conflict, said police spokesman Major Henriette Bester.

A fresh peace meeting between local leaders of the Azanian People's Organisation and the Inkatha Freedom Party was scheduled for today at the Johannesburg offices of the UN, Bekkersdal Monitoring Committee spokesman Vuyisile Ndabeni said yesterday.

Wednesday's meeting, he said, had been adjourned after the large number of representatives and residents had made it unwieldy. The occasion had, however, been a good opportunity to reduce animosity between the leaders.

Only five representatives of each organisation would be allowed to attend today's meeting, said Ndabeni.

Bester reported yesterday that nine people were arrested in Bekkersdal overnight.

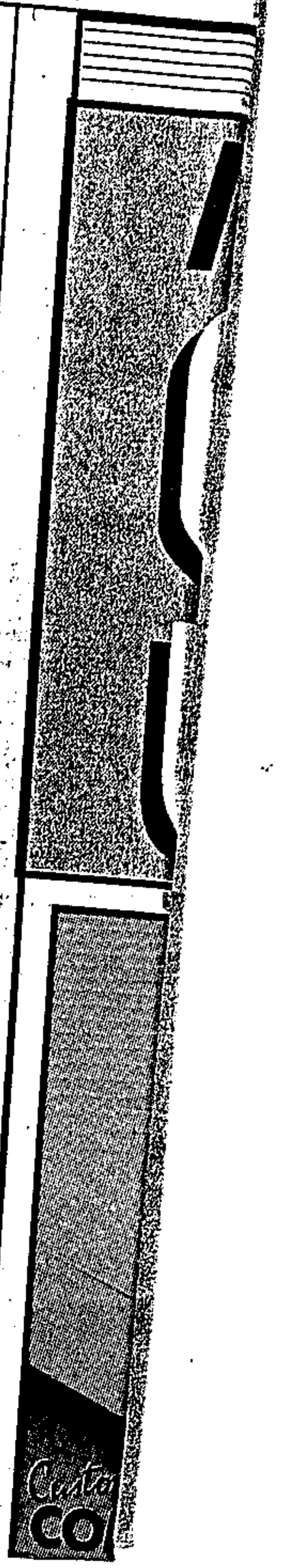
A man, Lucas Molekane, was killed in what appeared to have been a crime-related attack.

Two of those arrested had been in possession of commercial explosives, but claimed no political affiliation.

A police patrol had been led to a cache of homemade weapons when they chased a man carrying a firearm.

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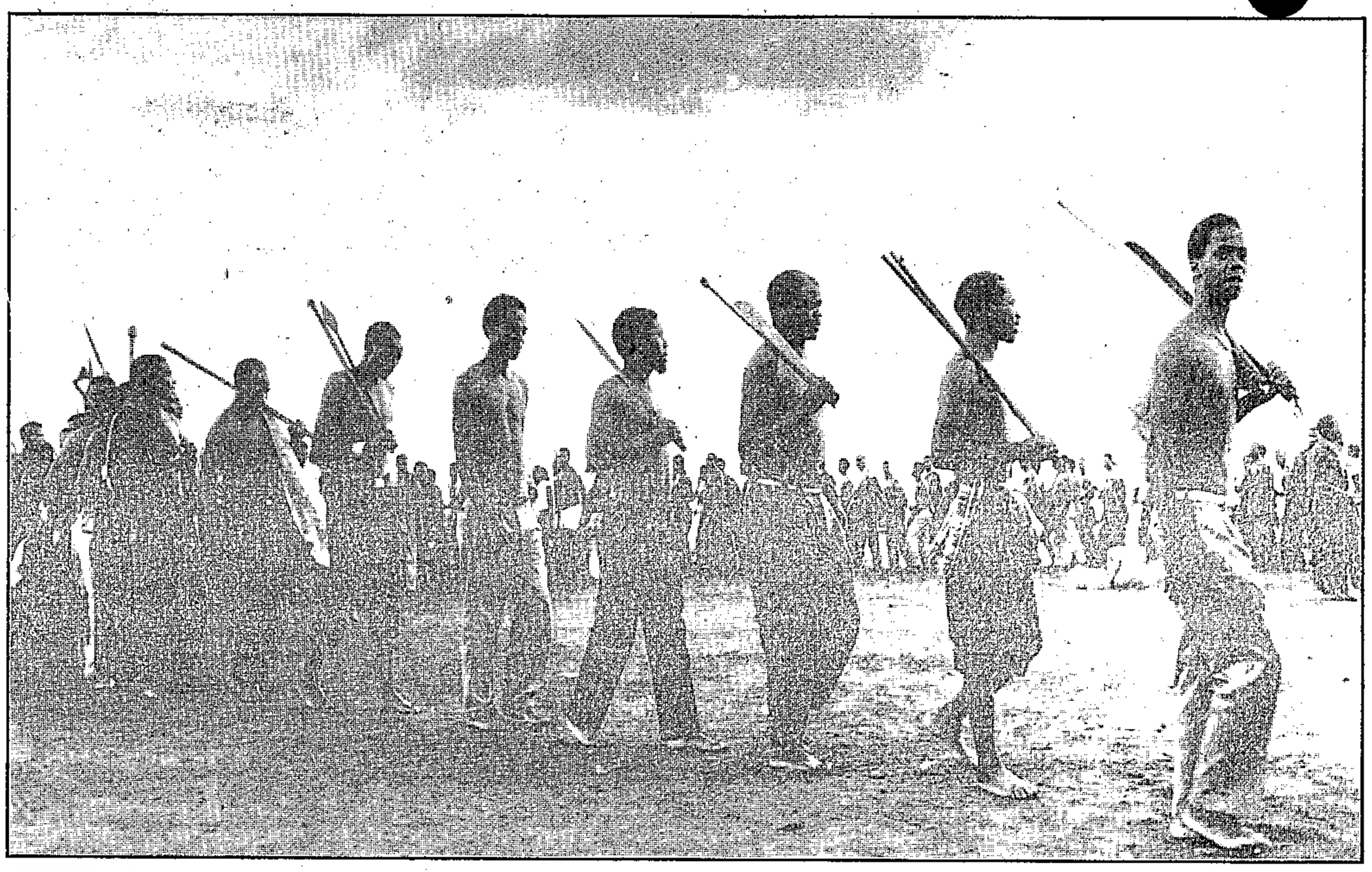
The weapons were confiscated and seven people, who claimed to be members of the ANC, were arrested, Bester said. — Sapa.



A small town prepares for war

"If I have a problem", says one man, trying to explain why violence flared in the town of Bekkersdal, "and if no one does anything about it, it is better that I make it everyone's problem. Maybe now people will be aware of our plight"

(278)



By BAFANA KHUMALO

ON the surface, Bekkersdal seems calm. People are getting on and off mini-buses at the taxi rank — the focus of the latest battle to rip this western Transvaal township apart.

For years, the main flashpoint in Bekkersdal was tension between the United Democratic Front, then the African National Congress, and the Azanian People's Organisation. Bekkersdal is one of the few townships with a strong Azapo presence.

Recently the line of cleavage shifted: Inkatha Freedom Party members began fighting Azapo. Then on Sunday, everything changed.

A group of youths hijacked a taxi for a joyride. IFP members chucked the youths out and confiscated the taxi. The taxi owner went to the ANC-aligned civic association for help, but when the civic confronted the IFP men, they said they would refer the matter to the local dispute resolution committee. W1 mail

On Sunday afternoon two IFP men were stoned to death at the taxi rank; residents believe Azapo members were responsible. 8/1 -14/1/93

It's Monday now, hours after IFP members have counter-attacked the taxi rank. In the adjacent Mandela Park shack settlement, ANC members are gearing for war.

In the township, a group of men stand one street away from a barricade, armed with metal rods, sticks and knives. A man shouts from down the street: "Don't talk to (reporters)."

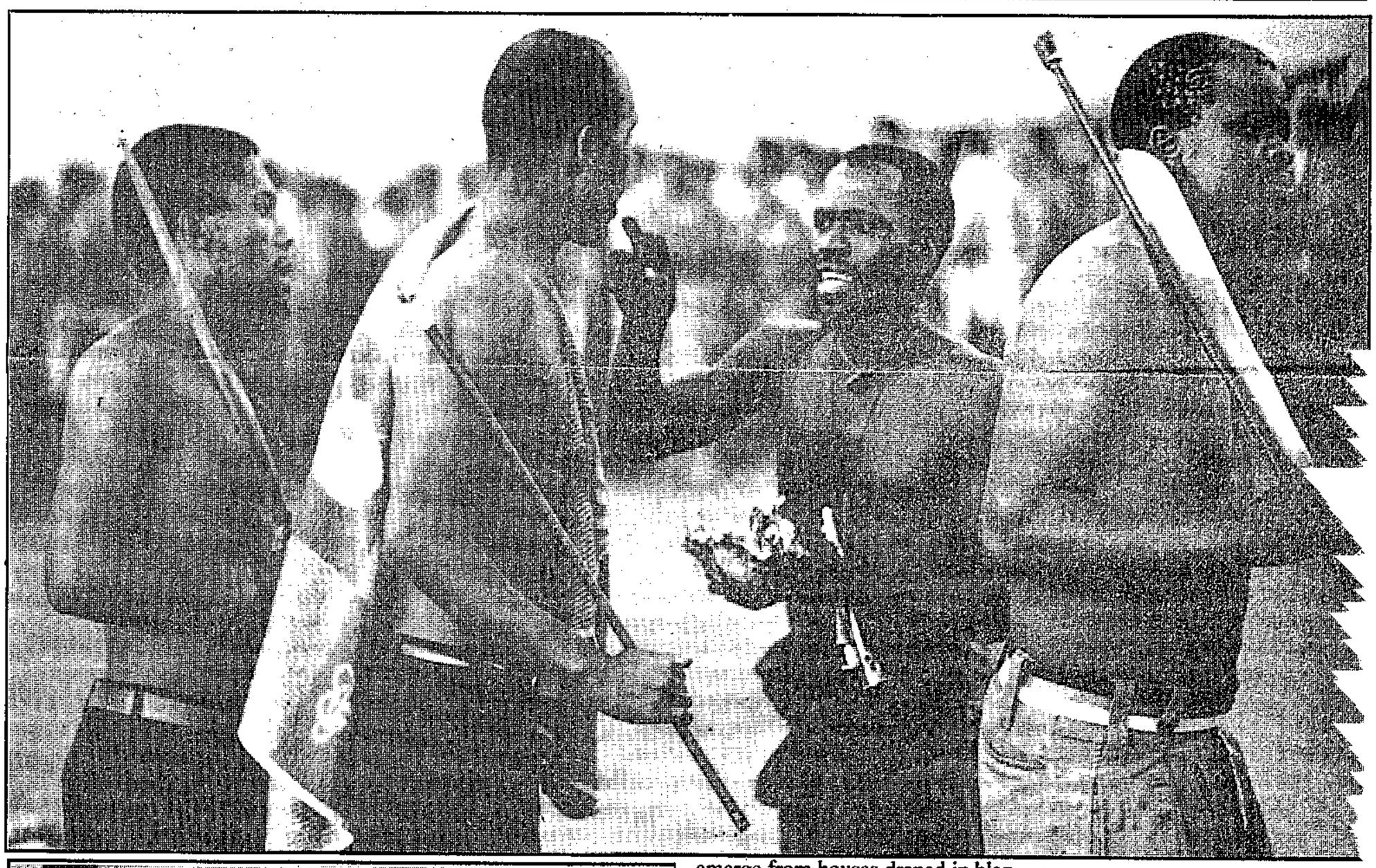
As photographers begin taking pictures, a man who says he is an IFP member calls to order a youth who is posing with two knives. "You are giving us a bad reputation. What are you doing with those knives?" Nor will he allow pictures taken of men standing with sticks. "You see those men have weapons and I don't want to see any weapons (in the picture)."

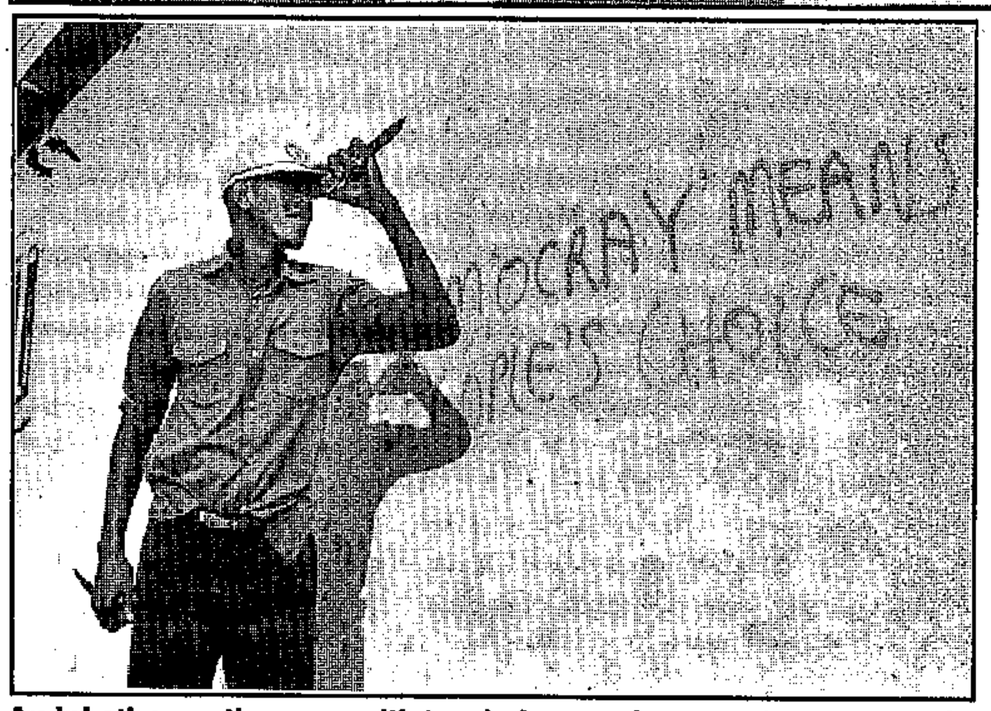
Another IFP member ,who says he is an induna, explains the beginnings of the strife in the township. "The problem started with young thugs attacking us and robbing us. When we tried to bring these children to order Azapo made it a political thing.

"They and the ANC are attacking us," he says, "Why don't you go and ask them at the squatter camp?"

The residents of the shack settlement, an ANC stronghold, are even more vigilant than the township residents. Groups of blanketed men stand guard on street corners, spears, sticks and pangas protruding from their blankets in the sweltering heat.

"Today we will be ready for them," says a man who identifies himself as an ANC member. "These people came to the taxi rank and started shooting indiscriminately at commuters. They killed two of our members and two are in hospital."





An Inkatha youth poses with two knives and a gangster swagger in front of a scrawled slogan "Democracy Means People's Choice". Moments later he found himself in trouble, accused by his fellows of "giving us a bad reputation"

He says angrily: "Today we see that Inkatha is preparing to attack us — and we are ready for it."

He catches sight of women standing close to a group of sentries and white reporters. "What are those women doing among those men, listening to English? Hey! *Nina nifunani kulawo madoda. Niwathanda kakhulu ne?* (Hey, you! what are you doing among those men, you really love them don't you?)," he shouts,.

He says before a war men have to be strengthened and any contact with women saps their strength.

Another man whispers in his ear, and he then tells the others around him "*Asiyeni madoda!* (Let's go men)" — and they all move away. Other men emerge from houses draped in blankets, which are used to hide weapons when they are not carried openly. There is little conversation — those who speak do so in subdued tones.

They converge on the square in the middle of the squatter camp. Singing a mournful rumbling chant, they walk in a circle round an inyanga. On the ground are two tubs filled with water and muti. There is no rousing ululating, singing and dancing in this ceremony — they are preparing for war, solemnly. A number of women venture out of their house and view the spectacle from the safety of their makeshift stoeps.

"This makes us strong," says a man who identifies himself as an ANC official. "But we are not going to launch any attack. We are gathered here to defend ourselves."

A group of youngsters are watching the scene. Angrily they challenge the ANC official for selling them out to the whites. The official tries to plead with them but they converge on the reporters, shouting: "What are you doing here?" A man rounds up the journalists and, with the youths screaming behind him, chaperones them to their cars.

Muti for the warriors

IN the Mandela squatter camp "warriors" armed with sticks pre pare for a confrontation with thei Inkatha rivals by joining a tradi tional muti ceremony. In the to, picture, the men form a slow spi ral moving in towards the centr where a chanting sangoma blows on a whistle and anoint the men with water sprayed with whisk. Then the sangoma takes packet and dabs the tongue c each warrior. "This makes u strong," explains one man.

Photos: KEVIN CARTE

Later in a house in the township man who claims to speak on behalf the IFP says that Azapo started t violence by robbing IFP members. H concedes that the IFP attacked the ta rank on Sunday and says: "If I have problem, as I have had all this tim and no one does anything about it, it better that I make that everybody problem. Maybe now people will b aware of our plight."

Tonight, at least, the war will n begin. In the nearby South Africa Defence Force base, troops are gettin ready to seal off the squatter camp.

NEWS

Police warn leaders in (278) Bekkersdal

STAR 8/11/93.

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A fresh peace meeting between local leaders of the Azanian People's Organisation and the Inkatha Freedom Party was scheduled for today at the Johannesburg offices of the UN, Bekkersdal Monitoring Committee spokesman Vuyisile Ndabeni said yesterday.

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A man, Lucas Molekane, was killed in what appeared to have been a crime-related attack.

Two of those arrested had been in possession of commercial explosives, but claimed no political affiliation.

A police patrol had been led to a cache of homemade weapons when they chased a man carrying a firearm.

A search of a house had uncovered a homemade hand grenade, four petrol bombs, three homemade shotguns, four "zip" guns, a quantity of ammunition and a 9 mm pistol.

The weapons were confiscated and seven people, who claimed to be members of the ANC, were arrested, Bester said. — Sapa.

d b.

er, at a funeral service in Johannesburg yesterd[illegible] and past president Mr Oliver

05.55: Morning Mosa
06.00: GMSA
09.00: CTV

rates CT8|1|93 (153)

Police warn Bekkersdal leaders

JOHANNESBURG. — Police have warned political leaders in troubled Bekkersdal the township may be declared an unrest area if violence is not brought under control.

This message was given to leaders in the West Rand township as they met to sort out the conflict on Wednesday night, police spokesman Major Henriette Bester said.

Another peace meeting between local Azapo and IFP leaders would be held in Johannesburg today at the offices of the UN, Bekkersdal monitoring committee spokesman Mr Vuyisile Ndabeni said yesterday. (278) CT8|1|93

Major Bester yesterday said nine people were arrested in Bekkersdal overnight, and that Mr Lucas Molekane was killed early yesterday with an AK-47 when a group entered his home looking for his son.

Two of those arrested were in possession of commercial explosives, but claimed no political affiliation.

Seven people, who all claimed to be ANC members, were arrested after police discovered a cache of home-made weapons which included a handgrenade, four petrol bombs, three home-made shotguns, four "zip" guns, a quantity of ammunition and a 9mm pistol.

Meanwhile, Azapo yesterday repeated its claim that 25 of its members in Bekkersdal had been arrested and beaten by security forces. Police dismissed the allegation.

● Durban police said Mrs G Ramchandra, 68, was killed and Mr Robert Dorasamy, 35, and Rama Marie, seven, were injured after an argument in Tongaat over the kicking of a football near where food was being prepared.

● Constable J Scheepers was injured when attacked by a panga-wielding man in a house at KwaMbonambi when he went to investigate a report of illegal weapons. — Sapa

Peace talks collapse in tense Bekkersdal

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Bekkersdal remained tense after a man was killed and two were injured as peace talks between the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Azanian People's Organisation collapsed.

West Rand police spokeswoman Major Henrietta Bester said gunmen killed Mr Lucas Molikale after they could not find his son at 1.30 am yesterday.

Two others, including IFP delegate Mr Michael Mfekayi, had gunshot wounds hours before the meeting.

After the meeting, police arrested nine people in connection with commercial explosives and the discovery of an arms cache.

Major Bester said two men in possession of commercial explosives were arrested and nine who claimed to be members of the African National Congress were arrested in connection with the discovery of an arms cache.

A homemade handgrenade, four petrol bombs, three homemade shotguns, a 9mm pistol and several rounds of ammunition were confiscated.

The incidents followed a walkout by IFP delegates at a peace meeting at Paul Nel Hall on Wednesday night in the West Rand township which was marred by rowdiness and poor discipline.

The meeting, attended by observers from the Organisation of African Unity, European Community and the United Nations, was later postponed pending a decision by a working group that was to meet yesterday.

Trouble started when a group of youths entered the hall, which is located in what is said to be an Azapo stronghold. They took seats a few metres from IFP delegates.

An irate IFP delegate, Mr Charles Loliwe, refused to take part in the talks, in spite of pleas from Azapo, the Bekkersdal Monitoring Committee and his co-delegates.

The youths began toyi toying outside after they were asked to leave by officials.

Cop 'kills youth' at a supermaket

Soweten 8/1/93.

■ **Another escapes with injuries:**

278

By Joe Mdhlela

A 20-YEAR-OLD Soweto youth was shot dead by people believed to be policemen at a shopping complex at Jabulani yesterday morning.

A second youth, Mvuleni Zwane, escaped with injuries after one of the assailants continued to fire at them.

He was treated at Baragwanath Hospital and discharged.

Soweto police spokesman Captain Joseph Ngobeni said 10 youths had tried to rob an off-duty policeman of his service firearm. He said the policeman fired shots, killing a youth and wounding another.

A youth had been arrested in connection with the incident.

Mr Desmond April, who said he had witnessed the incident, said his brother, Floyd April, was killed when he objected to two policemen "jumping the queue" at a supermarket.

"Floyd's sin was to object to the bullying attitude of the two policemen who had jumped the queue," said Desmond.

He said the policemen appeared "very drunk" and displayed an aggressive attitude towards the youths.

He also claimed that the policemen had said by tradition young boys should be served last after their elders had been attended to. "When the youths told the policemen they did not agree with that reasoning, one of the policemen fired at them," he said.

Man killed as talks collapse

Sowetan 8/11/93

■ IFP WALKOUT Delegate walks out of peace meeting in trouble-torn Bekkersdal: 278

By Mzimasi Ngudle

BEKKERSDAL REMAINED TENSE yesterday after a man was killed and two injured as peace talks between the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Azanian People's Organisation collapsed.

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The incidents followed a walkout by IFP delegates at a meeting at Paul Nel Hall on Wednesday night in the West Rand township which was marred by rowdiness and poor discipline.

Bester said police were offering a reward to any person who could give information leading to the confiscation of commercial explosives. The contact person is Warrant-Officer Johan Bezuidenhout at (011) 660 2600.

Anatomy of a fallen hero

(278) 9/1/93 SMM 9/1/93. (278)

A YOUNG man, once the gun-toting hero of Sebokeng youths, died in disgrace when he was gunned down by a former comrade last Sunday. People danced and ululated. What went wrong in his life? JOE LOUW reports.

SOON after the body of the "Commander" hit the dust, felled by bullets fired by a supposed "comrade" late last Sunday afternoon, ululations broke out from the fast-gathering crowd of township women.

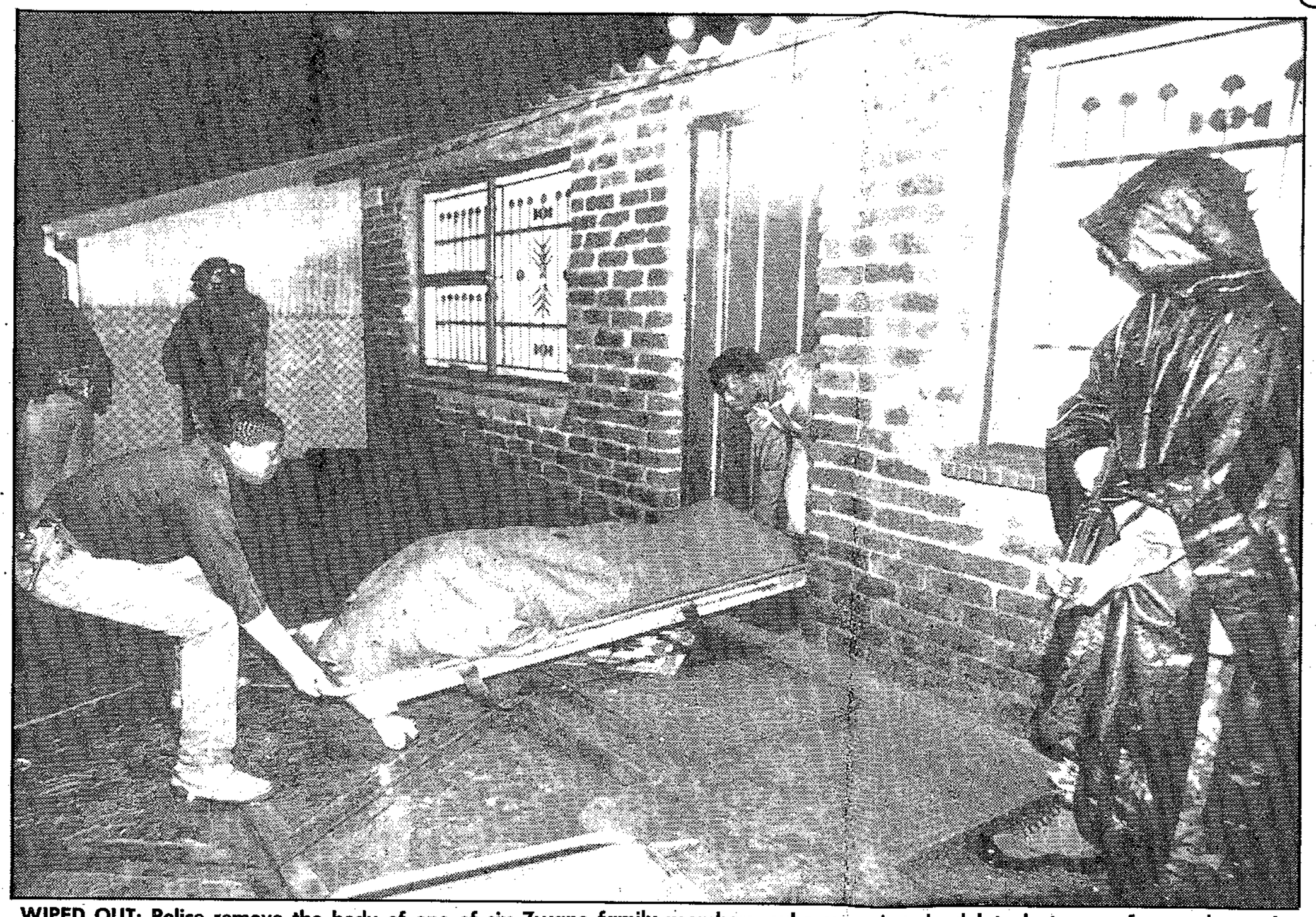
The word spread throughout Sebokeng that "the dog is dead" and soon there was dancing up and down the streets.

Somewhere along the line in the life of the 24-year-old "Commander" — one-time hero of the people of Zone 12 — something had gone drastically wrong.

By the next morning at 9 am, people from as far away as Evaton and Small Farms had gathered at the intersection opposite the Culture Club, the Commander's favourite tavern, to celebrate.

Nobody seemed even to remember his real name, or his much-lauded "heroism" of even a few months back when he flashed his ever-present AK-47 in the notorious Zone 12 and engaged in man-to-man shootouts with the much-hated and dreaded SAP.

The "Commander" was Sipho Dhlamini, also known as Basie as a boy growing up in the township but lately known by his *nom de guerre,* Skosana.



WIPED OUT: Police remove the body of one of six Zwane family members, who were shot dead late last year, from a house in Sebokeng. "Skosana", also known as "Commander", was wanted for questioning by the police in connection with the murders.

FROM the beginning of 1992 until he died, according to one resident of Zone 12, people in the township were even afraid of saying his name in public for fear of incrimination and subsequent accusation.

In the kangaroo courts set up by him and his self-defence unit (SDU) "comrades" he was judge, jury and executioner — alleged to brook no nonsense with pleas of innocence should he have deemed an accused guilty.

Today people speak freely of his alleged misdeeds — the abductions he carried out; the people he was supposed to have shot; the extortion of businessmen; the random punishment of township "wrongdoers"; the alleged arbitrary shootings. A few months ago, no one would have breathed a word.

"Skosana was supposed to be ANC," a comrade of his confided in me, "but really he was answerable to no one. The power structures in Sebokeng and the whole of the Vaal were terrified of him. People took complaints about him to the various committees, to the Vaal Council of Churches, but nothing happened. They were all scared of the guy."

So who was Skosana? And what happened that he should have dive-bombed from supposed hero of the block to being ignominiously gunned down by his own former comrades. Witnesses testify that he died particularly horribly — even for the horror-struck Vaal Triangle, scene of so many massacres and atrocities.

After being shot, and half dead, he was loaded (according to witnesses) into a van, taken to his mother's home where he was mutilated and his head crushed with a huge stone. He was finally set alight in the house, which now stands partially destroyed.

His mother is now in hiding for fear of her life and not much is known about his father. He grew up in the house, which has no number — a protective township device to avoid identification by hitmen who once prowled the townships, randomly killing residents.

HE attended the Mtholulwazi Primary School across the road from his home. According to his teachers he was a fairly bright boy but he never went far, quitting after Std 7.

One thing everyone remembers about him was his courage and bravery, better described as "pluck" in township lingo. Physically he wasn't all that impressive — built small with broad shoulders, developed by the time he died at 23 or 24.

Somewhere along the line he acquired a taste for politics, but no one can remember exactly when. A close friend told me: "He started out Azapo but was recruited by local SDUs and he became ANC."

Local ANC chairman Watch Mothibeli acknowledges that Skosana was an ANC supporter and sympathiser but denies he was "a card-carrying member".

According to one source close to the ANC, Skosana and several other youths from Sebokeng and other Vaal townships requested to be sent for training some time after the "Vigil Massacre" of 1991 in which 45 mourners were gunned down at a funeral wake.

They were to be sent to Transkei for training but the trip never materialised. Instead, the story goes, Skosana ended up going to Lesotho, returning six months later having acquired a thorough familiarity with guns and gun-handling, toting an AK-47 everywhere he went.

He had also developed his formidable "pluck" and was soon engaged in several shootouts with policemen and hitmen. "Skos" soon acquired the reputation of a latter-day Billy the Kid and was hero-worshipped by his comrades and township youths.

He was appointed commander of a self-defence unit in Zone 12.

"For a while, people admired the guy," a former comrade told me, "but then early last year things began going wrong. People began to fear him: the beatings, extortions and shootings happened. He became a hired gun."

SHEBEENERS who had a quarrel with each other would hire him to settle their scores and he became universally feared, the former comrade said.

Late last year Skosana's name was connected with the brutal murder of six members of the Zwane family in Zone 12.

Two gunmen fled the scene and a member of the family, who died later, was said to have mentioned the name of one of the attackers. Police later said they were looking for a "Skosana" who "might assist" their investigation.

Last Sunday Skosana was relaxing at the Culture Club when he was called outside by "a friend" who apparently wanted to discuss something private with him. Once outside, and for once without his AK-47 at his side, the "friend" pulled out an AK-47 and gunned Skosana down.

"He was my best friend," one youth told me, "handsome, always smiling, soft-spoken. He was a Christian, sometimes. He was brave. He never feared, not even the police."

'Spiritual soldier' fights to keep his children at home



HOME CLASSROOM: Andre and Bokkie Meintjies help their children Roy, Charmaine and Johan with their homework. ● Picture: COLIN DAVIS

Star 9/11/93.

CAROLINE HURRY

FORMER SADF Sergeant-Major Andre Meintjies is waging war against the authorities to keep his children out of school. Undeterred by threats of jail, the self-appointed spiritual soldier says he answers to no one but God.

He and his wife Bokkie could face three years in jail if they don't register their children at a legitimate school — but Meintjies has no intention of following orders.

"It's a question of who is going to win the hearts and minds of our kids," he says.

His duties as a believer demand that he prepare his children for salvation and the second coming of Christ — concerns, he says, which are brushed aside by the Transvaal Education Department.

The intricacies of algebra offer scant protection against the onslaught of Armageddon, according to Meintjies, who has chosen to pioneer a path for like-minded parents who wish to protect their children from the perils of the current education system.

"Today's schools are a mess. Few consider the emotional, spiritual and physical needs of children. Instead, pupils are indoctrinated with irrelevant academia and grow up ill-equipped to deal with adulthood.

"The most important thing a child needs to learn is obedience. Salvation is founded on obedience. The entire divine concept rests on obedience," he says.

He, after all, has obeyed God's instructions to the letter: for the past six years he has sat at home cracking cosmic codes while his father supports the clan.

Spirituality

Bokkie recently took a job with an estate agency to boost the family finances. Prophecy, admits Meintjies, is not always profitable, but the Lord provides. And, of course, his parents ...

"Andre knows what he is doing. The Lord has called him," says his mother Joey. It was God, after all, who persuaded Meintjies to resign from the SADF in 1986 and move from Bethlehem into his parents' home in Vanderbijlpark.

As Meintjies understands it, God instructed him to remove his children from school and teach them the fundamentals of honesty, integrity and spirituality — subjects he sees as sadly lacking in the TED syllabus.

For two years he has taught Johan (14), Charmaine (14) and Roy (11) at home. He chooses their library books, selects what he believes they need to know from educational guides and monitors their progress.

"Putting my children into school where peer pressure could overwhelm them would be like throwing them to the wolves. They would be forced to conform to the mould of the masses.

"It's a parent's responsibility to protect offspring from harmful external influences. With children at school up to 10 hours a day, how are parents supposed to keep control over them?"

The atmosphere in the Meintjies' home is welcoming. The smell of freshly baked bread wafts tantalisingly from the kitchen where the children assist their *ouma* with lunch preparations.

They seem well-adjusted and delighted not have to endure the agonies of school. But unless they are registered in a school by January 19, they could find themselves orphans of our legal system.

Azapo IFP make peace in Bekkersdal

Star 9/11/93.

PETER DAVIES

LEADERS of the feuding Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) last night agreed to halt hostilities and end the violence that has racked the West Rand township of Bekkersdal.

The meeting, held at the Carlton Centre offices of United Nations observer mission yesterday afternoon, was also attended by the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress. It saw the parties reaffirm their commitment to a 1991 Bekkersdal peace pact.

Azapo and the IFP will also meet within five days to resolve differences. Should either party renege on this meeting, the aggrieved party will have recourse to the Bekkersdal monitoring committee.

Tensions

Last Sunday two township residents were hacked to death at the local taxi rank.

ANC officials said the victims were residents of Mandela Park, an ANC stronghold, who had been indiscriminately attacked by men wearing IFP T-shirts. Four others were hurt.

A local IFP official said Inkatha supporters had launched the attack to draw attention to their problems with Azapo members.

Azapo and ANC supporters this week blamed IFP supporters for the violence. The IFP blamed "thugs" from Azapo.

Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition

JOE LOUW

A MAN of God who refused to join a vigilante committee moves in his East Rand parish only in the company of armed friends, fearing for the safety of his family.

ARCHBISHOP Mbhekiseni Khumalo, chief prelate of the Light of God Church of Zion in Tokoza, East Rand, is a frightened man.

To walk the few blocks to his church at a local primary school, he straps a pistol to his body and has to be accompanied by armed friends and neighbours.

Khumalo lives the life of a pariah in the community he has called his home since 1958.

A series of shootouts outside his makeshift tuckshop has landed his family in deadly conflict with the people living around them.

Last week about 100 angry women marched to Tokoza police station to demand his arrest.

The demonstration followed the killing of five people not far from Khumalo's house on New Year's Day. All the victims had been shot and their bodies dumped on two different streets.

The women accused Khumalo of leading a gang that was killing their children.

"My problems with my neighbours started in 1990 when people started forming vigilante committees. They tried to recruit me as part of a street committee. I had to refuse as a man of God and the leader of a church."

The archbishop said he had also refused to contribute money to a fund which, he was told, was for buying weapons to attack Inkatha Freedom Party members.

Khumalo's father Nokuku was one of the five "founders" of the IFP.

"They threatened to kill me. I told them that if the Almighty gave them a chance, that was okay."

Last June the archbishop's problems began in earnest. His tuckshop was attacked by "well-known ANC thugs calling themselves comrades".

He grabbed a firearm from his gun safe and engaged the attackers in a brief battle, narrowly missing his youngest daughter Ntombi Grace (16), whom he said the thugs wanted to abduct.

After that he was engaged in a running battle with a group of thugs he alleged were led by a gangster known as "Mugabe".

His house was shot at several times and one night a hand grenade was lobbed on to his lawn.

In another attack a month later, he and his protectors shot and killed a township youth.

Things took a dramatic turn for the family.

By September last year his children could no longer attend school. One of his sons was ambushed near a local supermarket by thugs who beat him.

Khumalo could not move in the township without an escort, and took to carrying a gun.

His church had to be moved to Vosloorus.

"We just cannot sleep at night," said Khumalo. "Living with this violence is spoiling my life.

"I have no power to stop these people but I put my trust in God. I can only hope for protection from the police."

A local dispute resolution committee has called a meeting to discuss Khumalo's case in an attempt to pre-empt further attacks on the family.



REASON TO BE ANXIOUS: Fear stalks the Khumalo home in Tokoza. Archbishop Khumalo (seated, second from right) sits with three of his sons and his daughter Ntombi Grace.

Necklace murderer has no regrets

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

(278)

AN East Rand necklace killer, recently released after being sentenced to life imprisonment in June 1987, says she has no regrets about her actions.

Sanna Twala was one of three people sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Maki Skhosana, 23, who was necklaced by a mob at a Duduza funeral in July 1985. Nine others received long jail terms. C/Prem 10/11/93

A cameraman at the scene filmed Skhosana's death and millions worldwide – including South Africans – watched Skhosana die a terrible death.

Twala was released in September last year in terms of an amnesty for political prisoners.

What does she say after spending five years in Kroonstad prison?

"Me? I do not regret what I did," she said.

"My attitude is the same as it was then."

She plans to "continue the struggle" and says she's joined the ANC.

Another of those jailed for life for the crime – who requested anonymity – said he vividly recalls the day of the necklacing. He added thare was no evidence that Skhosana was a police spy.

"At the funeral service it was announced that all impimpis should remain behind but Maki followed us to the graveyard."

He said there was a rumour that she was having an affair with a local cop, Joel Msibi, and that she was a spy.

"But I never believed it," he added.

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Cop, driver die in taxi boycott

No compromise in sight, police warn

By FRED KHUMALO

TWO people have died after KwaNdengezi commuters voted with their pockets and refused to pay fare hikes imposed by local taxi operators.

Now alarmed police, finding themselves in the crossfire, are warning that both parties to the dispute were only interested in scoring points, with noone interested in solving the problem.

Sgt MM Zwane, a member of the SAP, this week became the second sacrificial lamb in the bloody tug-of-war between local taxi operators and the community.

The first victim was bus driver Shadrack Ngubane who was gunned down three days before Christmas while taking passengers into the tiny township.

The acrimony started at the beginning of last month when local taxi operators announced new fares of R3 for a trip from KwaNdengezi to Durban (a 70 cent hike) and R2 for a trip from the township to Pinetown (a 50 cent hike).

On the other hand, Olympic Bus Lines, the only competitor of the taxis in the township, charges R2 for a trip to Durban, and only R1,45 for a trip to Pinetown.

Members of the community tried to register their displeasure at the hikes by staging an impromptu march to the Olympic Bus Lines depot where they pleaded with the company to dispatch more buses to the township.

As a result, Olympic, which had been running four buses in the township, increased its fleet to meet the needs of the people.

A spokesman for Olympic said after the company had increased its fleet, the depot started receiving death threats.

Matters came to a head on December 22 when bus driver Ngubane was gunned down while dropping off passengers near the local shopping centre. Because the engine of the bus was still running when he was shot, the bus careered off the road and crashed into an embankment.

He had been shot in the head, neck, chest and feet.

No suspects have been arrested in connection with the murder. "Our buses have been prevented from operating in the township since then," said a company spokesman.

The spokesman said the company had been approached by local residents to resume the service.

"We can't take chances, not until we get an assurance from the taxi operators that our buses and drivers are safe in the township."

A resident, Mi Makhaye, said the community was not consulted about the fare hike.

"The taxi operators just imposed their will on us and are now blocking Olympic Bus Lines from helping us."

As thousands of people finished their end-of-the-year holidays this week, the acuteness of the transport problem was evident in the township.

Thousands of workers trudged a distance of about three kilometres to a point outside the township where they were picked up by the Olympic buses.

On Monday an enraged group of people marched to the local police station where members of the KwaZulu Police were holding a meeting with local taxi operators.

The mob disrupted the meeting which was held on a hilltop near the station, and started throwing stones at cars which were parked nearby.

Sgt Zwane, of the SAP, who had been visiting a colleague at the police station, rushed from the gate towards his car which was being stoned by the crowd.

He was collared by the unruly mob and shot in the head with a shotgun.

A KZP gateguard fired three shots into the crowd, which fled. Two taxi owners were also shot and wounded.

Zwane's car and four taxis were damaged and a car was stolen, but a swift SAP unit soon recovered the stolen vehicle along with a shotgun and arrested two suspects.

Local KZP branch commander W/O Mduduzi Mngoma said on Wednesday that the situation was "quiet but tense" in the township.

"Anything might happen. These people – both taxi operators and the commuters – do not want to talk seriously and resolve their problem. We've had several meetings with both parties but nothing constructive has come out of those meetings," said Mngoma.

"They all want to score points instead of solving the problem. It is annoying because people are dying as a result. We are trying our best to get both parties to make compromises in order to resolve the problem."

A street of terror restricts residents

By THEMBA KHUMALO

NOTORIOUS Merafe Hostel inmates in Soweto have turned Moroka Street, separating the hostel from Mapetla, into a no-go zone for township residents.

Angry residents have called for the immediate demolition of the hostel following the abduction and rape of women and the robbing and killing of passersby.

An unidentified man said three weeks ago he saved a pregnant woman from a possible rape after she was accosted by two inmates.

Philemon Mapho, 57, has a bullet still lodged in his body after he was shot by seven assailants from the hostel two months ago. He was walking along the notorious street at about 7 pm when they surrounded him and demanded money.

He said when they could not find money they took his shoes and told him to run. They shot him in the back as they retreated into the hostel.

Another victim said that in October last year he was walking with a friend near the hostel one evening when they were stopped by two panga-wielding hostel inmates who demanded their money.

"When I refused to give my assailant money he demanded my trousers. I refused again and he hacked me on the head and a thigh, but I wrestled with him for his weapon.

"After the attack the assailaints ran to the hostel and jumped through the windows," said the man.

Another man who lives near the hostel told how his neighbours rescued a township resident who was being kidnapped in Moroka Street by the hostel inmates.

Township girls were afraid of going to a bottlestore near the hostel because the gun-toting hostel inmates fondled them openly and when they objected they were assaulted.

The hostel crime spree follows a period of relative peace between residents and hostel inmates.

C/Press 10/11/93

Fear and loathing in Brits townships

2 18

By MOSES MAMAILA

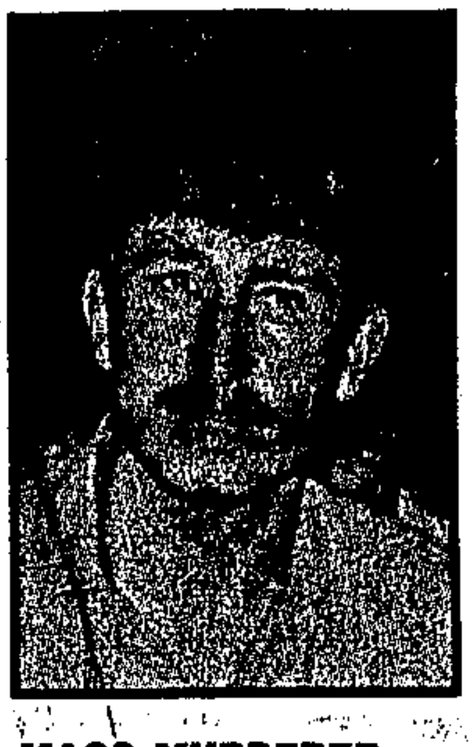
BLACKS in the townships surrounding Brits are living in fear following threats of attacks by rightwingers early this week.

"Boerstaat" Bosman, who claimed at a Nazi-style press conference to be army chief of staff of the Wit Wolwe (but who was kicked out of the organisation two days later in petty in-fighting), vowed to launch attacks on MK and Apla members and their supporters unless the government acted against them.

The statement was issued in Brits, the home town of mass-murderer Barend Strydom and self-styled leader of the Wit Wolwe whom a psychologist described as being programmed to kill.

It has sent shockwaves through the nearby townships of Lethlabile and Oukasie.

"These threats cannot be taken lightly as racists can go on the rampage at any time to avenge the killing of whites in other areas," said Peter Magagula, echoing the sentiments of the residents interviewed.



MASS MURDERER ... Fear rules Brits after threats from Barend Strydom's cronies.

Magagula said threats by the white supremacists could not be divorced from the sporadic acts of terror visited on blacks by white racists in the area.

An undisclosed number of activists have been physically and verbally abused by rightwingers for wearing ANC T-shirts, added Magagula, who is also an ANC member and Numsa shopsteward.

Many residents spoken to voiced their concern that security measures should receive serious attention.

An Oukasie community leader, Levy Mamabolo, said the formation of self-defence units was possible given the increasing fears of the community.

However, he said that the SDUs could only be formed if a proper organisational structure had been established, adding this was important to maintain order.

Another local leader, Oupa Ntseke, said although no bloody clashes between blacks and whites had erupted in the conservative town, it was necessary that some preventative measures be taken before the smouldering race war erupted.

Ntseke said people were taking the threats more seriously than in other areas because Strydom, who shocked the world when he shot dead eight blacks and wounded 16 in Pretoria in 1989, lived in the area.

Residents to check on police

By BERENG MTIMKULU

THE word "co-operation" was stretched further as the KwaThema Civic Association (KCA) and the local police "struck a deal" to co-operate and work hand-in-hand.

Although no formal agreement was signed at the meeting between the KCA and a local police delegation led by Maj TK Makhata, the two camps agreed that when the police probe any crime, they should consult with the area committee of the respective area before suspects are apprehended.

KCA chief organiser Kenny Madalane said the association would first scrutinise the reasons for suspecting the alleged criminal before helping the police in apprehending a suspect.

"The civic association should come forward with the names of the people who are interested in joining the neighbourhood watch," noted Makhata.

But Madalane stressed the meeting was "only to establish rapport with the police but not a friendship".

KwaThema residents from the 10 sections (Goede, Masimini, Vergenoeg, Rest In Peace, Gugulethu, Highland, Interland, Zimisele, Tornado and Hyanyadu) resent the police for allegedly not adequately policing the township.

According to Makhata, there were problems in spite of a Police Public Forum (PPF) being formed last year in response to last October's taxi wars in KwaThema.

KCA general secretary Jerome Nkosi said his association, representing KwaThema residents, does not recognise the forum.

He said the PPF had been formed "from the top" and imposed on the residents and consequently was ineffective.

Bekkersdal on brink of chaos, warn the police

CI Press 10/11/93 (278)

By MOSES MAMAILA

POLICE have issued a tough warning to Azapo and Inkatha leaders to stop the violence in Bekkersdal or the West Rand township would be declared an unrest area.

The warning follows running battles between Azapo and Inkatha followers which has reportedly claimed more than 10 lives in less than two months.

The area resembled a war zone this week as a large police contingent patrolled the streets in a bid to prevent futher attacks.

A peace meeting convened by the Bekkersdal Monitoring Commitee was adjourned this week after the Inkatha delegation walked out protesting that their lives were threatened because the meeting was not held at a neutral venue.

A member of the Inkatha delegation, Michael Mfikayi, told reporters as he walked from the meeting that "Azapo is not giving us words of peace but bullets".

Pointing at a fresh gunshot wound he sustained earlier in the day, Mfikayi said members of his organisation were being hunted down by Azapo which talked peace only in public.

However, the local Inkatha leadership accused Azapo of taking advantage of its large following in the area to bully Inkatha members.

Talks aimed at resolving the conflict were convened by the Bekkersdal Monitoring Committee as Azapo had objected to participating in talks if they were convened by the Local Dispute Resolution Committee, saying the structure was made up of policemen.

Talking is the secret

By MOSES MAMAILA

PEACE has returned to Mzimhlophe in Soweto where a few months ago intense fighting between residents and hostel inmates was developing into a full-scale war.

Both warring factions credit Col Johan Deyzel for the long-awaited peace in the area, and in a rare display of affection for a cop, residents organised a going-away party last month in his honour.

Deyzel achieved the "impossible" when he received unqualified praise from local ANC and civic leaders who openly said the cop – who has been transferred – would be missed.

"Talking, talking and serious talking to the people is the most effective weapon in curbing the violence," said Deyzel from his new office in Vereeniging.

"I realised that sitting with all the groups involved in the conflict and getting them to talk to one another and not about each other was very effective in bringing the violence to an end."

Deyzel now occupies the position of Area Commander of the Internal Stability Unit in the Vaal Triangle.

"I am optimistic that we will quell the violence in the Vaal, but certainly I cannot do it alone. I need the co-operation of the residents," he said.

32 held in raids at Bruntville

Eleven people were arrested at Bruntville, Mooi River, on Saturday in a police operation after the arrest of 21 others earlier in the day.

Eight of the 11 were arrested for interfering in police duties.

The 21 were arrested in connection with recent arson attacks on Brunt ville hostels.

Among those held were a woman who was found in possession of an unlicensed firearm, and others found in possession of homemade guns and ammunition.

All 32 will appear in Mooi River Magistrate's Court today. — Sapa.

Cops called to ease taxi fight

By KEDIBONE LUSENGA

AN argument over fake taxi permits, which caused a rift in the Soshanguve Taxi Association, erupted into violence last week.

Fighting broke out when suspended taxi owners and drivers prevented other drivers from using the Mabopane Station rank and forced commuters out of taxis.

Several taxi drivers were allegedly assaulted when they picked up commuters and used the rank.

Sources said the rift started when the association discovered forged taxi permits issued in Bophuthatswana.

A taxi fleet owner alleged the rift was caused when the fake Certificates of Fitness, issued under the Bophuthatswana Road Traffic Act of 1973, were found in the possession of members of the association, who were then asked to vacate the rank and fix their vehicles for the safety of commuters.

"However, instead of repairing their broken-down vehicles and applying for genuine fitness certificates, the operators attacked our members and drivers," he said.

Among the victims was Robert Malema, 28, who was hauled out of his taxi and assaulted by the group.

Victims of the taxi war, who refused to be named, have appealed to Sabta and the police to intervene for fear the violence may spread to commuters.

The alleged ringleaders of the suspended group declined to comment and referred all enquiries to SP Matsemela, the former PRO of the association, who could not be reached for comment.

have lost weight during his 23-day exile in Sapa-Reuter.

Police clamp down on violence in Bruntville

BRUNTVILLE — Thirty-two people were arrested in Bruntville at the weekend in a police operation aimed at curbing violence in the area.

On Saturday, 21 people were arrested in connection with the recent arson attacks on Bruntville hostels. Later 11 others were arrested for the illegal possession of weapons and ammunition, and for interfering with police duties.

All 32 will appear in the Mooi River Magistrate's Court today.

Meanwhile, international observer missions in SA urged Inkatha and the ANC to call on their followers to desist from violence and to do all possible to lessen tension in the area.

The missions from the UN, OAU, EC and the Commonwealth said in a joint statement they were "extremely concerned" about the violence which had broken out in Bruntville, culminating in the burning down of the hostel there on January 5.

The statement also called on Inkatha and ANC leaders and their followers to exercise maximum restraint in handling the situation, and urged them to keep all channels of communication open so as to resolve the problems in the area peacefully, "thereby advancing the peace process throughout the country".

"As recommended by the recent Goldstone commission report on Mooi River, the international observer missions urge all the parties to co-operate with Mr Nico Coetzer, the mediator."

It was government's acknowledged responsibility to maintain law and order, the statement said, and the observer missions therefore called on government and its security forces to do their utmost to maintain peace and protect lives and property in a firm and impartial manner in the Mooi River area.

"They further call upon the security forces to exercise maximum restraint in handling the situation in that area, and on all the parties to co-operate with these forces."

The Natal Provincial Administration has provided 150 tents as temporary accommodation for returning hostel dwellers at Bruntville following last Sunday's arson attack on the hostel.

Police reinforcements were also sent to the troubled area after government's announcement on Friday that the magisterial district of Mooi River, which includes Bruntville and the Estcourt-Winterton area, had been declared an unrest area. — Sapa.

Bekkersdal to be monitored

The Bekkersdal Monitoring Committee on Saturday announced the formation of a multi-party monitoring committee consisting of two representatives each from the Azanian People's Organisation, the Inkatha Freedom Party, the ANC and PAC.

This follows week-long talks between Azapo, the IFP, ANC and PAC to try to end hostilities in the West Rand township.

The committee will monitor the return of pupils to school today as well as the activities of residents.

Bekkersdal Monitoring Committee chairman Charles Ndabeni said the latest outbreak of violence in the township, which has claimed five lives this month, was a result of a lack of communication between the leaders and members of Azapo and the IFP. He said there was an unwillingness by the members to accept decisions made by the leadership to end the violence. — Sapa.

Group said.

Move toward peace

LEADERS of the feuding Azapo and IFP yesterday laid the groundwork for the restoration of peace in violence-torn Bekkersdal in the West Rand.

In their third round of talks aimed at ending hostilities, the two agreed to stage a joint peace rally, expose the alleged involvement of a third party in the conflict, and allow their members free access to public transport, schools and other facilities. They also agreed on the formation of a joint monitoring committee.

Sowetan 12/1/93.

DP drive for votes

THE Democratic Party has started 1993 with a series of big moves in black communities, clearly with an eye to the forthcoming non-racial election for a constituent assembly.

The DP opened a new office in downtown Johannesburg yesterday which is aimed specifically at blacks. In Cape Town, Mr Robin Carlisle (DP, Wynberg) spearheaded the Cape drive for black membership in Guguletu last night with an attack on political intolerance. Sowetan 12/1/93.



Academics to contest deportation

B|Day 12/11/93

DIRK HARTFORD

THREE University of Bophuthatswana (Unibo) academics — deported from the homeland on Friday for their alleged "radical" activities — will challenge their deportation orders in the Supreme Court in Mmabatho on Thursday.

None of the three — Roy Williams, Charl Williams and Jaya Ruthman — will be able to attend the court hearing because of their deportation orders.

Roy Williams — Unibo's communications department head until his deportation — said they would have to apply for visas and were unlikely to obtain these in time.

He said the Bophuthatswana government had alleged they were involved in a sustained plot to disrupt education in the region and that staff, students, parents and the university's management wanted them out.

However, he believed he was deported because of his membership of the ANC.

He believed he and his colleagues had "a lot of support" at the university and their deportation would cause further disruption on the troubled campus.

He had a "very positive" testimonial from a senior person in university management which he believed reflected the opinion of staff on the campus.

The deportation was a case of victimisation for political reasons, said Williams.

SA on alert as cholera rages through region

B|Day 12/11/93

KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE Department of Health has stepped up measures to prevent a local outbreak of the cholera epidemic which has already claimed hundreds of lives in neighbouring countries.

The department said it was concerned that the epidemic could spread to SA, but there was no cause for alarm at present.

A department spokesman said there were presently only 11 "imported" cases of cholera. The infected people were either mine workers from neighbouring countries or people who had visited Mozambique shortly before falling ill, he said, adding that the cases had all responded well to treatment.

But, to be prepared, the department had alerted health authorities to the possibility of an outbreak and had launched cholera awareness campaigns at a local level, informing people of preventative measures such as boiling or chlorinating water.

It had also increased surveillance of sewage effluent with regular tests, and by increased monitoring of rivers and dams.

Although cholera could be spread through contaminated food, most epidemics occured from contaminated drinking water. The people most at risk were those who did not have access to chlorinated and filtered tap water, the spokesman said.

He added that cholera germs had recently been detected in the sewerage system in western Transvaal mine hostels, but no cholera cases had been reported in the area.

This was not surprising as most people who were infected did not become ill even though they were excreting cholera germs, he said.

As the water supply and sanitation of these hostels was reticulated, major problems were not expected.

The germs had been found at these mine hostels during previous epidemics in the country without outbreaks in the hostels, he said.

Sapa reports that the Zambian government has postponed the opening of all schools in Lusaka for the first term because of the epidemic which had claimed 200 lives since November.

Zimbabwe had requested Z$7m from the international donor community to deal with its cholera outbreak which had claimed 105 lives so far, Ziana national news agency reported yesterday.

Acting World Health Organisation representative to Zimbabwe Dr Nicholas Chitimba said the WHO supported Zimbabwe's request and had agreed to provide the country with emergency materials worth Z$150 000.

Inkatha and Azapo end feud

B|Day 12/11/93

WILSON ZWANE

PEACE prospects in the West Rand township of Bekkersdal were improved yesterday when feuding organisations Inkatha and Azapo resolved to bury their differences.

The organisations told journalists in Johannesburg they had identified reasons for their feud, which had claimed at least five lives this year. These included:

- A lack of political tolerance among members;
- Declaration, by members, of certain areas as strongholds; and
- The involvement of a third party in the conflict.

The organisations said they had agreed on steps to restore peace in the township. These included ensuring that everyone had free access to public facilities, encouraging interaction where the two organisations co-existed and creating a forum at which political debates would be held.

The organisations also resolved to "expose" the involvement of a third party in their feud. Inkatha Transvaal organiser Themba Khoza and Azapo deputy national organiser Monwabisi Duna would not say who the suspected "third party" was.

A peace rally would be held at the weekend.

Last week Inkatha, Azapo, the PAC and the ANC formed a joint committee to monitor the return of pupils to schools.

- Sapa reports that the Goldstone commission in Port Shepstone heard yesterday that there had been a dramatic decrease in political violence in the area since a peace initiative was facilitated by a Commonwealth observer last month.



Attempt to halt spate of attacks on health workers in Vaal Triangle

STAR 13/11/93

278

By Paula Fray
Medical Reporter

Police and medical representatives have formed a working committee to combat a spate of attacks — including the murder of three doctors — on health workers in the volatile Vaal Triangle.

An emergency number, for specific use by medical staff, has been provided and more policemen have been deployed in the area.

This comes after the Medical Association of South Africa (Masa) approached the Commissioner of Police to relay community concern that recent attacks in the area could lead to a collapse of medical care.

According to a joint SAP and Masa statement issued yesterday, clinics, surgeries and related institutions will receive more attention to ensure the safety of doctors and nurses in the area.

Masa federal council chairman Dr Bernard Mandell said the association believed violence was endemic and affected entire communities, not just health services.

But Masa felt that special attention should be given to health services.

"The nature of health care involves intimate contact with all people at irregular hours, which makes doctors soft targets and security precautions therefore difficult to implement," he said.

Since the start of last year, attacks on doctors included the murders of a Dr Mokabudi, whose body found in a field after he was shot in the head; Dr J J Bornman in Vereeniging and Dr H L Kuhn in Evaton. Five people have been arrested in connection with Kuhn's murder.

The association pointed out that attacks on doctors was a national problem, but was worst in the Vaal Triangle.

Police said it appeared the attacks in the Vaal were criminal in nature. They undertook to leave no stone unturned until the assailants have been brought to justice.

● Anyone who can help solve these crimes should call the SAP's toll-free Crime Stop number, 0800-11-12-13.

Squatters sue Minister over police shooting

GAVIN DU VENAGE

A GROUP of squatters is suing Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel for R60 000 in the Johannesburg Regional Court over an alleged indiscriminate shooting in Kliptown last year.

The 11 plaintiffs, all from the Racecourse squatter camp near Kliptown, were injured in February when police, in pursuit of a stolen vehicle, opened fire on people who they alleged were about to attack them.

Ten people were injured with buckshot, and one man was arrested and held in prison for several days before being released without charges.

Dr Joseph Katz told the court he had examined the plaintiffs on the day of the shooting, and that all had metal pellets embedded in their bodies.

Some had wounds in their buttocks and the back of their legs, indicating they had been facing away from the policemen at the time, said Katz.

He said that although it was unlikely that these wounds would seriously impair the health of the plaintiffs, they could lead to constant pain, and treating them would in some cases cost more than R500.

In extreme cases pellets could enter an artery and cause severe complications, said Katz.

Appearing for the plaintiffs, H Diskin called several witnesses, including a seven-year-old girl who had been hit in the neck.

All denied that they had been part of a mob, as alleged by the police.

Hawker Obed Gwebu, 54, told how he was standing by his fruit stall when he was struck by shotgun fire. He said no warning had been given.

The case continues today.

Big blast hits station, 20 shops

278

ARG 13/1/93

The Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG. — A powerful bomb ripped through a West Rand shopping complex early today in what is believed to be a revenge attack for the beating of two young black shoplifters.

One of the boys died later in the Baragwanath Hospital as a result of the sjambokking on January 4.

Two shops were destroyed and 18 others badly damaged in the 1.10am explosion in Station Street, Randfontein. Millions of rands damage was caused.

Looting was reported soon after the blast.

Police reported a man in a car was seen speeding down Station Street shortly after the attack.

The attack was apparently aimed at the Elite Cafe belonging to Mr Jackie de Sousa. The shop was destroyed.

No-one was hurt in the explosion.

This was the second blast at one of Mr De Sousa's shops. On January 4 his shop in Suurbekom was badly damaged by a limpet mine explosion.

Randfontein's main street was littered with shards of glass and mangled pieces of metal and masonry. The area was cordoned off as bomb squad experts sifted through the wreckage for clues on the explosive device.

Debris was scattered over 100 metres.

The station building across the street from the Elite Cafe was also damaged.

The force of the blast was so intense that a chest freezer was blown into the street, plastic chairs melted in the heat and the wall between adjoining shops buckled.

Nothing in the Elite Cafe could be saved.

Windows were shattered in 18 other shops and the station across the road. A car parked at the station was damaged.

Major Henriette Bester of the West Rand police said it was not yet known what type of explosive was used.

Gas bottles exploded after the initial blast and caused additional damage.

A shaken Mr De Sousa, near tears, said he did not know why he was being victimised.

"That is 10 years of my life that have been destroyed," he said.

But he was thankful that the blast was in the middle of the night and that there were no injuries.

"My wife and sister normally run this shop and I am glad they were not there."



Masa to get SAP help

JOHANNESBURG — Police and the Medical Association of South Africa (Masa) will co-operate to combat attacks on health workers in the volatile Vaal Triangle.

This follows a series of murders of doctors in the region, sparking fears that medical services could collapse.

Police will visit clinics, surgeries and hospitals regularly, and security tips will be given to doctors.

Medical staff have also been issued with an emergency number, Masa and the police said yesterday.

Masa's Dr David Green said doctors were soft targets because their moral obligations made security difficult. – Sapa

SPECIAL

Radical youths blamed for many police deaths

B'DAY 13/1/93

PRETORIA — Radical youths and criminals had been mainly responsible for the increasing number of police fatalities, Brig Stefanus Abrie told the Goldstone commission yesterday.

The commission, which began hearing evidence yesterday on attacks on police officers, heard that during 1992, 269 policemen had been killed and more than 60 police stations and 95 private residences had been attacked.

In spite of efforts by the police to make themselves more acceptable to all parties, attacks on security forces — more than 2 000 last year — had increased steadily, Abrie said.

The fatality rate among the SAP had increased from about one a month in the '70s to two a month in the '80s. By 1991 the figure had risen to 13,4 police deaths a month, while last year the figure was 19,1.

"It is clear there exists a deep-rooted distrust towards the SAP, especially among young people."

He added that criticism of the SAP by political leaders was interpreted by radical youths as encouragement to continue the armed struggle.

Sapa reports that he also told the commission about 3 000 Umkhonto

ADRIAN HADLAND

we Sizwe members had decided, before returning from Tanzania, to continue the armed struggle. This was contrary to ANC policy.

"The solution to the problem lies in a co-ordinated effort in which all political groupings co-operate in the spirit of existing multilateral and bilateral agreements towards effective policing," he said.

Attorney Brendan Barry, on behalf of the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe, said he had been given insufficient time to study Abrie's statement, and deferred cross-examination.

The PAC indicated it would not attend the hearings.

Det-Sgt Johannes du Plessis later told the commission that Apla and Umkhonto we Sizwe planned and committed attacks against police in East Rand townships.

Du Plessis said that between July 17 1991 and November last year there had been 60 attacks on policemen at Thokoza, Vosloorus and Katlehong.

Six attacks by Apla and six by Umkhonto we Sizwe were politically motivated.

Investigations were hampered by a lack of co-operation from the community. "They (witnesses) know they will be killed if they co-operate with police," Du Plessis said.

The Goldstone commission also recommenced its investigation yesterday into allegations made last year by Mozambican immigrant Joao Cuna concerning "third force" activities by the security forces.

ANC NEC member Mac Maharaj, who was named by Cuna as the mastermind behind a campaign to discredit the security forces, denied any knowledge of the campaign. He had never met or seen Cuna, he said.

During yesterday's tea break, Cuna identified Maharaj as the "tall man, with a beard and whitish hair" he had met "many times" and who suggested Cuna tell the story which appeared in Vrye Weekblad.

This was placed on the committee's record.

Both hearings will continue for the next two weeks.

□ A Goldstone commission sub-committee investigating causes of political violence in Natal, other than ANC-IFP rivalry, will sit in Empangeni today to hear preliminary submissions from people on the north coast. The committee, chaired by Malcolm Wallis, sat in Port Shepstone on Monday.

Joint bid to protect health staff

THE Medical Association of SA (Masa) and the SAP said yesterday that they had formed a combined working committee to counter the rise in attacks on health workers in the Vaal Triangle.

Masa had approached the SAP Commissioner after concerns that medical care would collapse in the area, a joint statement said.

B'DAY 13/1/93

SAP spokesman Col Mark Alton said police were unable to say why health workers, and in particular doctors, were being attacked but it appeared robbery was the motive as criminals assumed the victims were wealthy.

The statement said police would be deployed at clinics, surgeries and other health institutions in the area to ensure doctors' and nurses' safety. An emergency phone number had also been made available for their use.

Masa federal council chairman Dr Bernard Mandell said in a separate statement yesterday that the problem could only be solved in the context of a national reversal of the culture of violence and crime.

STEPHEN COPLAN

Health care centres should be protected and safe places for patients and medical personnel provided, Mandell said.

He said doctors sometimes worked irregular hours in close contact with people, making them soft targets and hindering security precautions. Doctors were also perceived by would-be criminals as being wealthy..

Recruiting doctors and nurses to work in the Vaal Triangle had become difficult, Masa profession development director Dr David Green said.

Police and Masa have appealed to Vaal Triangle communities to assist them in preventing attacks on health workers and ensuring the continuation of health services.

Police reported a Dr Mokabudi and another person were found dead in an open field in Sebokeng in May last year, while in September Dr J J Bornman was murdered near his surgery in Vereeniging. In December Dr H L Kuhn was murdered at her surgery in Evaton.

Attack on wilderness slammed

B'DAY 13/1/93

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Conservationist Ian Player said yesterday Richards Bay Minerals was insulting several religions by attacking the wilderness concept.

Player, founder of the Wilderness Leadership School, was commenting on a 15-page sponsored survey on RBM in Leadership magazine.

In the survey, RBM's public relations head Barry Clements was quoted as saying: "This talk of saving St Lucia by preventing mining is one of the biggest hoaxes in the annals of SA conservation.

"The anti-(mining) lobby would sacrifice massive

Bomb rips West Rand shop centre

Sowetan 14/11/93

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Sowetan Correspondent

■ **SHOPLIFTERS** Attack believed to be revenge for beating of two boys:

A POWERFUL bomb ripped through a West Rand shopping complex early yesterday in what is believed to be a revenge attack for the beating of two young black shoplifters.

One of the boys died in the Baragwanath Hospital two days after the beating on October 1, possibly as a result of the assault.

The Elite Cafe and neighbouring Shorty's Fruit and Veg were completely destroyed and 18 other shops were badly damaged in the 1.10am explosion in Station Street, Randfontein.

Damage amounting to millions of rands was reported but no one was hurt.

Police said a person purporting to be a member of Apla telephoned the police toll free number this morning claiming responsibility for the blast. But police do not suspect the organisation at this stage.

The attack was apparently aimed at the Elite Cafe belonging to Jackie de Sousa.

This was the second blast at one of De Sousa's shops. On January 4 his Zuurbekom shop was badly damaged in a limpet mine explosion.

161 children spent Christmas in jail

Sowetan Reporter

■ **64 'dangerous' kids are still in custody:**

Sowetan 14/11/93

A TOTAL of 161 children under the age of 14 spent last Christmas in jail.

A statement from the Deputy Minister of National Housing, Mr Glen Carelse, yesterday confirmed that "between December 1992 and January 7 this year 161 children aged 14 and younger trial were detained in police cells and prisons countrywide".

Sixty-one have since been placed in "alternative care", 43 reunited with their parents and 16 in "places of safety" and two in reformatories.

"At the moment 36 cases are being investigated and these children will probably soon be placed in alternative care.

The remaining 64 children are being detained for serious crimes, such as murder and cannot be transferred because they pose a danger to the community," he said.

ANC accused of trying to wreck Bekkersdal peace pact

INKATHA and Azapo accused the ANC yesterday of attempting to shatter a peace pact between them in Bekkersdal.

Inkatha Transvaal organiser Themba Khoza told a news conference in Johannesburg that members of the ANC Bekkersdal branch had sent a memorandum to a multiparty committee, monitoring the situation in the West Rand township, in which it complained about the peace pact between Inkatha and Azapo.

Azapo deputy national organiser Monwabisi Duna said ANC supporters in the township had threatened to "come down heavily on us" should Azapo and Inkatha reach an agreement on ceasing hostilities.

However, a peace pact, signed by the ANC and Azapo in November 1991 after heavy fighting between supporters, precluded him from telling the media who the ANC members in question were, he said.

Khoza said it was known the ANC was behind the Inkatha-Azapo feud, which had claimed five lives this year.

Khoza and Duna said the allegations of the ANC's involvement in the feud would be discussed with the Bekkersdal monitoring committee, of which the ANC and PAC were members.

WILSON ZWANE

The two organisations, which had been holding a series of meetings in an attempt to end the feud, said they would hold a joint peace rally on Sunday.

Duna said Inkatha had agreed to a condition — set by Azapo — that "traditional" weapons should not be carried at the rally, which was held to "ensure lasting peace in Bekkersdal".

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa dismissed the allegations as false. He said the ANC was the first to call for a peace meeting between the organisations.

It was unfortunate that some organisations wished to use the peace process in Bekkersdal, which was the outcome of multilateral deliberations involving the ANC, the PAC, Inkatha and Azapo "for narrow party political interests".

Sapa reports that the ANC also rejected a claim during bilateral talks earlier yesterday that ANC Youth League members had said they would "come down heavily" on Azapo if it held talks with Inkatha.

Nine people killed in Natal violence

DURBAN — At least nine people were killed and two injured in violence in Natal on Tuesday, KwaZulu and SA police reported yesterday.

Six of the victims were killed in a faction fight between Pondo and Zulu tribes in Inanda, near Durban.

Meanwhile, a wave of violent attacks on the SAP is continuing, with eight policemen slain since the beginning of the year.

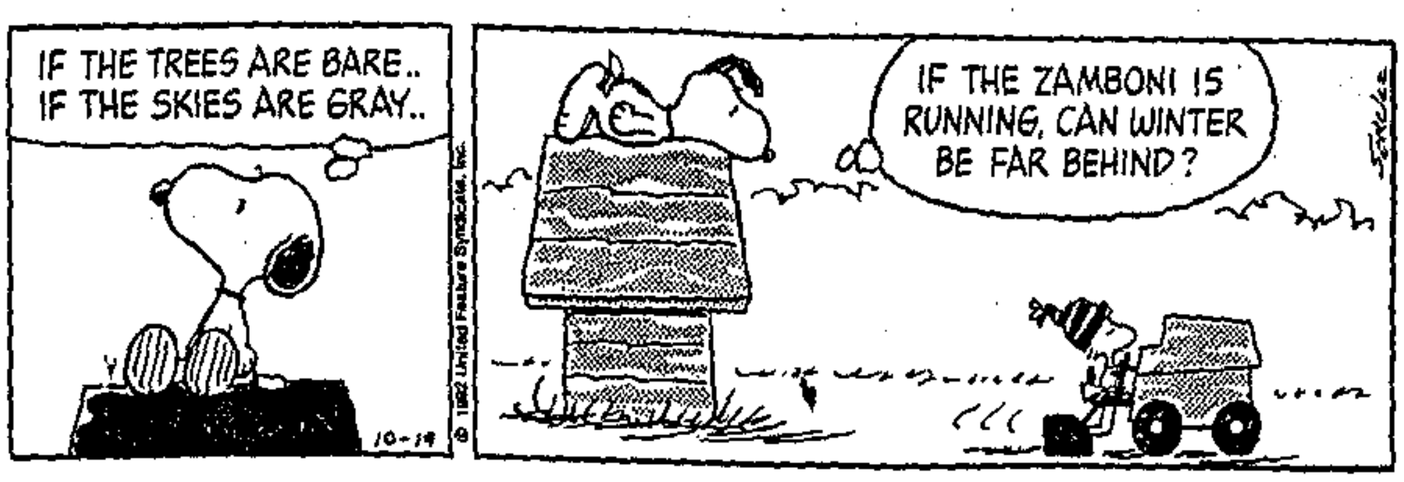
In the latest killings, an off-duty policeman was stabbed in the head near Germiston and a constable was gunned down by three men in police uniform while guarding a suspect in an East Rand hospital.

Soweto policemen fired birdshot and teargas after allegedly being attacked by a crowd at Inhlazane station on Tuesday.

Police spokesman Capt Burger van Rooyen said 226 policemen were killed during 1992. Many were killed off duty, when they were most vulnerable.

Despite the killings there was no shortage of recruits, and 2 300 new policemen would be trained by July. — Sapa-Reuter.

PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



tribal areas had come from the KwaZulu government and Inkatha.

He asked the committee to investigate the role of the KwaZulu and SA police in violence.

The abuse of power by KwaZulu and SA government officials in the region also required investigation.

In his preliminary submission Cosatu regional executive member Michael Mabuyakhulu asked the committee, led by Durban

Local govt forum set up

WILSON ZWANE

PROGRESS towards nonracial local government structures was made yesterday when government and township civic organisations agreed to set up a local government forum.

Agreements reached at this forum, in which government and civic organisations would be represented, would be binding on all parties.

After their meeting in Johannesburg yesterday, Local Government Minister Tertius Delport and the SA National Civics Organisation (Sanco) said a working group had been established to formulate the forum's terms of reference.

A Sanco spokesman said recently an interim agreement between his organisation and government was necessary as a host of issues, including the resolution of rent and services boycotts, hinged on it.

Sanco president Moses Mayekiso also said recently the time was not ripe for his organisation to advise its members to suspend the boycotts.

One condition he set for boycotts to be lifted was "sufficient movement towards the democratisation of government" at local and national levels.

Squatter denies causing shooting

Sowetan 14/11/93

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By Tsale Makam

■ **Police allege that crowd became hostile:**

A RESIDENT of a squatter camp near Soweto, who was among people allegedly assaulted by police in February last year, yesterday denied he was responsible for police shooting in the area.

Mr Victor Mbunge told a Johannesburg magistrate, Mrs M Lamprecht, that he was assaulted and arrested without reason at Racecourse squatter camp.

He spent about six weeks at Diepkloof Prison and was let out after paying R2 000 bail. After seven court appearances, the case was dismissed.

He was testifying in the civil case in which 11 residents are suing Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel for R60 000.

The action follows an incident on February 1 last year when police, who were said to be chasing car thieves, allegedly fired pellets at residents of the squatter camp.

In his evidence Mbunge said on the day in question he had seen people running away. He also ran when he heard gunshots. "I saw police running towards me and I ran into a house."

Counsel for the police, Mr FH de Waal, submitted that Mbunge was the cause of the shooting, saying when the police arrested him the crowd became hostile.

He said he would prove that the chase started when police spotted two vehicles which had been reported stolen. Mbunge was behind the steering wheel and some people were pushing the car.

Proceeding.

Dismay as civic leaders go on trial

STAR 15/11/93

By Jo-Anne Collinge 278

The linking of four Tokoza Civic Association figures and two other men as co-accused in the Prince Mhlambi murder trial has been greeted with dismay.

Mhlambi, a one-time leader in the turbulent East Rand settlement of Phola Park, was gunned down on October 10 with four others.

The four civic members on trial, Abraham Motaung, Philemon Mapatje, Gideon Letlotlo and Jeremiah Motsieloa, were granted bail of R2 000. Their attorney made it clear she did not expect to mount a defence in unity with the other two accused.

A friend of one of the victims said Tokoza residents believed the civic leaders would be acquitted.

The other two accused, Paul Mokoena and Joshua "Yster" Mchunu, are still in custody.

"We and others believe that Mhlambi's death is linked to the fact that a lawless gang is running rampant in Tokoza," an attorney representing the family of one of the victims said. "While the community is eager to have killers brought to book, people are puzzled by the bringing of civic leaders to trial."

Given weapons by ANC – witness

By Michael Sparks

A witness told the Goldstone Commission yesterday that an executive member of the ANC had provided weapons for an attack on police in Piet Retief, while at the same time being involved in negotiations at Codesa 2.

Brandan Samson was giving evidence to the committee investigating attacks on police. He said NEC member Joe Nhlanhla had told him to go to Piet Retief in the eastern Transvaal to find out the movements of policemen and later to return and attack them.

Samson told the committee he was given two handguns and an AK-47 in Nhlanhla's office at ANC headquarters in Shell House in Johannesburg in June 1992.

Samson was later convicted of illegal possession of arms and ammunition, but acquitted of threatening a policeman. He is due for release today after serving six months of his sentence.

When questioned by ANC counsel Azhar Cachalia, Samson said while he did not carry a membership card for the organisation, he regarded himself as a member.

● In a separate hearing into activities of the "third force", George Milaras, who had employed Mozambican Joao Cuna, said he had suggested to Cuna that he talk to the Vrye Weekblad, hoping it might give him personal security.

Cuna later claimed that a report that he had been paid to kill ANC activists was not what he told the paper.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

● Police said to add to violence — Page 6

Top ANC man tied to attacks on police

Sapa and Weekly Mail Reporter

AFRICAN National Congress security chief Joe Nhlanhla personally armed three Umkhonto weSizwe fighters at the ANC headquarters in Johannesburg before they embarked on an investigation of policemen, the Goldstone Commission heard yesterday.

Nhlanhla also told the cadres to report to him after their reconnaissance operation, so that plans for the execution of the policemen could be made, according to a self-proclaimed MK member currently serving a sentence for illegal arms possession.

Brendan Sampson told a Goldstone committee sitting in Pretoria and inquiring into attacks on policemen that Nhlanhla had instructed them to gather information on three policemen allegedly harassing ANC members in Piet Retief.

The witness said Nhlanhle organised for him and two colleagues to collect .38 and .45 pistols as well as an AK47 rifle and ammunition from Shell House, the ANC's Johannesburg headquarters.

He alleged Nhlanhla instructed him in June last year to kill any policemen who hindered their reconnoissance mission.

Thereafter, he claimed, he was to report back to Nhlanhla at Shell House, where further plans would be made to "execute" these policemen.

Sampson, who was arrested soon after he arrived in Piet Retief, is serving a prison sentence for possession of arms and ammunition. He was convicted in July.

Sampson said he was trained at an Angolan camp after he had met Nhlanhla in Lusaka, Zambia in 1986.

Under cross-examination, he admitted to ANC legal counsel Azar Cachalia that he was not a card-carrying, paid-up member of the organisation.

He explained that he had joined the ANC in 1986, when it was still banned. He did not require a card — a system introduced after the ANC's unbanning in 1990 — to prove his membership. It was in his heart, he added.

Nurses fear attack

Oct 16 1993

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Staff Reporter

NURSES who fear they may be attacked and killed since the murder of a policeman at a Rand hospital early this week yesterday appealed to health authorities for effective security at hospitals.

In a statement yesterday, the South African Nursing Association (Sana) said nurses feared they may be attacked since the murder of a police guard at Tsakane Hospital on the East Rand on Monday night.

The policeman was guarding an injured robbery suspect when five men dressed in police uniform entered the ward, shot him dead and escaped with the suspect.

A Sana spokeswoman said yesterday such incidents were usually accompanied by violence and the lives of hospital staff members and patients were placed under threat.

Sana therefore urged that workplaces of healthworkers be safeguarded.

Rumours rife that ANC youth killed 'monster'

CP Pros 17/1/93. (278)

By THEMBA KHUMALO

WAS the notorious Vaal gunman, Skosana Dlamini, gunned down by ANC cadres?

A growing rumour in Sebokeng is that the feared "Vaal monster II", who was walking around with a R10 000 price tag on his head after police linked him to the cold-blooded shooting of six Zwane family members last year, was eliminated by angry ANC youths who were fed up with his misdemeanours.

Dlamini's five-month reign of terror came to a dead end two weeks ago outside a tavern when he was ambushed by faceless men who mowed him down in a hail of bullets.

They later took his body to his Zone 12 home and set it alight in his bedroom. His mother and sisters are on the run after escaping the mob.

He left behind him controversy about whether he was a genuine member of the township self-defence units, or a thug who revelled in spilling blood.

Harassing

The ANC is battling to uncover the mask of the man who, together with his friends, is alleged to be responsible for the death of several policemen and residents, some of them young girls, in the Vaal.

The once respected Dlamini became an instant villain when he started harassing girls, it was alleged.

The last straw came on New Year's Eve after he is alleged to have shot and killed 16-year-old Sibongile Jobo who had earlier rebuffed his advances.

In an interview with City Press at KwaMasiza hostel in November last year, Dlamini admitted having shot several policemen in skirmishes, but denied that he had killed any residents.

He was a card-carrying member of the ANC Youth League, he said, but denied having any hand in the killing of the Zwane family. They were his friends and he could not do "such a horrible thing to the family that recruited me to the movement", he said.

However, a Zwane family source last week said he was convinced that Dlamini had killed his family. Now that he was dead, people were volunteering irrefutable information which they feared to mention while Dlamini was alive, he said.

Spokesman for the ANC PWV region, Ronnie Mamoepa, said his executive committee was still waiting for a report by a committee set up to investigate Dlamini's past.

He would not comment on allegations that Dlamini was shot by irate ANC cadres or members of the self-defence units.

"We don't have information to that effect but we will investigate the rumours," Mamoepa said.

IFP, Azapo smoke peace pipe

■ Leaders try to set the tone for peace in notorious township:

Sowetan 18/11/93

WARRING parties sat side by side in an empty lot at Bekkersdal where at least six people have died in political violence this month and heard their leaders speak about tolerance.

Political violence in the West Rand township has flared sporadically since 1991 and has already claimed several lives this year.

In an effort to end hostilities, leaders of the Inkatha Freedom Party and Azanian People's Organisation yesterday noted a common goal and a common enemy.

IFP Transvaal organiser Mr Themba Khoza said blacks should come together to remove the present Government, and said the primary enemy was apartheid, which was "present in Bekkersdal in the form of violence, political intolerance and poverty".

"No one owns the struggle. We (blacks) are all struggling, and the struggle takes different forms."

Introduced by Azapo deputy national organiser Mr Monwabisi Duna as someone who believed strongly in Azapo's philosophy, Khoza said blacks would not accept having escaped from the repression of apartheid to become repressed by "someone else". (278)

Both organisations, in line with an agreement reached with various monitoring groups in Johannesburg last week, refrained from identifying this "someone else". But both have noted alleged threats by African National Congress youths to "come down" on them for talking to one another.

Bekkersdal Monitoring Committee chairman Mr Charles Ndabene said this antagonism was,simply the result of a misunderstanding.

ANC representatives who had attended the January 8 Johannesburg meeting on the issue had apparently not told their Bekkersdal structures of agreement on an IFP-Azapo rally.

Ndabene said that since Wednesday - once Bekkersdal ANC youths had understood the situation and communicated with their members - there had been no trouble.

A member of the SA Council of Churches, the BMC chairman rejected allegations by Khoza that his committee was partisan. - *Sapa.*

next *Talk*back topic

The *Sowetan*/Radio Metro Talkback Show today opens the lines for you to raise any issue of topical interest.

Dial the hotline (011) 714-8063

NEWS Rand killing fields claim more victims over weekend

More die as violence grips Reef towns

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Sowetan 18/1/93.

PEACE RUPTURED Alexandra's tenuous respite is shattered by new wave of killings:

FIFTEEN PEOPLE WERE killed and about eight injured in separate crime-related incidents on the Reef at the weekend.

Violence erupted again in Alexandra after months of relative calm when three people were killed and another wounded in separate incidents on Saturday night.

Fire also gutted a large area of one of the squatter camps in the area.

The body of an Indian man was found bound together with an injured man behind Newclare, Johannesburg, railway station yesterday.

In another incident in Johannesburg, a Westdene cafe-owner and his wife were hacked to death in their home on Saturday night.

In Soweto, a mother, Mrs Beauty Mshibe (65) and her daughter Yvonne (34), were murdered in their Orlando West home on Saturday morning.

Her other daughter, Khosi (40), is in a serious condition at Baragwanath Hospital.

A 22-year-old man was shot dead in Soweto on Saturday when he and his girlfriend ran away from four men who had made passes at the woman.

In Randpark Ridge, police found the body of a youth on Saturday in what they believe was a hit-and-run accident.

A Vereeniging restaurant owner was shot dead by armed robbers outside. Another Vereeniging woman died after being stabbed in her home.

In Tokoza, on the East Rand, three people were killed and five others injured in shooting incidents at the weekend.

A security guard was shot dead and several others nearly froze to death after they were locked in refrigerator trucks during a robbery attempt at Dairy Maids in Olifantsfontein, near Johannesburg.

A 36-year-old East Rand man was shot dead when he accompanied his girlfriend to her estranged husband's home on Saturday night to fetch her children.

The body of a man, who had been stabbed and then "necklaced", was found in Orlando West, Soweto, on Saturday night.

A suspected car thief was wounded and he and an accomplice were arrested after their vehicle hit a telephone pole during a police chase in Tembisa on Saturday night. - *Sapa.*



Leaders of both the Azanian Peoples Organisation and Inkatha Freedom Party sit side by side at a peace rally in Bekkersdal.

'Killer returned for 4th victim'

STAR 18/11/93

By Zingisa Mkhuma and Philip Zoio

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The gruesome murder of three members of a Soweto family may have led to the subsequent necklace killing of a 22-year-old man in the same house at the weekend.

Police said the man, who was hacked before being burnt to death on Saturday morning, was dragged out of the Mzimhlophe house in which Beauty Mshibe (70), her daughters Yvonne (40) and Gloria (35) had earlier been chopped to death.

Bongani Mshibe (19) survived the attack with a slight shoulder wound.

Soweto police spokesman Major Herman Oosthuysen said yesterday that police believed the dead man, whose name has not yet been established, could have been killed by the same people returning to finish off any survivors of the earlier attack.

Body

Oosthuysen said the man's body was found in veld next to a bottle store, less than 50 m from the Mshibes' house.

He had been hacked, stabbed, stoned and a tyre had been placed around his body and set alight.

When The Star visited the family yesterday no one was prepared to comment about the incident, or give Bongani's whereabouts.

Police said they believed the multiple murder at the Mshibe home could have been committed by a former tenant who had been evicted from the house.

They expected to make an arrest soon.

Bloody family fracas

Sowetan 18/1/93 (278)

By Ike Motsapi

THE KILLING OF TWO Soweto family members took another turn when a relative, who had allegedly hired the killers, was hacked to death and "necklaced" at the weekend.

The body of Mr Bongani Mshibe (19), a relative of 65-year-old Mrs Beauty Mshibe and Miss Yvonne Mshibe (34), who were killed on Saturday morning when men attacked their Orlando West, Soweto, home was found by police in the veld near Motlogeloa Bottle Store later in the day.

Another member of the family, Ms Khosi Mshibe, was admitted to Baragwanath Hospital in a serious condition. She lost an eye in the attack.

It is believed Bongani was stabbed, hacked to death and "necklaced" after confessing that he had paid his relatives' killers.

The family yesterday declined to speak to the Press.

Borrowed R800

A source told *Sowetan* that Bongani had borrowed R800 from Mrs Mshibe to use for his studies.

It is believed he used the money to hire people to kill his relatives so that he could inherit the family's possessions.

All the dead are relatives of late journalist Miss Zodwa Mshibe, who was murdered in 1987.

Soweto police spokesman Major Herman Oosthuysen said yesterday Bongani's body was found near the bottle store about 10pm on Saturday.

He said there were indications he had been attacked and stabbed at a house in November Street, Mzimhlope, and then dragged into the veld.

"A petrol-soaked tyre was then put around his neck and set alight," Oosthuysen said.

He said it was possible the death could be linked to the deaths of Mrs Mshibe and her daughter.

Oosthuysen said the man had been "boarding" with Mrs Mshibe and her daughter but had recently been asked to leave.

He asked people with information regarding the incident to phone the police on the toll-free number 0800-111213.

House was full

When *Sowetan* visited the Mshibe home at November Street in Orlando West yesterday the house was full of relatives and neighbours comforting the surviving family members.

A family spokesman said no statement would be issued by the family regarding the incident until a meeting of all concerned had been held to discuss the tragedy.

● In another incident, a 22-year-old man was shot dead in Soweto on Saturday when he and his girlfriend tried to run away from four men who had made passes at the woman.

Soweto police spokesman Oosthuysen said Mr Jeffrey Nkuna and his girlfriend were walking in Zone 6 Meadowlands about 9.30pm when they noticed four men following them.

When the couple started running away, shots were fired at them and Nkuna was wounded in the buttocks and chest. He died on the scene.

His girlfriend managed to escape and reported to the police. No arrests have been made. Oosthuysen asked people with information to phone the above toll-free number.

Three die, one hurt in Alexandra violence

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ET 18/1/93

JOHANNESBURG — Three people were killed and one was wounded at the weekend in fresh violence in Alexandra township.

Police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce also said yesterday a fire gutted a large area of a squatter camp here.

Mr David Zondo was found shot dead and Mr Nxebu Hulana was stabbed to death by three men on Saturday night.

In another incident, six men stabbed Mr Vuyisile Blaatje, 21, to death early yesterday and fled.

On Saturday night, the fire brigade was summoned to a camp here after a fire broke out, gutting a large area.

No deaths or injuries were reported.

In Natal, a KwaZulu Transport bus driver was killed on Friday after he was shot three times by a passenger at Thuvukenzi reserve.

On the same day, another man was seriously wounded in a shooting incident at Izingolweni on the South Coast. — Sapa

Attacks on SAP 'encouraged'

By Peter Davies (25B) (278)

A police captain told a Goldstone Committee in Pretoria yesterday that "high-profile figures" in the ANC encouraged "township defence units" to attack members of the South African Police in the Vaal Triangle last year.

Giving evidence to the inquiry into attacks on police, Captain Petrus Johannes Cilliers of Vereeniging said it was "clear that members of the ANC are involved in attacks on SAP members, despite declarations by ANC leaders that it is not ANC policy to attack and murder policemen". STAR 19/11/93.

Cilliers revealed that 16 policemen were killed and 31 injured in 87 attacks from January 13 1992 to the end of last year. Police arrested 276 and charged 102 in connection with attacks on policemen, including 74 after the funeral to commemorate the Boipatong massacre.

Cilliers said the ANC also tried to make policemen unpopular in the community by falsely accusing the SAP of being involved in attacks on black communities.

The PAC and its military wing Apla were also responsible for attacks, he said.

Cilliers said there were 255 members in 21 self-defence units in Sharpeville, Sebokeng and Boipatong. Seven of the members were also cadres in the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe.

He said policemen in the Vaal Triangle were particularly worried about the attacks. Police investigating the attacks had themselves become targets and many had moved out of the area, fearing for their lives.

The inquiry continues today.

3 killed in train violence

(216)

Star 20/11/93

By Charmeela Bhagowat
Crime Reporter

Three people died in train violence on the East Rand yesterday.

Witwatersrand SAP spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce said police were searching a train at Katlehong Station at about 5 pm when commuters reported violence on a train that had just pulled in.

On searching it, police found traces of blood.

Nearby, along the railway line, they discovered the body of a man who had been stabbed. They also found an injured man. Both had been thrown off the train.

Bruce said five suspects were arrested.

He added that police had to use teargas to disperse waiting passengers who were furious about the train delay and had become unruly.

The passengers left and returned for the next train, said Bruce.

However, violence erupted on that train as well. Police later discovered the body of an unidentified man lying next to the line some distance from Katlehong Station.

He had apparently been hit over the head with a bottle and thrown off the train.

Not far from where he was found, an injured man, who had been thrown off the same train, was discovered.

The Katlehong violence followed two train attacks in Germiston earlier yesterday in which a person was killed and two injured.

Violence 'a tool to derail settlements'

WILSON ZWANE

THE SA Council of Churches (SACC) charged yesterday that forces in SA were bent on derailing constitutional talks.

The SACC said the recent killings of more than 10 people in Natal and on the Reef vindicated its belief that "certain forces are trying hard to derail negotiations". Government meetings with the ANC and with the Concerned South Africans Group had rekindled hopes for an early political settlement. But it seemed whenever a major development was imminent, scores of township residents lost their lives. "Violence in SA, it would seem, is being switched on and off at will."

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said he agreed with the SACC: major political developments were preceded by outbreaks of violence.

National peace committee media officer Val Pauquet also agreed with the pattern of killing, while national peace secretariat chairman Antonie Gildenhuys said outbreaks of violence on the eve of big events were orchestrated by a small group of people who did not want to see peace prevail.

In the latest incidents of violence, two people were shot dead in Natal, and on the East Rand police found the body of a man who had been stabbed and apparently thrown from a moving train. A man was also injured when shots were fired at policemen at Wadeville station, near Germiston, Sapa reports.

Man dies in new train violence

JOHANNESBURG. — A man died after being stabbed and thrown from a moving train yesterday in one of the first incidents of train violence on the East Rand this year.

Police found the man's body next to a railway line near Germiston.

(278) CT 20/1/93

And in other train violence, a police spokesman said a man was wounded and two off-duty police constables were shot at.

Meanwhile in Natal, two people have been killed and Imbali Taxi Association chairman Mr Samuel Phumuzinyawo Mchunu seriously injured in unrest in the past three days.

Mr Mchunu was shot by two armed youths shortly after a meeting of the taxi association on Sunday.

Two people were killed in separate incidents in Umlazi and KwaMakhutha, south of Durban.

A KwaZulu Police spokesman said Mr Steven Shozi was shot dead in Umlazi.

In the other incident, an unidentified man was shot dead in the Ezimbokodweni area near KwaMakhutha. — Sapa

disbandment of the CCB in 1990.

No motives discovered for temple blast

STEPHANE BOTHMA

SAP forensic experts were examining the explosive device which damaged a Hindu temple in the Pretoria suburb of Laudium early yesterday morning, but no motive for the blast had been established yet, SAP spokesman Maj Andrew Lesch said.

Muslim organisations rejected suggestions that Muslim/Hindu conflict had led to the explosion, which damaged the Seva Samay temple — one of two Hindu temples in Laudium — at 3am yesterday.

However, Muslim and Hindu community leaders met yesterday to avert a possible outbreak of religious violence.

After the meeting, they expressed the hope that perpetrators would be brought to justice as soon as possible, Sapa reported.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the blast, which damaged pillars, the ceiling and windows.

Windows of an adjoining school and neighbouring houses were also damaged in the blast, which could be heard 20km away.

The attack was widely condemned by Muslim and Hindu community organisations, as well as by the Laudium branch of the ANC. Bloem 20/11/93.

The Johannesburg-based Central Islamic Trust said if the attack was carried out in retaliation for the destruction of the Muslim Babari mosque in Ayodhya, India, they condemned it in the strongest terms.

SA Muslims and Hindus had co-existed peacefully in SA despite efforts by the perpetrators of apartheid to divide these communities, the trust said.

CCB framed Barnard, attorney tells inquest

B/DAY 20/1/93.

B/DAY 20/1/93

FORMER CCB operative Ferdi Barnard was first implicated in the murder of activist David Webster by the unit's chairman, Gen Eddie Webb, or by MD Joe Verster — and not because of a confession to his handler days after the shooting.

This submission was made by Barnard's attorney, Piet du Plessis, during closing argument at the Webster inquest in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Du Plessis said evidence that Barnard had confessed to his former handler, Lafras Luitingh, days after the murder was false and part of a plot by members of the CCB's inner circle to frame his client.

Barnard himself has repeatedly denied that he made any confession.

Du Plessis said it was clear from the evidence that Webb or Verster had started the rumours after Barnard disclosed the existence of the

SUSAN RUSSELL

CCB during his detention under section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

Barnard blew the lid off the CCB and made a number of false allegations about the unit after he was detained in November 1989 in connection with the murder of Swapo lawyer Anton Lubowski.

Du Plessis said it was clear that during the internal investigation into the CCB, Luitingh had told only former MI chief Gen Witkop Badenhorst that there was a rumour Barnard had been involved in the murder.

At that stage, Du Plessis argued, Luitingh was aware Barnard had alleged in his Section 29 statement that Luitingh himself was possibly responsible for Webster's murder.

Du Plessis said Luitingh then had the idea of spreading the rumour to incriminate Barnard.

Luitingh, he submitted, later developed the idea into a full-blooded confession by Barnard, which was the account he gave when confronted by his cousin, Adv Martin Luitingh, during the Harms commission inquiry.

This explained why neither Badenhorst, SAP Gen Krappies Engelbrecht or Verster had mentioned Luitingh's version of a confession until the current inquest.

Earlier yesterday, J Wessels, counsel for Verster, Luitingh and the CCB, submitted that it was clear Badenhorst and Engelbrecht had tried to cover up information during their internal investigation into the CCB.

Both Engelbrecht and Badenhorst denied during their evidence that Luitingh had told them about Barnard's alleged involvement.

Wessels said the evidence of both generals should not be accepted because they had contradicted each other on several material aspects.

Argument continues today.

Green belt needs its own authority, says Midrand

B/DAY 20/1/93.

GAVIN DU VENAGE

MIDRAND has broken ranks with five other town councils wanting to incorporate "green belt" land northwest of Johannesburg into their municipalities.

A Midrand Town Council representative yesterday told a government demarcation board hearing on the incorporation issue that the council now supported the establishment of a separate local authority for the green belt region.

The demarcation board is hearing argument over the application by the Krugersdorp, Roodepoort, Randburg, Sandton, Verwoerdburg and Midrand councils that the large area of rural land between their boundaries and the Magaliesburg be divided up between them.

Communities in the area, as well as the government-appointed local government affairs council (LGAC), have opposed the application.

Midrand is also involved in a dispute with Sandton over a strip of land between them, an issue on which the board will also make a finding.

Midrand town planning consultant Bob Warren told the board yesterday Midrand council backed the LGAC's suggestion that the green belt be administered by a separate authority, which would have several smaller councils and boards under it.

Warren said a new regional services council (RSC) should be created out of the Witwatersrand RSC to fund local authorities in the green belt and help provide infrastructure should the need for expansion arise.

It was "critical" that development on Midrand's western boundary was co-ordinated.

Midrand's council had conducted a full assessment of the area beyond its western boundary.

The study showed that people living there were "90% in favour" of being incorporated into Midrand, should they have to become part of a local authority.

"Community bodies in this area rejected incorporation to any other local authority, specifically high-and-mighty Sandton," said Warren.

He said Midrand was in a position to provide all the necessary services and infrastructure for the area.

Speaking in his private capacity, Sandton councillor Frederick Ehlers said the proposed incorporation had little support among his ratepayers.

The move also did not enjoy the backing of all council members, but was a "representation by a vociforous few", he said.

LGAC representative Werner Zybrands said there was enough land in the PWV region to accommodate another 8-million people without using the green belt.

He disputed the councils' ability to administer and provide services to the area, as their budgets were already stretched.

Projects in Alexandra facilitated by Randburg and Sandton had been paid for through the Witwatersrand RSC, he said.

Ratepayers in towns such as Randburg and Sandton would either have to pay more or have to accept a lower standard of living if the incorporation proposals were accepted, Zybrands added.

Schools hit by gang's protest

KATHRYN STRACHAN

SOWETO teachers and the Department of Education and Training (DET) have blamed a roving gang of youths for disrupting schooling in the Naledi area and driving principals away.

DET Johannesburg director of education provision Norman Malebane said the group — acting in the name of the Congress of SA Students (Cosas) — had moved from school to school since Friday intimidating principals and department heads. (278)

A Cosas national executive committee member said while his organisation condemned the disruptions, it could not say whether the group was part of Cosas.

National Education Co-ordinating Committee spokesman Desmond Thompson said the NECC condemned the protest which, he said, appeared to be centred around pupils being refused admission if they did not pay their fees. B/DAY 20/1/93.

Malebane said that while the principals at eight Naledi primary schools and three high schools had been hounded out, other teachers were continuing with their classes. Activity at the 56 other schools in Naledi had not been disrupted, he said.

He said that principals had been afraid to return to school for fear of their lives, except for one who had been fetched and "reinstated" by his pupils.

The DET is planning a meeting with students' organisations and civic assocations in the area to resolve the situation.

Violence on trains continues

Crime Reporter

Train violence on the East Rand continued last night when a man was stabbed and thrown off a moving train near President Station in Germiston, police said.

He was not seriously injured.

The attack was the fourth on the East Rand since Tuesday. Three people have been killed and five injured in the renewed attacks.

Yesterday a man was shot and wounded on a train between Germiston and Katlehong. Police said an assistant policeman was on the train. He fired at the gunman, who escaped.

The injured man, Moses Nkosi, was taken to Natalspruit Hospital.

On Tuesday three people were killed and three injured.

Commuter shot on Reef train

JOHANNESBURG. — A commuter was shot and wounded on a train travelling between Germiston and Katlehong yesterday, bringing the number of people injured in train violence this year to five.

Three people have died since attacks began again on Tuesday.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Warrant Officer Andy Pieke said Mr Moses Nkosi was shot in the chest. An assistant policeman who witnessed the attack fired shots at the attacker, but the gunman escaped. (278) CT 21/1/93

Mr Nkosi is in a satisfactory condition in the Natalspruit Hospital.

Police are investigating a charge of attempted murder, but no arrests have yet been made.

The attack followed several incidents on Tuesday in which three people were killed and four were injured on trains in the Germiston area.

The PAC on Tuesday condemned the renewed outbreak of violence on trains, saying it understood the deep anger of black commuters who were specifically targeted for such attacks. — Sapa

Stabbed, thrown off moving train

ARG 21 1993 (278)

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Train violence on the East Rand continued when a man was stabbed and thrown off a moving train near President Station, Germiston.

Police said the man was found last night lying beside the railway line. He was not seriously injured.

The attack was the fourth on the East Rand since Tuesday. Three commuters have been killed and five injured in the renewed attacks.

Yesterday a commuter was shot and wounded on a train between Germiston and Katlehong.

The injured man, Mr Moses Nkosi, was admitted to Natalspruit Hospital. His condition was reported to be satisfactory.

PAC alleges boycott threat

PRETORIA. — The PAC yesterday accused the Mamelodi Civic Association of fanning "black on black" violence by threatening to boycott some businesses in the Pretoria township. (278)

PAC regional secretary Mr Phillip Mudau said the licences of two garages in the township were seized by MCA members about three months ago and had not been returned.

An executive member of the MCA, who asked not to be named, said at no stage did the MCA threaten any business person. CT 21/1/93

The official said one garage found to be connected to a member of the Mamelodi council was closed following a boycott by residents.

(278)

Train death toll rises

THE death toll in violence on trains rose to three this year when another two people died in trains on the Reef on Tuesday.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Colonel Dave Bruce said the body of a man was found near Katlehong Station on the East Rand and an injured man was found next to the railway line. In further train violence, a man was killed and another injured in another train attack, also on the East Rand. - *Sapa.*

Sowetan 21/1/93

ANC condemns police shooting

(278)

STAR 21/1/93

By Montshiwa Moroke

A 20-year-old Tokoza ANC Youth League member was shot dead by Katlehong police yesterday, police said last night.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce said Lucky Mampuru, of Ntuli Street in the East Rand township, was wanted in connection with a number of charges including murder, attempted murder and armed robbery in the area.

However, the ANC PWV region said in a statement last night that it was horrified and dismayed at the "brutal" killing of Mampuru.

The ANC also alleged that the police acted in collusion with bodyguards of the controversial Bishop Khumalo who was arrested at the weekend in connection with a number of fatal shootings in the area.

Bruce said police saw Mampuru walking in a township street at about 3.25 pm.

When the police approached he ran away. He ignored warning shots and was chased for a considerable distance before he was killed, said Bruce.

A spokesman for Peace Action, an independent organisation which monitors violence in the PWV area, said witnesses said Mampuru was shot in the back.

The ANC said witnesses told them that Mampuru was standing with four other friends at the corner of Ntuli and Nomzane streets, when a red minibus with registration PSL 388 T approached them.

The occupants — seven white men and three black men — leapt out. "One of the black occupants, a certain Peter who is a bodyguard of Khumalo and a suspect in a murder case, said: 'hier is hy, skiet'.

"Lucky then fled to the nearby house and the occupants of the minibus shot him, killing him instantly.

"One of the white policeman then said: 'Ek het hom moorsdood geskiet' and then radioed for other policemen for reenforcement."

3 more die in train violence

278 ARG 22 | 1 | 93

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The number of people killed this week in train attacks on the East Rand has risen to six, with the latest deaths reported in Germiston.

About 7.30pm yesterday, police found the bodies of three stabbed men beside the Cleveland-Denver railway line.

Earlier a running gun battle between police and four suspects who could be linked to Reef train attacks left two policemen and two of the suspects injured. Other suspects escaped.

neighbours whose car was caught a

East Rand train death toll rises

STAR 22/11/93

Crime Reporter 278

The number of people killed in train attacks on the East Rand has risen to six, with the latest fatalities reported in Germiston last night.

At about 7.30 pm, police discovered the bodies of three men who were stabbed along the Cleveland-Denver railway lines.

Two of the bodies were discovered between the Cleveland and Tooronga stations and the other between Toorongo and Denver, said SAP spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce.

Earlier yesterday, a gun battle between police and four men, who could be linked to Reef train attacks, left two policemen and two of the suspects injured.

The other two escaped.

Bruce said four policemen were waiting at Doornfontein Station for a train back to Soweto's New Canada station late in the afternoon.

A commuter pointed out four men whom he said were robbers. The men fled when they were approached and the policemen chased them on foot.

The robbers opened fire on the policemen on the corner of Nugget and Hancock streets, wounding two of them.

The police returned fire and hit two of the men. One was seriously injured. Both policemen were in a stable condition last night.

Bruce said police confiscated three 9 mm pistols from the suspects.

Police are investigating the possibility that the men were involved in train attacks and thanked the commuter for providing the police with information.

"Such co-operation will lead to the arrest of more people, especially in connection with train attacks," he said.

the Codesa co-chairmen, but possibly Chief Justice Michael Corbett), who would then, in turn, be responsible for appointing a panel made

be most vulnerable, and would be unlikely to survive the arrival of the new board.

Besides the board mem-

● To Page 3

Man killed in shootout

STAR 22/11/93

Vereeniging Bureau (278)

A shootout between police and Sebokeng hostel dwellers led to the death of one man and the wounding of four others last night.

About 19 hostel residents were arrested in connection with the shooting.

The dead man has been identified as Tyelembi Mntelelambie (25). The injured were admitted to the Sebokeng Hospital with bullet wounds.

Police said members of the Internal Stability Unit were sent to the hostel following a tip-off that some residents were in possession of unlawful firearms and ammunition.

Shots were fired at the police, who returned the fire. One man was killed and four others injured.

The complex was searched, and police confiscated two AK-47 rifles and magazines and three handguns before arresting at least 19 suspects.

Charges being investigated against the group include attempted murder, and the unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition.

Taxi chief shot in car

JOHANNESBURG. — Alexandra Taxi Association chairman Mr Peter Manamela became the latest victim of taxi violence when he and his three-year-old granddaughter were shot and injured in an attack on his car. MG 22/11/93

Police said Mr Manamela, 40, his wife Mrs Rosina Manamela, 40, and their granddaughter Mpho were fired at in their car by two men in Kew, near Alexandra.

He lost control of the vehicle and smashed into a cement block. His attackers fired at him again. Police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel David Bruce said seven bullets struck the vehicle, three hitting Mr Manamela.

Colonel Bruce said the Rev Elizabeth Carmichael, of the Alexandra Interim Crisis Committee, had gone to the scene of the attack and had told him it was definitely part of a continuing taxi war. — Sapa.

Five killed, 13 wounded, in unrest

JOHANNESBURG. — Five people were killed, at least 13 were wounded and thousands of rands of damage was caused to two East Rand schools in unrest reported this week.

Police said about 300 youths gathered at Daveyton High School and stoned buildings and cars. The same group went to Rivonia High School, where they shattered classroom and car windows.

A man was shot dead at Ratanda, near Heidelberg, in apparent revenge for an earlier attack on a minibus taxi. Four people were wounded when a man with an AK-47 opened fire on the taxi.

Later another was man was shot dead with a 9mm pistol.

Police suspect that the second attack was to avenge the taxi shooting.

The ANC said one person had been killed and five injured in other incidents since the ANC held a rally in Ratanda on Sunday.

In Natal two people were killed and two wounded in unrest on Wednesday, police said.

KwaZulu police said Mr Royal Njapha, 30, was found stabbed to death at Umlazi's G Section.

At KwaMashu, police said, Mr Xolani Mthembu, 27, was shot dead at his home.

Two men were wounded in a shooting at Adams Mission near Amanzimtoti on Wednesday. (278) CT 22/11/93

● The Natal/KwaZulu regional dispute resolution committee has objected to Mooi River and Estcourt being declared unrest areas. — Sapa

Shootout over train violence

JOHANNESBURG. — A shootout between police and four men who could be linked to attacks on Reef trains left two policemen and two of the suspects injured yesterday afternoon.

A police spokesman said a commuter approached four policemen patrolling trains and pointed out four men he said were robbers. The suspects fled when police approached them, and police gave chase on foot through the city's rush-hour traffic. (278 Q 22/11/93

The suspects opened fire, wounding two of the pursuing policemen.

Police returned the fire and equalled the score. The chase ended on the corner of Hancock and Nugget streets when the two wounded suspects were taken into custody. — Sapa

said, it was not the only country

Ratanda 'tense' after more attacks

GAVIN DU VENAGE (278)

THE ANC feared another major outbreak of violence in Ratanda township near Heidelberg following several attacks on residents in the past few days, the organisation's PWV region spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said yesterday. B/Dmy

Mamoepa said early yesterday morning three men wearing balaclavas attacked a minibus taxi before opening fire on residents walking to work. 22/1/93.

He said several similar incidents had been reported since Saturday, when a 17-year-old boy was killed by masked gunmen after an ANC rally.

He said schooling had "ground to a halt" and the mood in the township was tense.

Police spokesman Emmie du Preez said a man with an AK-47 opened fire early yesterday on a taxi full of Inkatha supporters before fleeing into the township.

Shortly afterwards a man was killed by a pistol shot, and police chased a suspect who disappeared into a nearby hostel.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports from Durban that the Natal/KwaZulu regional dispute resolution committee yesterday strongly objected to the unilateral declaration of Mooi River and Estcourt as unrest areas and asked the Law and Order Minister why the committee was not consulted.

The minister had undertaken to consult affected communities.

De Klerk loses white support

B/Dmy 22/1/93

LLOYD COUTTS

WHILE the ANC was maintaining its popularity among blacks, President F W de Klerk and the NP were steadily losing the support of black and white South Africans, according to a recent Markinor poll.

Markinor deputy MD Christine Woessner said yesterday results of a November poll on socio-political and economic trends showed that although the NP remained the most accepted party by whites, there was a drop from 75% to only 58% of those who would definitely or perhaps vote for the party. Black support declined from 52% to 28%.

Inkatha remained a popular party with whites. Although only 3% said they would definitely vote for the party, 19% would perhaps do so and a further 29% felt good about the party.

Among blacks however 71% of the sample rejected the organisation, 23% more than those who spurned the CP.

The ANC remained a clear favourite with blacks, with an overwhelming majority (66%) who would definitely vote for it.

The SACP was included in the survey for the first time, and found strong support. While only 8% of blacks would vote for the party, 31% said they would perhaps vote for it, and 14% felt good about it.

The overwhelming majority of whites (85%) rejected the party.

Woessner said there had been a sharp drop in positive attitudes to De Klerk's leadership.

"De Klerk has lost all the ground he gained in the May 1992 survey and more. Results indicate the lowest vote of confidence (by blacks and whites) since he became president.

"In fact, among whites, it is the lowest score obtained by any president since the survey commenced in 1976," she said.

The poll was conducted among a sample of 800 whites and 1 300 blacks in metropolitan areas throughout SA.

'Electoral commission needed urgently'

B/Dmy 22/1/93

TIM COHEN (275)

CAPE TOWN — An independent electoral commission to help negotiate an election code of conduct was an urgent priority, ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said yesterday.

She was reacting to "disappointment" expressed by DP leaders after an inconclusive meeting with ANC leaders about the disruption of two DP meetings near Cape Town.

The DP's Jasper Walsh said the ANC's suggestion of using peace accord structures was inadequate because these were not proactive. The DP's James Selfe said many peace accord agreements should be augmented by bilateral deals. Marcus said it was impractical for all political groups to have agreements with each other. An electoral commission was essential.

AFEX CORPORATION
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DUIKER EXPLORATIO

Police accused of unprovoked attack

JOHANNESBURG. — The ANC PWV region yesterday claimed police shot dead Mr Bongi Tyelentombi and wounded six others when they opened fire on Sebokeng Hostel residents "without provocation" on Thursday night.

The ANC version of the incident differed from that of the police, who claimed policemen reacted only after coming under fire during an investigation.

The number of people killed in train attacks on the East Rand this week has risen to six, with the latest fatalities reported in Germiston on Thursday night. CT 23/11/93

At about 7.30pm police discovered the bodies of three men along the Cleveland-Denver railway line. (278)

An off-duty Soweto policeman was shot dead yesterday afternoon while trying to arrest two men for possession of unlicensed firearms.

In Edendale, Maritzburg, A 20-year-old school pupil was shot dead by gunmen on Thursday morning. Thamsanqa Zondi was found dead in a classroom at Pata Secondary School.

A KwaZulu policeman has been shot dead near Port Shepstone on the Natal South Coast.

● Deputy police commissioner Lieutenant-General L P E Malan said yesterday rising crime and violence would only be stopped if an active and steadfast partnership was secured between the public and the police. He was speaking at the opening of a police station in Klawer, north of Cape Town.

Vaal forum formed to promote peace

By STAN MHLONGO (278)

THE Vaal Civic Association is to step up its campaign to bring stability to the trouble-torn area by holding an urgent meeting at the TPA offices in Houtkop at 10 am on Tuesday. Press 24/11/93.

VCA general secretary Linda Mngomezulu said his organisation had initiated a broad forum on which individuals or organisations could come together to discuss their fears and hopes.

He said people such as doctors, builders and organisations like Telkom, who were struggling to render services, could speak.

He said mainstream township organisations such as the ANC, PAC, Cosatu and Azapo were expected to attend.

The meeting was part of the VCA's effort at finding solutions to the problems dogging township development.

Cops just opened fire – ANC

THE ANC PWV region this week claimed police shot dead one person and wounded six others when they opened fire on Sebokeng Hostel residents "without provocation" on Thursday night. (278)

Bongi Tyelentombi died in the incident.

Police claimed policemen fired only after coming under fire during an investigation.

The ANC said police arrived at the hostel at about 8:30 pm in a minibus and two Casspir armoured vehicles and went to a room where residents were holding a meeting.

It said residents overheard the police say in Afrikaans: "Laat ons hulle skiet!" (Let's shoot them!). Citizen 24/11/93.

The ANC said: "Without any provocation or warning shots, police fired indiscriminately at the inmates, killing one instantly and wounding six others."

Child tells of police shooting

By Cyril Madlala

An eight-year-old Soweto girl yesterday told the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court that she was playing with her doll in the street when she was shot by members of the Soweto Internal Stability Unit in Kliptown.

Gloria Mthethwa said that when the firing started she was afraid to look around in case "these things" (pellets) struck her.

She is one of 11 people who are jointly suing the Minister for R60 000 after they were teargassed and shot on February 1 last year. Ten are claiming R5 000 each. The 11th, Victor Mbungu, is suing for R10 000 for wrongful arrest and imprisonment.

In reply, the SAP said members of the unit were following up information on two stolen vehicles. They had arrested some suspects when a crowd gathered round, freed one suspect and began stoning policemen.

The other plaintiffs are Obed Gwebu, Tshishi Mbatha, Sofia Mbatha, Orio Letsholo, Yeli Skgoaelane, Johnson Zulu, Evaline Ndlovu and Florenah Nodisenjane.

The hearing continues.

Killing at Tokoza (278) funeral

STAR 25/1/93.

By Charmeela Bhagowat
Crime Reporter

The funeral of a controversial Tokoza clergyman's wife degenerated into a violent confrontation between mourners and Tokoza residents, leaving one person dead and another injured.

And in other incidents of violence on the Reef and in Natal, at least 13 people were killed at the weekend.

Tokoza residents erected barricades on Saturday to prevent mourners from marching to the cemetery for the funeral of the wife of Bishop Solomon Khumalo.

Khumalo is alleged to be the leader of the Khumalo Gang, which residents of the East Rand township claim has been responsible for at least 17 murders in Tokoza. He recently appeared in court on charges of murder and attempted murder.

His wife was gunned down last week.

Before mourners reached the cemetery, one man was shot dead and another wounded.

The SADF was called to a house where the body of Philemon Legonyane, who had been shot, was found.

In Katlehong, four people were killed on Friday. In Ratanda, a man was shot dead and two others were wounded. At least eight people were killed in weekend violence in Natal.

SA's most dangerous place

Sowetan 25/11/93

■ 80 percent of car thefts reported in the PWV region during the past two years.

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

THE PWV region is the country's most dangerous place to live in, according to statistics released by police at the weekend.

Eighty percent of car thefts in South Africa were reported in the PWV, Major-General Wouter Grove of the South African Police's Generals Staff said at a special police briefing in Knysna at the weekend.

According to the figures, 36 percent of criminal cases reported over the past two years were committed in the same region.

Grove said the crime in the country had over the past few years reached "disturbing proportions."

During the first 10 months of last year, almost one-and-a-half million criminal cases were reported. This, Grove said, included almost one million incidents of house-breaking.

"Socio-economic factors like unemployment, inadequate housing and insufficient provisions not only had a direct influence on the incidents of criminality, but also formed the base thereof.

"The simple and compound number of incidents of murder, armed robbery, house-breaking, rape and serious assaults in the police regions of the Witwatersrand, Natal, Western Cape and Eastern Cape does not only show the highest occurrence of the above-mentioned crimes in the country for the period January 1 to October 31, but also represents an increase of these crimes in the various police regions in comparison with the corresponding period of the previous year," he said.

The incidents of crime reported nation-wide in 1992 are as follows:

Murder cases	15 772
Armed robbery	21 543
Rape	19 381
Serious assault	107 588
Fraud	52 931
Theft	484 312
Stock theft	21 072
House-breaking	150 248

The highest increase over the previous year was armed robbery (21 percent).

The decrease recorded was that of house-breaking (three percent).

STm 26/11/93

Illegal arms: bishop held

East Rand clergyman Bishop Solomon Khumalo — the alleged leader of the Khumalo gang — and five other men were arrested in Tokoza yesterday for possessing illegal firearms. (278)

They appeared in the Alberton Magistrate's Court and the case was postponed to today.

The arrests followed two days of violence after the funeral of Khumalo's wife on Saturday. Four people were killed. — Crime Reporter.

Security firm to testify on attack at station

Star 26/11/93

278

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

Private security company Springbok Patrols has been called to testify today at the Goldstone Commission concerning its guards' actions during an attack on train commuters at Soweto's Mlamlankunzi station on November 25.

The attack, in which two people died and 36 were injured, took place just as an afternoon rush-hour train pulled into the station. The perpetrators — a group of men waiting on the platform — opened fire on commuters as they disembarked, according to a police report.

At the time, there were only three Springbok Patrols guards at the station, and in the chaos several shots were fired by them, their company has confirmed.

Two of the guards, giving evidence before a committee of the Goldstone Commission yesterday, said they had come on the scene only after the shooting had begun. No policemen were there.

Zola Mathika (25) said he had shot and killed two men. One had come towards him with a panga. The other was trying to scale a fence to escape.

He had shot to kill. After the first man was shot in the stomach, he fell backwards "giving his last kicks". Mathika said he had "blown the other one's brains out" after first firing a warning shot.

However, in a report afterwards from Springbok Patrols group managing director Mick Bartmann, based on the guards' stories, no mention was made of Mathika killing two men.

The report said only that a man wielding an axe was shot by Mathika, but that the man continued running and "disappeared". The other two guards had fired only warning shots.

Commissioner Gert Steyn said he wished to hear evidence on this from Bartmann today.

He also wanted evidence on a contradiction between the two guards' testimony that they were unable to identify any of the attackers and the company's statement that the guards had identified two of them in Hillbrow Hospital soon after the attack.

Police last week released four suspects held in connection with the attack after an identity parade. The Springbok Patrols guards were unable to identify any of the suspects.

Hostel bomb case trio refused bail

STAR 26/1/93

Court Reporter

Three men who allegedly bombed the Meadowlands Hostel in Soweto during conflict between residents and hostel dwellers were refused bail in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Johannes Xiba (24) and Petrus Buthelezi (22), both students, and Johannes Matee (32), a supervisor at Dantex Explosives, were refused bail by a Johannesburg magistrate last year.

Their appeal was dismissed yesterday by Mr Justice J C Labuschagne.

The trio are to stand trial in the Regional Court on February 10.

The Magistrate's Court heard there had been a number of explosions at the Meadowlands Hostel since May 1991 when several people were killed in clashes between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Train guards 'ill-equipped'

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — Security guards contracted by Spoornet to protect commuters and property at railway stations in Soweto had been poorly equipped and cut off from police backup, the Goldstone commission heard yesterday.

Speaking at the commission's investigation into train violence yesterday, a Springbok Patrols employee who had been on duty at Mlamlankumzi station in Soweto on November 25 last year said the two-way radios he had been issued had no batteries.

Two people were killed and 36 injured on that day when a group of armed men attacked commuters on the Vereeniging to Johannesburg line.

The security guard said there were also no telephones at the station to call for help.

The ticket office at Mlamlankumzi was burnt down in October last year, he said.

The guard said it had taken the security forces 20 minutes to reach the station after the attack. He had no idea how they were contacted.

Sgt Christoffel Germishys of Orlando's unrest and violent crime unit testified that four people had been arrested after the incident but had been released due to a lack of evidence.

The commisssion will conclude arguments on train violence after evidence on the Mlamlankumzi incident is heard.

Bishop among six held in arms case

POLICE yesterday arrested East Rand Zionist Bishop Solomon Khumalo and five others on charges of illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, following a tip-off, police said yesterday.

Khumalo, who was recently released on bail after being charged with murder, and the other men appeared in the Alberton Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The six were refused bail and would appear in court again on March 2, police spokesman Brig Frans Malherbe said.

Malherbe said police arrested the men in Khumalo's house in Thokoza yesterday morning.

A gun with live rounds of ammunition, and with the serial number filed off, was found in the house.

The other men were Shadrack Khumalo, Nichla Chamane, Dumisani Khumalo, Fan Ramaise and Thulani Khumalo.

Meanwhile, 13 people died in violence on the East Rand over the weekend.

The Human Rights Commission said 122 people had already died in violence this year, almost 50% more than were killed in the same period last year and just below the 127 who were killed in the first 25 days of January 1991.

About 39 people died in violence in the PWV area this January while only 23 died in the same period last year. January 1991 saw 53 deaths in the PWV, the HRC said.

RAY HARTLEY and THEO RAWANA

In the latest incidents of violence in the area, a municipal policeman was shot dead and robbed of his service pistol in Evaton yesterday, while a member of the Internal Stability Unit in Soweto was critically wounded in an armed attack on Sunday, Sapa reports.

The SAP said a resident had found the body of municipal Const Buti Joseph Nzandayi after hearing shots.

The policeman was shot while on patrol in Dobsonville. Soweto police spokesman Capt Joseph Ngobeni said members of the Internal Stability Unit in Soweto saw a suspect vehicle carrying 16 people.

Shots were fired at the police, who returned fire. Const Warren Hattingh was wounded and taken to Garden City Clinic, Ngobeni said.

The latest incidents brought to 14 the number of people killed violently since Friday in the PWV.

A man was killed and another injured in an attack on a train on the east Rand, bringing to four the number killed in renewed train violence this month.

Three youths were shot dead and three others injured in an attacks in Thokoza.

Train guards 'ill-equipped'

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — Security guards contracted by Spoornet to protect commuters and property at railway stations in Soweto had been poorly equipped and cut off from police backup, the Goldstone commission heard yesterday.

Speaking at the commission's investigation into train violence yesterday, a Springbok Patrols employee who had been on duty at Mlamlankumzi station in Soweto on November 25 last year said the two-way radios he had been issued had no batteries.

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Train deaths: Clarity order

PRETORIA. — Goldstone Committee chairman Mr Gert Steyn ordered yesterday that Springbok Patrols security company explain why its report on a train attack at Mlamlankumzi station last year differed from an employee's evidence.

This follows evidence by a security guard, Mr Zola Mathika, yesterday that he had shot dead two people at the scene of a train attack on November 25 last year. The attack claimed the lives of two people and 36 were injured.

At the time Springbok Patrols issued a report saying Mr Mathika shot and injured one man.

According to Mr Mathika he told police and his employers he had killed two people.

Mr Steyn also ordered that the issue of witnesses not coming forward to testify on the train attack at Mlamlankumzi for political reasons had to be investigated.

This followed evidence by a policeman, Sergeant Christoffel Germishuys of the Soweto unrest and violent crime unit, that commuters at the station that day were fearful or had fled.

He also said the ANC claimed at a meeting on the "Train accord" that they had witnesses to testify about the attack but that they feared police intimidation. — Sapa

278 CT26/1/93

Guard shot me — claim

(278) CT 27/1/93

PRETORIA. — A Goldstone committee witness testified yesterday that he escaped a panga- and knife-wielding mob on a train — only to be shot in the neck by a security guard as he fled.

The man, "Mr C" from Nancefield Hostel, said he was shot in the neck by a security officer clad in green as he fled the Mlamlankunzi station on November 25 last year, following an attack on train commuters.

At the time he identified the man as a Springbok Patrols guard.

Mr C said two pellets were later removed from his neck at Baragwanath Hospital. He denied he had had anything to do with the attack.

However, Mr Jacob van Zyl, a director of the Springbok Patrols security firm contracted by Spoornet to guard Mlamlankunzi station, said the firm's officers stopped wearing green uniforms at least a year ago.

But one of the guards, Mr Zola Mathika, said he shot someone in the back of the head after firing a warning shot.

It also emerged yesterday that Springbok Patrols' brief was to protect Spoornet's property rather than their passengers.

The hearing into violence on trains, chaired by Mr Gert Steyn, continues. — Sapa

I was shot by guards, says train commuter

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

A survivor of a train attack in Soweto in November told a Goldstone Commission committee yesterday he had been shot by a Springbok Patrols security guard as he scaled a fence.

Mr "C" (his name may not be published), a 23-year-old hostel dweller, told the committee he had been slashed at with a panga moments earlier as he tried to get off a train at Mlamlankunzi station on November 25.

The attack, in which two people were killed and 36 injured, was perpetrated by a group of men who opened fire from the platform, according to the police.

Describing his ordeal, Mr C said he fell to the floor of the coach when he heard shooting.

"I looked up to see passengers jumping out. Others got in, armed with knives and pangas.

"As I emerged from the train, a man was stabbing at me with a panga. He cut my finger."

Mr C said he scaled a fence and, looking back, saw a security guard pointing a firearm at him. He was shot in the neck by a guard.

On Monday, two of the three Springbok Patrols guards deployed at the station that day testified they had fired several shots during the chaos.

Zola Mathika said he had shot and killed two men. One of them had been scaling the fence when Mathika "blew his brains out".

The hearing into train violence, chaired by Gert Steyn, continues today.

Commuter safety 'not a top priority'

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — The prevention of damage to Spoornet property was considered a higher priority by contracted security guards than the protection of commuters, the Goldstone commission heard yesterday.

Springbok Patrols director Jacob van Zyl said the company's brief from Spoornet had been to ensure that buildings and equipment at railway stations in Soweto were safeguarded.

Protecting commuters was "another thing", he said.

Van Zyl was answering questions at the commission's hearings on train violence chaired by Gert Steyn.

Asked why Springbok Patrols had presented two different versions of the events on November 25 last year — when two people were killed and 37 injured at Soweto's Mlamlankumzi station — Van Zyl said only the company's senior director Wahl Bartmann could answer that.

Bartmann was on holiday in the Seychelles and could not be contacted, Van Zyl said.

One witness of the incident, a hostel dweller from Nancefield, told the commission how he had escaped armed assailants in a train carriage only to be shot by a security guard.

The witness said two shotgun pellets had been removed from his neck at the Hillbrow Hospital after the incident.

The hostel dweller, known as Mr C in order to protect his identity, said he had been shot by a Springbok Patrols Guard wearing a green uniform.

Van Zyl said however, that the company had ceased using green uniforms more than a year before the incident.

The hearings continue.

Action committee opposes Randburg council's vision

STEPHANE BOTHMA

THE Randburg Town Council's vision of an amalgamated Randburg, Sandton and Alexandra by June 1994 has been strongly opposed by the Randburg Action Committee which has called for a referendum on the issue.

In addition the committee, which consists of ratepayers, called for an election of a representative interim administration for Randburg with a mission statement "to make local government responsive and accountable to the community".

The full financial implications of an amalgamation had been kept deliberately from Randburg ratepayers who had not been supplied with budget proposals or cost estimates, Randburg Action Committee spokesman Harry Formanek said.

A request by the committee for negotiations on a referendum had been rejected by the town council.

The committee, which has no political affiliations, also called for an end to party-political propaganda by the council and the right of access by ratepayers to council minutes, files and budgets.

The council in December accepted and implemented a "vision" that by June 1994 there would be an amalgamated municipality flowing from an efficient and effective single administration with a democratically elected and representative council made up of Randburg, Sandton, Marlboro and Alexandra.

Randburg's boundaries would be redefined, a low cost and informal housing scheme would be started and the sub-region's "well-informed residents" would understood and support Randburg's direction.

"It is noted that it is not possible at this stage to establish the cost implications for Randburg and consequently the eventual cost per household," the council minuted at its last meeting.

Formanek said a large group of Randburg ratepayers would attend tonight's council meeting in an attempt to persuade the council to call a referendum.

However, a council spokesman said yesterday the issue of amalgamation was not on the agenda of tonight's meeting.

The spokesman said the possible amalgamation of the three councils still had to be discussed with Sandton, Alexandra and the people of the area.

Goldstone to probe safety of commuters

STAR 28/1/93

(278)

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

Steps taken by Spoornet and the SAP to safeguard the lives of commuters in view of the continuing bloodshed on trains will be scrutinised at a Goldstone committee hearing next week.

The committee, probing train violence, will be hearing closing argument from lawyers next Thursday on security shortfalls and ways in which Spoornet and the police could better protect commuters.

Evidence during an inquiry this week into a train massacre at Soweto's Mlamlankunzi station on November 25 last year pointed to inadequate policing at the time.

The attack, perpetrated by a group of men firing from the platform into a rush-hour train as it pulled in, resulted in two deaths and 36 injuries, according to police.

It emerged in testimony that there were no policemen on duty at the station, and that three Springbok Patrols security guards hired to protect Spoornet property had useless two-way radios and therefore no means to call for back-up.

Several bullets, mostly warning shots, were fired by them during the chaos, with one of the guards testifying he had "blown one man's brains out".

However, such a killing could not be established afterwards.

Yesterday, Protea police station commander Colonel Paul Loock told the committee he had met ANC members of the Train Accord after the incident, and gained the distinct impression from them that they had eyewitnesses.

However, the ANC never produced them, and an identity parade of four suspects arrested by police was fruitless.

N

'No violence' train ready in fortnight

278

Star 29/1/93

An experimental train aimed at curbing violence on PWV rail routes should be running within the next two weeks, South African Rail Commuter Corporation managing director Wynand Burger said yesterday.

The train was originally scheduled to go into operation in early January.

Burger said infra-red links between the cameras in the 14 coaches were being hampered by electrical and atmospheric interference.

The attempt to link the cameras with infra-red was a world first, he said.

At least six people have been killed and nine injured in train violence since January.

The Human Rights Commission monitoring group said earlier this month 278 people had died in at least 300 attacks on trains last year.

The experimental train has been fitted with emergency doors and cameras, windows have been modified so people cannot be thrown from them, and communications links have been set up between the driver, operations centre and police. — Sapa. 29/1/93.

NEWS "ANC shielded witnesses from co-operating"

Train attack - 4 freed

Sowetan 28/1/93

Sowetan Correspondent

■ No witnesses to the crime, police officer tells Goldstone committee:

278

SUSPECTS in a train attack at Mlamlamkunzi station in Soweto during November last year had to be released because of lack of witnesses, a committee of the Goldstone Commission has been told.

Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Loock of Protea in Soweto told the commission yesterday he had informed a meeting of the Train Accord Committee on January 13 this year that they had arrested four people but then had to release them.

He said the only witnesses to the attack were three guards from Springbok Patrols who had earlier testified before the committee.

Loock said an identification parade was held on January 22 and the four suspects had to be released afterwards.

He said he was under the impression the African National Congress had witnesses to the attack and there was a discussion with ANC representatives at the meeting about protection for witnesses.

He said in the past they had experienced difficulties with the ANC shielding witnesses from co-operating with the police.

Committee chairman Mr Gert Steyn told the various legal representatives, who are due to present argument on February 4 and 5, to answer certain questions in their submissions.

Among the questions were the improvements on trains, like the prototype train introduced by Spoornet on which the legal representatives should comment. There was also evidence led that policing on trains was not always sufficient and police investigations were not always completed.

A report was handed in on policing by the Witwatersrand Attorney-General and the committee wanted comment on that.

Steyn also said the committee heard evidence on specific incidents of train violence in Daveyton and Mlamlamkunzi and he wanted to know any deductions the lawyers made from that. He also wanted to know whether any political party could be linked to the train attacks. The hearing will resume on February 4.

Another Alex taxi driver killed in a hail of bullets

Crime Reporter (278) STAR 28/1/93.

The second Alexandra Taxi Association (ATA) driver killed in 24 hours died in a hail of bullets yesterday and one of his passengers was wounded.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Warrant-Officer Andy Pieke said unknown gunmen opened fire on a taxi on the corner of Selbourne and Fourth avenues, Alexandra, at 10.40 am.

The taxi driver, who was shot in the neck, lost control of his vehicle which ploughed into a shack.

The injured passenger was taken to Alexandra Clinic.

The attack follows two shootings on Tuesday in which an ATA member was killed and a member of the Alexandra-Midrand-Sandton Taxi Association (Armstra) was wounded.

An ATA member, who did not want to be named, said he was unsure whether the killings were connected to a dispute between the two organisations.

On Tuesday morning an ATA driver was shot dead in his vehicle in 8th Avenue.

A few hours earlier the Armstra driver was shot twice in the chest.

Man stabbed in more E Rand train violence

STM 28/1/93

278

Crime Reporter

A man was slightly injured when he was stabbed and thrown off a train on the East Rand this morning, police said.

The man told police his attackers stabbed him and hurled him out of the moving train between the East Rand and Angelo stations near Germiston.

Two commuters were shot dead and four others were injured early yesterday when gunmen opened fire on a train travelling between Lindela and Katlehong railway stations on the East Rand, police said.

The killing brings the number of victims of train violence this year to nine.

East Rand police spokesman Captain Ida van Zweel said witnesses told police four men wearing blue overalls shot at the train from a veld next to the Lindela Station just before 6 am. Police found a number of AK 47 cartridges in the veld.

Members of the East Rand Internal Stability Unit arrived at Katlehong Station at 6.05 pm. While searching the train they found one dead man and four injured men, who were taken to Natalspruit Hospital, Van Zweel said. One of the injured men died late yesterday.

Van Zweel named three of the injured men as Jico Ndlovu (23), Jacob Nene (29) and Thomas Samaweh (55), all of Katlehong.

Sapa reports that IFP official Humphrey Ndlovu said all six victims were IFP members. He named the two dead men as Mbhekiseni Ndimande and Johannes Ntombela, and the fourth injured man as Paul Motloung.

On Monday morning, a train commuter was found dead and another wounded next to the railway line between the Boksburg and Dunswart stations.

Commuters killed at stations as new train's tests delayed

Business 28/11/93

THE testing of a new experimental 14-coach train aimed at minimising incidents of violence against commuters had been delayed until next week due to faulty video equipment, an SA Rail Commuter Corporation spokesman said yesterday.

SARCC development engineer Brian Carver said faults in the transmission of video images from coach to coach had delayed the train, but he was confident it would be tested next week. Tests were scheduled for the first week of January, but the quality of video images would be improved first, he said.

The SARCC is expected to make an announcement on the progress made with setting up a 4 000-strong rail guard next week.

Meanwhile, at least six people have been killed and nine injured in renewed train violence this year, according to police and Sapa reports.

The deaths, mainly on the Germ-

—RAY HARTLEY

iston-Katlehong line, have dimmed hopes of peace on commuter lines following a lull in the violence over the festive season.

In the latest incident two people were killed and three injured in an attack on a train travelling between Lindela and Katlehong Stations.

Police found a dead man and four injured men during a search at the Katlehong Station. One of the injured died later in the day.

Inkatha said all the men were Inkatha members.

Police said about 2 080 police were guarding PWV commuter trains. A major problem remained the unwillingness of witnesses to come forward with information.

In another development, police said they suspected that the three men shot dead in Alexandra on Tuesday were victims of the taxi war.

Protesting taxi drivers block street

Binny 28/11/93 (278)

PRETORIA — About 500 minibus taxis converged on downtown Pretoria yesterday after the SA Taxi Drivers' Union declared a "dispute" with the city's traffic department.

Two people were arrested for intimidation but were released.

There were no major disruptions and by 1pm most of the taxis which blocked Bloed Street had dispersed.

Union representatives handed a letter of protest to city traffic chief Jimmy Allison.

Regional secretary Morris Bokaba said the council had failed to meet the union's demands, which included that SAP and traffic police stop harassing its 800 Pretoria members.

The council had also failed to respond satisfactorily to demands that more taxi pickup points be established in Pretoria, and that the "unnecessarily high ticketing" of its members be stopped, he said. — Sapa.

Spotlight on Natal violence

EMPANGENI — The ANC and Cosatu yesterday claimed that the KwaZulu Police and the SAP were involved in attacks on ANC-supporting communities in Natal/KwaZulu, particularly in Esikhawini township.

A Goldstone commission subcommittee is holding preliminary inquiries into political violence on the Natal North and South Coasts.

In its submission, the SAP said much of the violence was criminal but the force experienced difficulties in apprehending the perpetrators. This was because of a perception of bias, community distrust and a campaign of non-co-operation with the police.

Natal unrest monitor Mary de Haas alleged that KwaZulu Police and hit squads were responsible for at least 45 deaths in Esikhawini in the past five months.

Meanwhile, in Imbali outside Maritzburg, a woman was killed and four houses burnt down in continuing violence yesterday.

The ANC's Natal Midlands leadership met police and the Natal Provincial Administration this week to demand action against alleged Inkatha "invaders" in the township.

In Inanda, north of Durban, police yesterday arrested three people and confiscated arms and ammunition during a weapons search at Amawoti. Binny 28/11/93

Peace accord representatives and UN observers accompanied police to the area. — Sapa.

Peace secretariat 'image could suffer'

BIDAY 29/1/93

RAY HARTLEY

FINANCIAL control exercised over the national peace secretariat by the Justice Department was negatively affecting perceptions of its independence, leading peace accord and UN officials have said.

National peace committee chairman John Hall said yesterday there was "a lot of merit" in the secretariat being independent and reporting to the State President.

"It is clear that the national peace secretariat being financed by and reporting to the Department of Justice does raise questions," he said.

Hall's statement followed a speech by UN observer mission chief Angela King in which she said that the secretariat needed to be removed from Justice, which also administered the NIS.

UN observer mission spokesman Kevin Kennedy said the fact that Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee was also responsible for the NIS led to a "perceived conflict of interests". He said the Goldstone commission's witness protection programme could suffer from negative perceptions if potential witnesses realised the programme was being funded by those who also administered the NIS.

"Who knows if there is a real conflict of interests, but there certainly is a perceived conflict," he said.

King had already made representations to government and the peace secretariat on the matter, he said.

A spokesman for the President's office said no statement would be made on the issue by De Klerk before the opening of Parliament. It is believed De Klerk may address the future of the secretariat in his opening speech.

King made her remark in response to a question after an address to the SA Institute of International Affairs on Wednesday night. In her speech she described the national peace accord as "that truly unique experiment created by the political parties and entities and government to resolve disputes peacefully".

"A special relationship has developed between the Goldstone commission and the international observers, including the UN observer mission in SA," she said.

HRC warns of township violence

BTimes 29/1/93

RAY HARTLEY (278)

POLICE and unrest monitors needed to prepare themselves for a possible eruption of violence in the strife-torn townships of Thokoza on the East Rand and Ratanda in Heidelberg this weekend, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) said yesterday.

National director Safoora Sadek said her organisation had received reports that residents of the townships were preparing to take the law into their own hands to "defend themselves" against killings by a gang in the area.

The funeral of ANC activist Lucky Mampuru, which was scheduled for Ratanda tomorrow, could become the focal point of renewed violence, she said.

Police spokesman Capt Nina Barkhuizen said both townships could expect a heightened police presence over the weekend and additional forces would be mobilised to maintain security at the funeral.

Barkhuizen said police had no specific evidence violence would erupt, but both areas remained major trouble spots.

The HRC had appealed to international monitors to be present at Mampuru's funeral to reduce the likelihood of violence, Sadek said.

The HRC said the PWV had experienced its bloodiest week since November last year in the week ending January 26.

The HRC's latest weekly repression report said 23 people died in the PWV in the week ending on January 26, two more than died in Natal in the same period.

A total of 52 people died countrywide during the week — including seven commuters. Three commuter deaths in Natal, which has been relatively untouched by train violence, were "of great concern", the HRC said.

Meanwhile, Soweto police said they had confiscated 14 firearms and arrested 15 people at hostels in the Meadowlands area yesterday.

FOCUS ON TH

Trail leads back to house of horrors

By PHILIPPA GARSON

ALLEGATIONS by former police constable John Mokaleng of the murder and burial of activists by western Transvaal police have thrown the spotlight once again on policemen in the Carletonville area.

Some of the men Mokaleng implicated this week were the subject of a 1991 internal police probe which led to the closure of the "house of horrors" Welverdiend police station in Carletonville; 13 policemen facing more than 100 charges ranging from murder to assault were suspended.

Another ex-policeman formerly based at Carletonville recently made a statement similar to Mokaleng's to the Independent Board of Inquiry into Informal Repression.

Alleging abuses at Carletonville, Welverdiend and Khutsong police stations in 1991, he says colleagues frequently "dumped" bodies in Khutsong and then removed them.

Press exposure and the intervention of lawyers and human rights bodies forced the closure of Welverdiend after at least two detainees died and scores of others were tortured.

Most of the policemen charged as a result of the probe have been acquitted or had their cases withdrawn. One was found guilty of assault and fined R300.

All the policemen were back at work a month after their suspension. Those stationed at Welverdiend have been transferred to Carletonville and Khutsong.

Further torture allegations at Khutsong were made as recently as February last year.

One of the policemen implicated in the sworn statement of alleged torture victim Paulus Tshabalala is the notorious Constable Ephraim Fente Rampete, also implicated by Mokaleng.

Based at Potchefstroom, Rampete has been linked to several deaths and torture incidents.

Bust-up as the bishop buries his wife

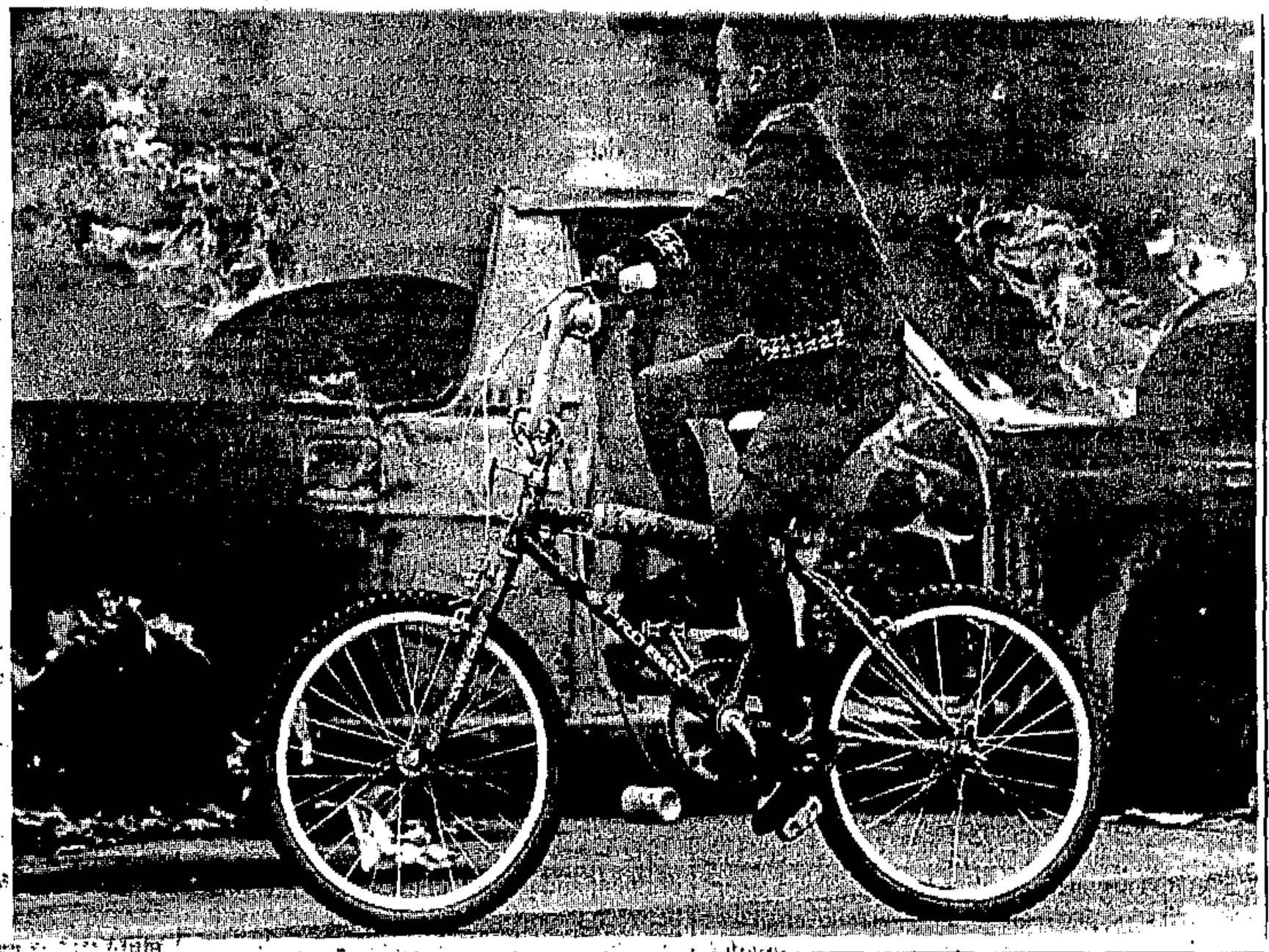
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It was no ordinary funeral when a Thokoza bishop who leads a local gang buried his wife.

By **BAFANA KHUMALO** *and* **KEVIN CARTER**

(278)

IT was immediately apparent that this was no ordinary Saturday in the East Rand township of Thokoza. The roads were barricaded with rocks, bed frames, fallen trees and burnt-out cars. Hundreds of people were on the street, some displaying angry placards demanding the release of "Killer" Khumalo.



Death days ... A boy cycles past a burning barricade erected against IFP supporters at Sabeth Khumalo's funeral

Photos: KEVIN CARTER



Preacher or gangster ... Mbekiseni Khumalo at his wife's funeral

Residents said Inkatha supporters from all over the East Rand had been bused in for the funeral of Sabeth Khumalo, murdered wife of controversial businessman, Zionist church preacher, archbishop and alleged gangleader Mbekiseni Khumalo.

Khumalo once "worked hand in hand with ANC comrades when they were trying to rid the township of the notorious Mugabe Gang, which was terrorising the people", according to a spokesman for the African National Congress peace desk. This short honeymoon soured "when the comrades realised that he was working hand in hand with the police", the spokesman added.

But despite alleged links with police, Khumalo was arrested this week, days after his wife's funeral, for illegal possession of arms and ammunition.

Tension in the area began building 10 days ago, when Khumalo allegedly arrived in Thokoza's "Lusaka" section with one of his bodyguards and a number of South African policemen. The bodyguard, witnesses claim, pointed out a member of the local ANC Youth League, Lucky Mampuru, and said: "*Skiet, daar is hy* (Shoot, there he is)". Mampuru fled and was shot dead by pursuing policemen. A SAP spokesman confirmed Mampuru had been shot and said he was wanted in connection with murder, attempted murder and robbery.

Sabeth Khumalo had been gunned down the previous week by unknown assailants.

The funeral procession on Saturday consisted of hundreds of heavily armed IFP supporters. As it moved down the main road towards the cemetery, two cars broke away and drove off at high speed through the "new" section of Thokoza, opposite the Phola Park squatter camp. A burst of gunfire from the leading car, a red Colt Gallant, claimed the first of two victims of the day: Philemon Legonyane, who had been tending his pavement garden.

After the burial, police escorted the Inkatha marchers back to their hostels on a zig-zag route through the little side streets of the "Ntuli" and "Lusaka" sections, both exclusively ANC strongholds.

As they marched, the Inkatha supporters dismantled and pushed aside the barricades. The residents, in reply, set fire to some barricades to prevent this.

Several bursts of gunfire were heard, and army units sealed off sections and performed house-to-house searches for firearms.

As the sun set on the smoky township, tension was still tangible on the streets. Residents had rebuilt their barricades, and defence units had grouped together in the hope of preventing further attacks.

Khumalo this week refused to speak to *The Weekly Mail*. A person who answered the telephone said: "Father does not want to speak to you people because you are all ANC."

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Leave spares dealer alone, SAP told

STAR 30/11/93

STAFF REPORTER

THE Rand Supreme Court yesterday granted a Soweto vehicle spares dealer an interim interdict restraining members of the South African Police Vehicle Theft Unit from intimidating or assaulting him.

Mr Justice Percy Bliedenn ordered the officer commanding the vehicle unit at Jabulani and the policemen under him not to threaten, intimidate or injure Samuel Mkhwanazi, who trades in motor vehicle spares at Soweto's Emdeni Industrial Park.

In papers presented to court, Mkhwanazi alleged that one member of the vehicle unit had sprayed markings on the wall of his premises, including "the 'swastika' symbol of the AWB".

He also alleged that two other officers from the unit had threatened "they would arrest me and lock me up unless I gave them R2 000. I argued with them, but in the end I decided to pay them this amount."

Mkhwanazi testified that an officer at the vehicle unit had threatened to kill him. He said he was suspected of dealing in stolen motor vehicle parts, which Mkhwanazi denies.

Peculiar commands link cops to killing – lawyer

By MARTIN NTSOELENGOE

STARTLING evidence was heard in the Rand Supreme Court this week, of a police captain who was ordered by his Pretoria bosses to investigate the Swanieville massacre – but not police activities on the day.

These revelations were made by defence counsel AS Burger during his argument in a trial-within-a-trial of seven alleged Inkatha members.

The seven pleaded not guilty to 28 counts of murder, 39 of attempted murder, and burning and looting of shacks on May 12 last year.

Accused

The seven accused are Vumisani Majola, 35, Siswe Majola, 48, Joseph Khanyile, 42, Bhakithi Dlamini, 29, Bhekowakhe Mdlalose, 29, Pheyi Nhlapo, 49, all of Kagiso Hostel, and Mzanywa Sithole from Wattville Hostel.

Five of the seven men alleged they were forced into making statements. One said he told a magistrate that he was tortured.

Burger said it was strange how after the massacre a Col Langenhoven came all the way from Pretoria to instruct the investigating officer, a Capt Johnson, to investigate the case – but not the police's actions.

He said the instructions from Langenhoven alone were proof enough that police did take part in the massacre, "otherwise, if not, why were such orders made?"

Burger told Judge C Botha, sitting with two assessors, that about 80 to 100 people, including the police, had taken part in the Swanieville attack, and not 800 or 1 000 hostel dwellers as police had testified in court.

He also said police took part in the Swanieville massacre but had tried to blame nearby hostel dwellers for the murder.

Burger argued that police did not call for reinforcements because they were the ones who carried out the attack.

He said the relationship between police and squatters went sour after reports that police were to be attacked by Swanieville squatters. A month before the attack on squatters, senior policemen had issued a warning to the police patrolling Swanieville to be cautious as there were people in the squatter camp who wanted to kill policemen.

The case continues.

Train prayers ended in terror

City Press 31/11/93 (278)

By HERMAN LEEUW

A TRAIN sermon in a Vereeniging-bound train came to an abrupt halt this week when bullets from an unknown gunman tore into commuters.

Lay preacher Michael Lebajoa told City Press how he and other passengers in a third-class coach had to dive for cover as the train approached Residensia station when bullets, glass and shrapnel started flying.

At least three passengers were injured, one critically.

"We were busy singing a hymn when the gunman entered the coach and started firing at us. Some of us fled through the windows in order to escape death. After shooting, the gunman ran away to the first class coach," Lebajoa said.

"All of us, including those who were travelling in other coaches, were so scared we could not even chase him," said Lebajoa.

The train stopped at Residensia, and left with the gunman still on board.

According to Lebajoa, the gunman fired shots in their coach "deliberately", knowing very well that the religious people would not defend themselves.

Wounded

After the shooting, station security guards rushed to help the wounded and telephoned for an ambulance. Three passengers known only as Betty, David and Lucas were wounded in the shooting. They were taken to Sebokeng Hospital in a train inspector's car.

Betty, who was hit just above her left eye, narrowly escaped death. David was shot in his left hand and Lucas was hit by a bullet in his right shoulder.

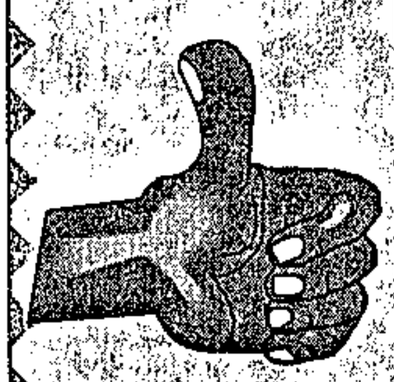
Vaal police spokesman Maj Piet van Deventer could not confirm this incident because it was not reported to police.

He said the police would be deployed at Kwaggastroom, Residensia and Stretford to maintain law and order.



LUCKY TO BE ALIVE . . . Lay preacher Michael Lebajoa survived the attack. ■ Pic EVANS MBOWENI

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The IPG, Johannesburg

City Press allegations denied

CP Reporter (278) CPress 31/1/93.

POLICE have denied a report published in City Press last week that SAP members opened fire "without any provocation or warning shots", killing a Sebokeng Hostel inmate and wounding six others.

A statement released this week by Capt N Barkhuizen, said: "On January 21 members of the SAP followed up information regarding unlawful firearms in Sebokeng Hostel 2.

"On their arrival some of the members moved towards the hostel. Shots were fired at the members from a room in the hostel and the SAP returned fire.

"It was established that one person was killed and four were wounded.

"While searching the room, two AK-47 rifles, two pistols, a revolver and rounds of various calibre were found. The firearms and ammunition were confiscated and will be used as evidence.

"The allegation that the police, without any provocation or warning, fired indiscriminately at the inmates, killing one person and wounding six others, is devoid of all truth."

The Argus,

Taxi barricades clog Reef traffic

ANC 278

11/2/93

The Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG. — Peak hour traffic was plunged into chaos today as minibus taxi drivers, protesting against excessive traffic fines and inadequate facilities, barricaded major routes into the city centre.

In at least one incident, shots were fired at a traffic officer attempting to remove taxis blocking a major route. He was not injured.

The taxi action was launched today without warning. A decision on their action was only taken at a meeting yesterday afternoon.

Flying Squad public relations officer Lance-Sergeant Bradley Sole said groups of between five and 20 taxis barricaded the Soweto Highway leading into Booysens Road, the Baragwanath-Rand Show Road and Louis Botha Avenue into Harrow Road.

On Louis Botha Avenue, at least 15 taxis blocked the width of the road before a traffic official — with a master key — moved them to adjacent Mitchell Street.

Also affected was Houghton Drive and the area across town on DF Malan Drive, near the West Park Cemetery. The Golden Highway leading from Soweto into the city was also the scene of mass taxi action.

As traffic officials managed to clear the blocked roads, other roads were systematically barricaded.

Hundreds of taxi commuters were dumped kilometres from work. Irate CBD workers telephoned The Star to complain against the "illegal action" by taxi operators.

In Louis Botha Avenue irate motorists hooted and sweated in the chaos. One BMW driver shouted: "These guys are maniacs."

A fleet of tow trucks which appeared on the scene prompted one onlooker to say that "these taxi guys will shoot these tow truck owners one by one".

Officials managed to unclog Louis Botha Avenue by 7.45am and the action shifted to Randburg at 8pm as the Jan Smuts/Republic Road intersection was blocked.

Sergeant Sole said the protest was calm and they were not aware of intimidation by the drivers.

"So far there has been no violence and no injuries have been reported to us," he said.

Said a driver who refused to give his name: "We are tired of being ticketed for petty reasons, sometimes traffic officers stop our vehicles and search them for up to half-an-hour and find nothing. We also have no proper off-loading areas. We cannot discuss things with the authorities, so we have to take action like this."

A similar mass taxi protest took place in Pretoria last week. According to one taxi driver at Louis Botha Avenue, a meeting was held by taxi owners yesterday at which they decided the only way to draw attention to their grievances was to embark upon a protest and refuse to enter the cities.

Star 11/2/93

Taxi barricades cause city chaos

Staff Reporters

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'Maniacs'

Also affected were the adjacent Houghton Drive area and across town on D F Malan Drive near the West Park Cemetery. The Golden Highway leading from Soweto into the city was also the scene of mass taxi action.

As traffic officials managed to clear the blocked roads, other roads were systematically barricaded.

Star reporter June Bearzi, who passed the Booysens off-ramp barricade at about 7 am, said about six taxis were parked across the road and commuters were ordered to get out and walk into the city.

Hundreds of taxi commuters were dumped kilometres from their places of work.

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Winner . . . Nick Price signs autographs for fans after winning the ICL International golf tournament at Z with 70 for a two-shot victory over Mark McNulty in a classic head-to-head clash.

Star 4/2/93

Former military chief Malan calls it a day

Political Staff

General Magnus Malan, former military strongman of President F W Botha, quit politics last night — a departure expected to be followed soon by other Ministers as the transition to power sharing gathers pace.

Malan (63), shifted by President F W de Klerk from Defence to the less important Water Affairs and Forestry portfolio, announced he would retire on March 1 from the Cabinet, from Parliament and as chairman of the Ministers' Council in the House of Assembly.

Although his resignation was expected, Malan wasted no time in leading the exit from the Cabinet after De Klerk's announcement on Friday that the "own affairs" system would be phased out and replaced by a transitional executive.

In a statement Malan said he had served in politics for 12 years and had made his contribution in the Defence, Water Affairs and Forestry portfolios and as chairman of the Ministers' Council.

He said the basis for the rationalisation of the own affairs administration had been established.

The commercialisation of the Forestry branch was on its way and the Water Affairs department was operating smoothly.

"It is, therefore, the appropriate moment for me to retire."

He had informed the NP divisional council of Modderfontein of his decision.

He said he wanted to state clearly that he wholeheartedly supported De Klerk, the Government and the National Party.

Shake-up

Malan, who as Minister of Defence became one of the most controversial figures in the Cabinet and was subsequently demoted to his current portfolio, added: "I stand by the security forces, whom I believe remain the security shield for South Africa's stability and the maintenance of order."

A major Cabinet shake-up is now inevitable during the next few months as other own affairs Ministers are expected to follow suit.

Former Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, now Correctional Services Minister, is also likely to retire.

And several ministerial jobs in the Ministers' Councils of the Houses of Representatives and Delegates will also become redundant on April 1 when the bulk of the own affairs ministries become general affairs.

The first to go will be the coloured and Indian Ministers of agriculture, health and local government, whose portfolios will disappear.

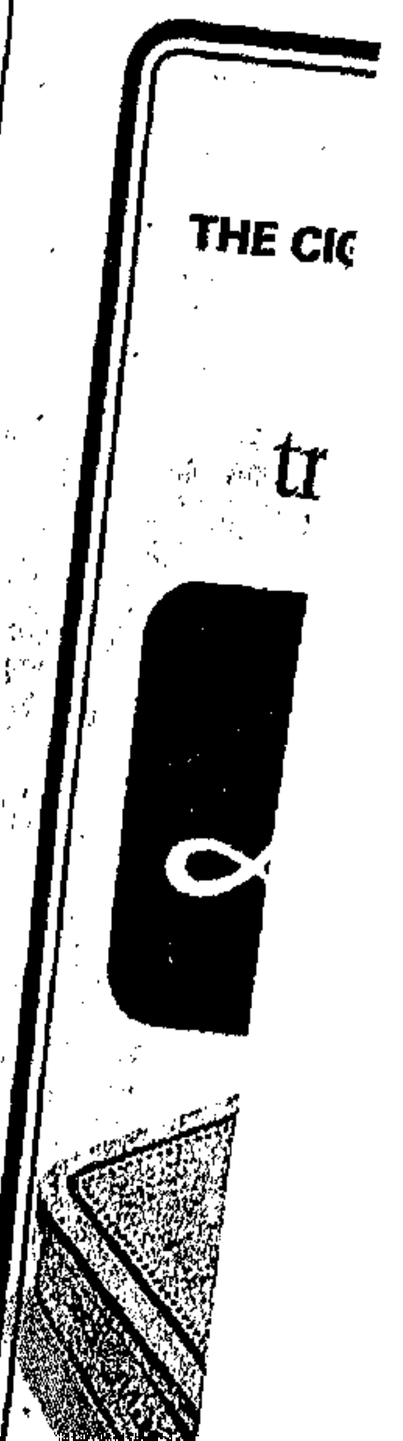
De Klerk's decision to phase out segregated education from April under a transitional education ministry should also necessitate some changes in the Cabinet.

The domino effect could see a whole range of moves in the Government's senior executive.

The advent of transitional executive councils is the most likely moment for the departure of Vlok who, like Malan, occupies an own affairs portfolio as well as a general affairs position.

Rumours are also circulating that Home Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar and Regional and Land Affairs Minister Jacob de Villiers are to be removed or retired.

Pienaar said last night he reserved the right to review



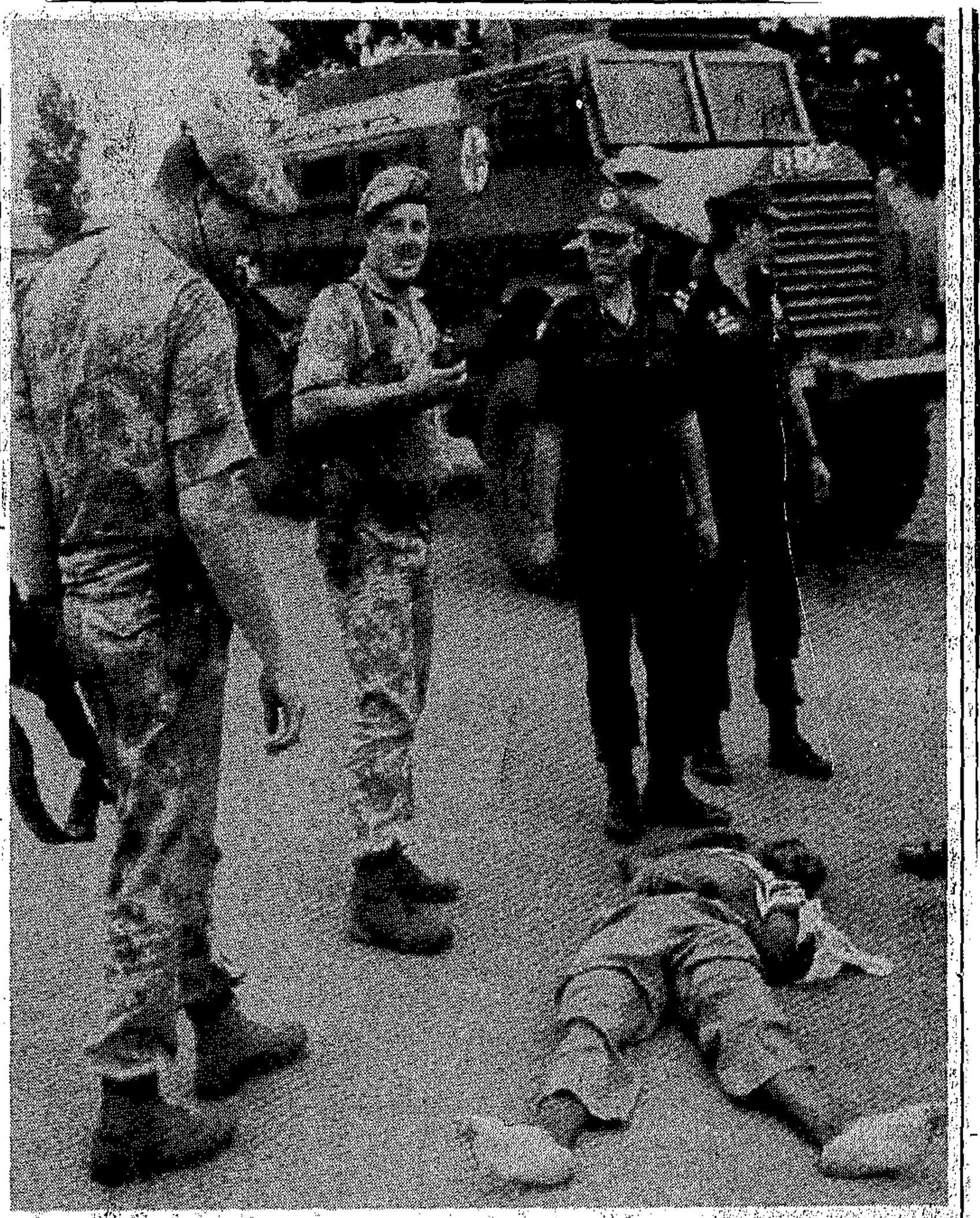
Man slain after Tokoza funeral

A man was shot dead in Tokoza on Saturday afternoon after the funeral of two political activists who were killed in the troubled East Rand township last week.

Hundreds of people from Tokoza and surrounding townships gathered for the funeral of Lucky Mampuru, a prominent activist, and Philemon Sikhanyane, an organiser of the ANC Youth League. STAR 1/2/93

The township was tense throughout the afternoon. Mourners, many armed with axes, pangas and other weapons, marched from Tokoza Stadium to Schoeman cemetery, while the police maintained a strong presence. (2 TS)

No violence was reported during the funeral, but shortly afterwards a man was shot dead in a street near the house where the wake was held. — Crime Reporter.



UNKNOWN VICTIM . . . Police stand round the body of a man shot at the weekend after the funeral in Thokoza on the East Rand for activists Messrs Lucky Mampuru and Philemon Sikhanyane. Picture: AP

C.T.

5 die, 1 hurt in unrest

278
1/21/93

JOHANNESBURG. — At least five people were killed and one hurt at the weekend in unrest on the Reef and in Natal.

An unknown man was shot dead in Thokoza after the funeral here of two political activists.

Almost a thousand people attended Saturday's funeral of Mr Lucky Mampuru and ANC Youth League organiser Mr Philemon Sikhanyane. The man was shot in another part of the township. More details of the shooting were not available.

In Vereeniging, two men were killed at their homes in Sharpeville in two separate attacks on Saturday afternoon. Police said Mr Sipho Khambda was killed when his house was petrol-bombed by an unknown gang.

Within an hour, Mr Jacob Tau was shot at his home by unknown men. A friend, Mr Ramatsedi Gabe, was shot in the right leg.

On Saturday morning, two people were killed at Bhambayi near Inanda, north of Durban.

Police said a man was shot dead and another stabbed to death in fighting between squatters from Bhambayi and people from an area called "Little Russia" near Phoenix.

On Friday night, 35 people were arrested in a police raid in the Greytown/Kranskop area in Natal for the illegal possession of firearms.

Six AK-47s, three pistols and a large amount of ammunition were seized, it was reported. — Sapa

The day Jo'burg stood still

Star 21/2/93

(2/8)



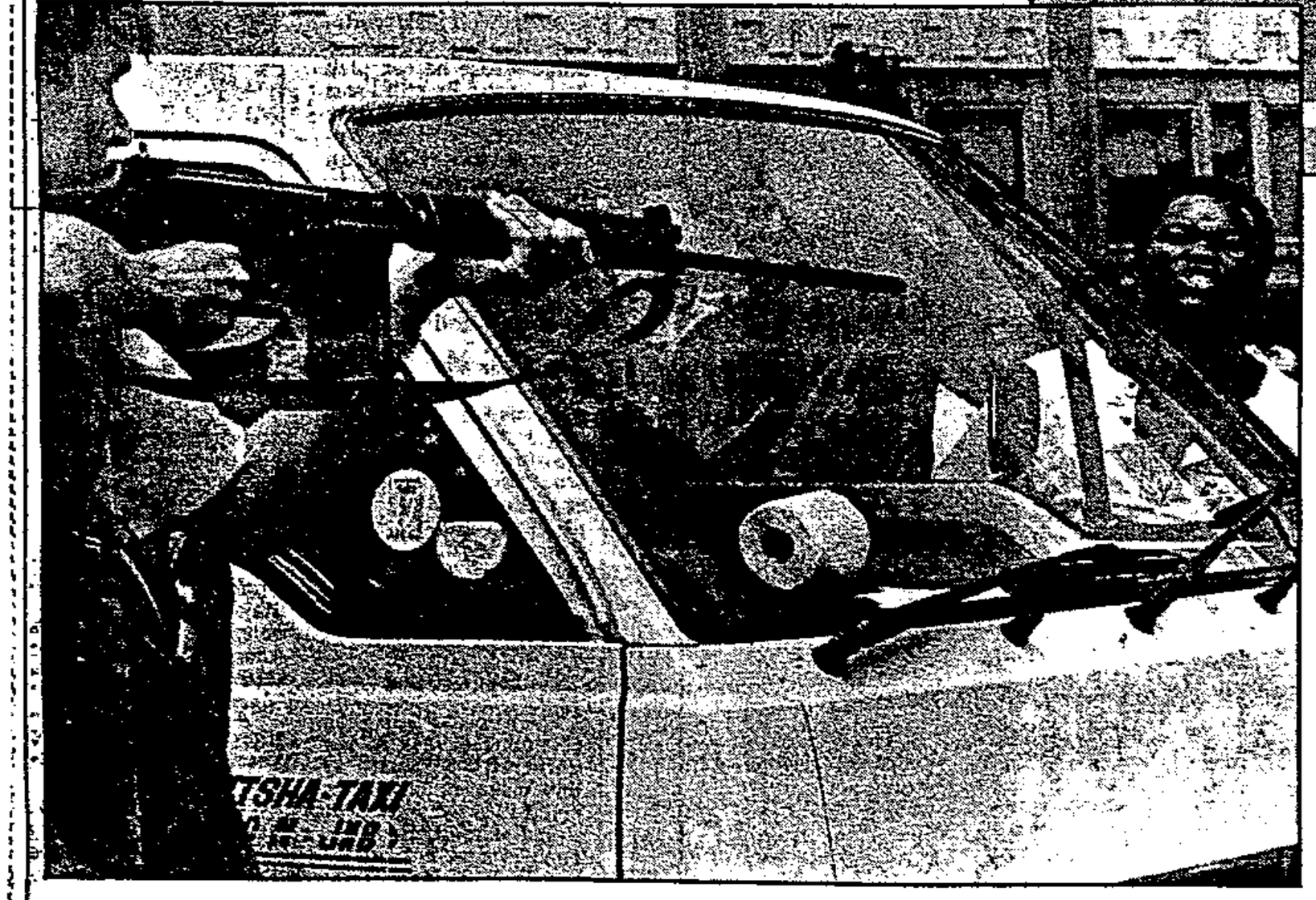
Central Johannesburg was brought to a standstill yesterday as most major routes leading into the city were blockaded by hundreds of taxi drivers protesting against alleged victimisation by traffic officials and police. Morning peak-hour traffic ground to a halt. In the ensuing chaos, commuters were forced out of taxis, private cars abandoned and buses forced to stop before reaching their destinations. As traffic officials and policemen cleared blockades on major routes and intersections, taxi drivers regrouped and blocked off roads elsewhere. Confrontations left several people, including policemen, traffic officials and at least two taxi operators, injured. A municipal bus and a police vehicle were set alight. Several taxi drivers were arrested and their vehicles impounded. The siege was lifted after intervention by Nelson Mandela and peace monitors. Star photographer Joao Silva (above) was cut under the eye when a rock hit him and smashed his glasses during a confrontation between policemen and taxi drivers. He was also bitten by a police dog.

Canine coercion . . . armed policemen used dogs to disperse crowds in Market and Sauer streets (right). Picture: Joao Silva

No messing around . . . a plainclothes policeman forcibly restrains a taxi driver in Sauer Street (below right). Picture: Joao Silva

Confrontation . . . a policeman and a taxi driver make their feelings clear at the corner of Commissioner and Sauer streets (below left). Picture: Alf Kumalo



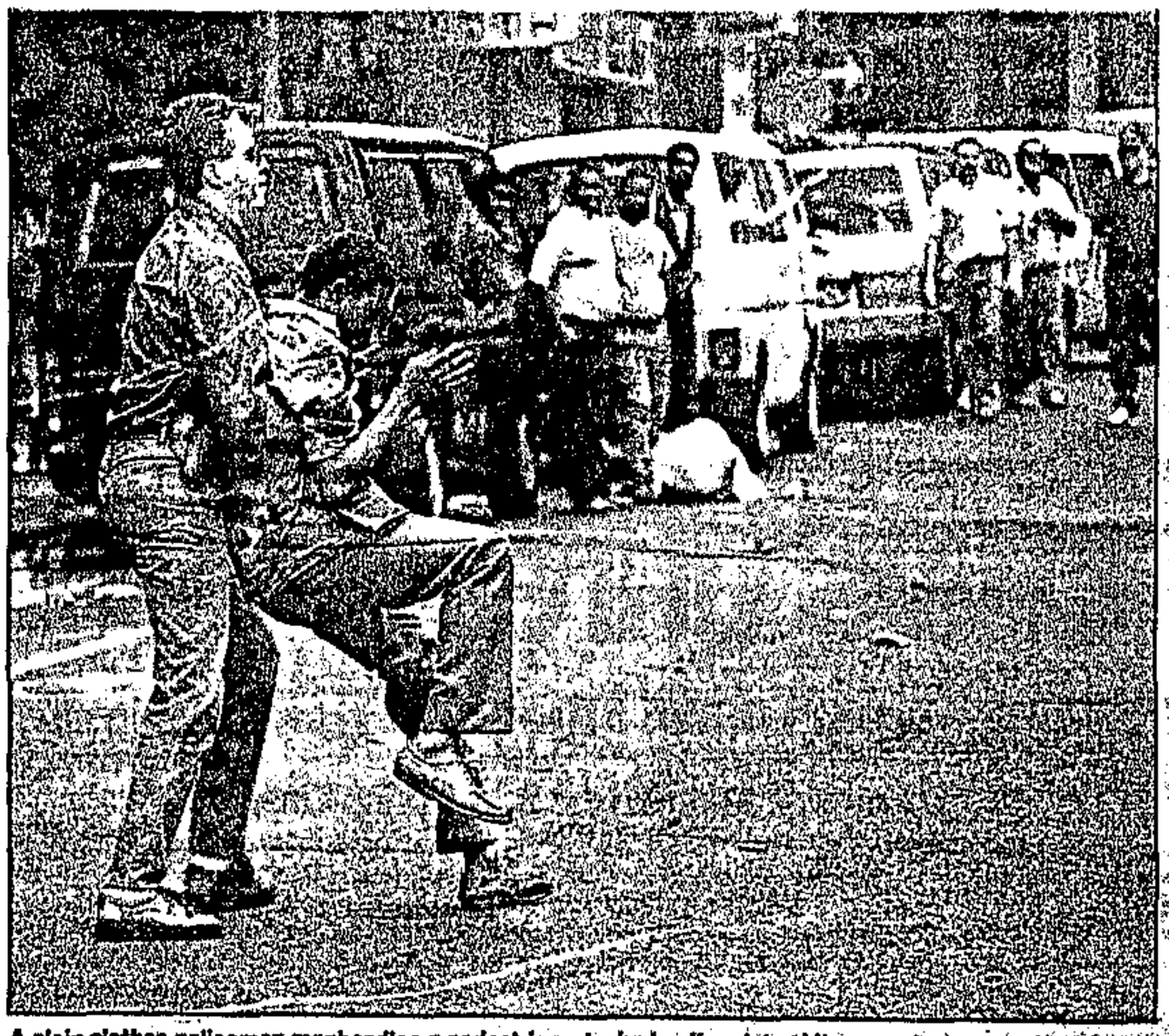


What drivers demand

Furious drivers from taxi associations around the Reef handed out crudely scribbled and photocopied lists of their demands to the Johannesburg Traffic Department during the protest. Among the demands are:

- Stop setting speed traps in peak hours in fog and rain.
- Stop issuing tickets for parking in a loading zone or metered parking space.
- Stop fining for obstruction while taxis stop to let passengers alight.
- Stop fining excessively and adding extra fines for tickets not paid on time.
- Provide free parking for taxis that stop to pick up or discharge passengers, regardless of No Parking or No Stopping signs.
- Policemen must stop interfering with traffic officers' duties by demanding that taxi drivers produce their public driving permits during peak times.
- Stop fining taxi drivers for hooting when trying to attract commuters.





A plain-clothes policeman manhandles a pedestrian who had suffered dog-bite wounds as a result of police dispersing bystanders at the Bree Street rank in Johannesburg. Taxi drivers yesterday launched a protest against high traffic fines and harassment by traffic officers. PIC: SELLO MOTSEPE

Chaos as taxi drivers strike

Soweton 2/2/93

278

CRUCIAL TALKS will be held today between taxi drivers and traffic officials to prevent a recurrence of yesterday's siege of Johannesburg.

Ugly scenes erupted in the city's CBD when minibus taxis and their drivers blocked bus routes to protest against "harassment" by city traffic officials.

Streets were cordoned off, shots were fired at traffic and police officials and arrests were made.

Injuries to policemen and bystanders were reported.

Two vehicles, including a municipal bus, were set alight.

The taxi protest was decided upon on Sunday and launched yesterday without consulting or warning commuters.

A similar mass action protest took place in Pretoria last week, but no violent incidents were reported.

Earlier in the day, thousands of Soweto residents were left stranded and unable to get to work as the taxi drivers launched their action.

Minibus taxi representatives have undertaken not to disrupt traffic in the city this morning after initial talks yesterday afternoon.

By late yesterday afternoon, buses were running and the traffic flow was back to normal.

See the full story on page 2

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Anger as Jo'burg 'fails to satisfy taxi industry'

B|DM 2/2/93 -

278

RAY HARTLEY

PATHETIC mounds of bloodstained sand in a Johannesburg street where a taxi driver shot by police had fallen yesterday starkly illustrated the failure of Johannesburg to come to terms with its taxi industry.

For while the taxis have become a part of urban life, this is more because they have bent the rules than because they have been integrated into the city's public transport system. Where no ranks are available, taxis have taken over parking bays. Where there are no facilities for loading and offloading passengers, taxis simply stop in the road with their familiar emergency indicators flicking.

Yesterday's city centre protest was a collective eruption of the frustration and anger taxi drivers have felt over what they see as the failure of the city to accommodate them.

But underlying the protest are more complex issues such as the vexing question of how to regulate and control an industry that was born out of the ingenuity of brave entrepreneurs.

The lack of regulation has led to sporadic incidents of violence among taxi associations and the oversupply of operators, which the Goldstone commission has described as a key cause of "taxi wars".

The absence of control has also spawned growing conflict between drivers and traffic officials on the one hand and drivers and taxi owners on the other.

Drivers yesterday said they were unhappy with heavy fines they received for minor traffic offences, and what they saw as a campaign by traffic department officials to target them in enforcement operations.

They claim that ruthless owners then force them to pay fines received for the condition of the vehicles they drive — something that should be the owners' responsibility.

They also claim their speedy driving and lack of regard for other motorists is a result of the pressure they are put under by owners to make as many trips as possible every day to maximise turnover.

The shooting of the taxi driver in Sauer Street tangibly changed the tone of yesterday's protest. The drivers' singing and chanting became more militant as they realised the gravity of their continued protest.

Drivers had repeatedly asked police to leave crowd control in the area to traffic policemen and to remove dogs and automatic weapons from the scene. Ironically, drivers seemed more at ease with the traffic police than the SAP, who were heavily armed, nervous and seemingly more aggressive.

A traffic policeman at one point ordered police to stop the removal of vehicles from a busy intersection when this became the focus of the crowd. Another traffic officer strongly reprimanded a subordinate for drawing his gun when a crowd surged towards him.

The different policing methods and command structures involved in coping with yesterday's blockade may have sparked the incident which led to the shooting in Sauer Street, although police maintained they fired only after efforts were made to remove a sidearm from an officer.

The taxi drivers' protest also involved a certain amount of intimidation, with reluctant drivers, who were not part of the protest, being forcibly removed from their vehicles when they tried to bypass congestion. One report said a driver was beaten up in one such incident.

MIKE ACOTT reports not all intersections were blocked by taxis. Traffic was flowing reasonably freely at the corner of Commissioner and Simmonds streets during the lunch hour when a group of men rushed into the intersection to close it.

They overruled the two traffic officers controlling the traffic, they stopped cars, halted a bus across the intersection where it was joined by a delivery van abandoned by its driver. They rolled concrete refuse bins into the road, and dumped the contents in front of vehicles.

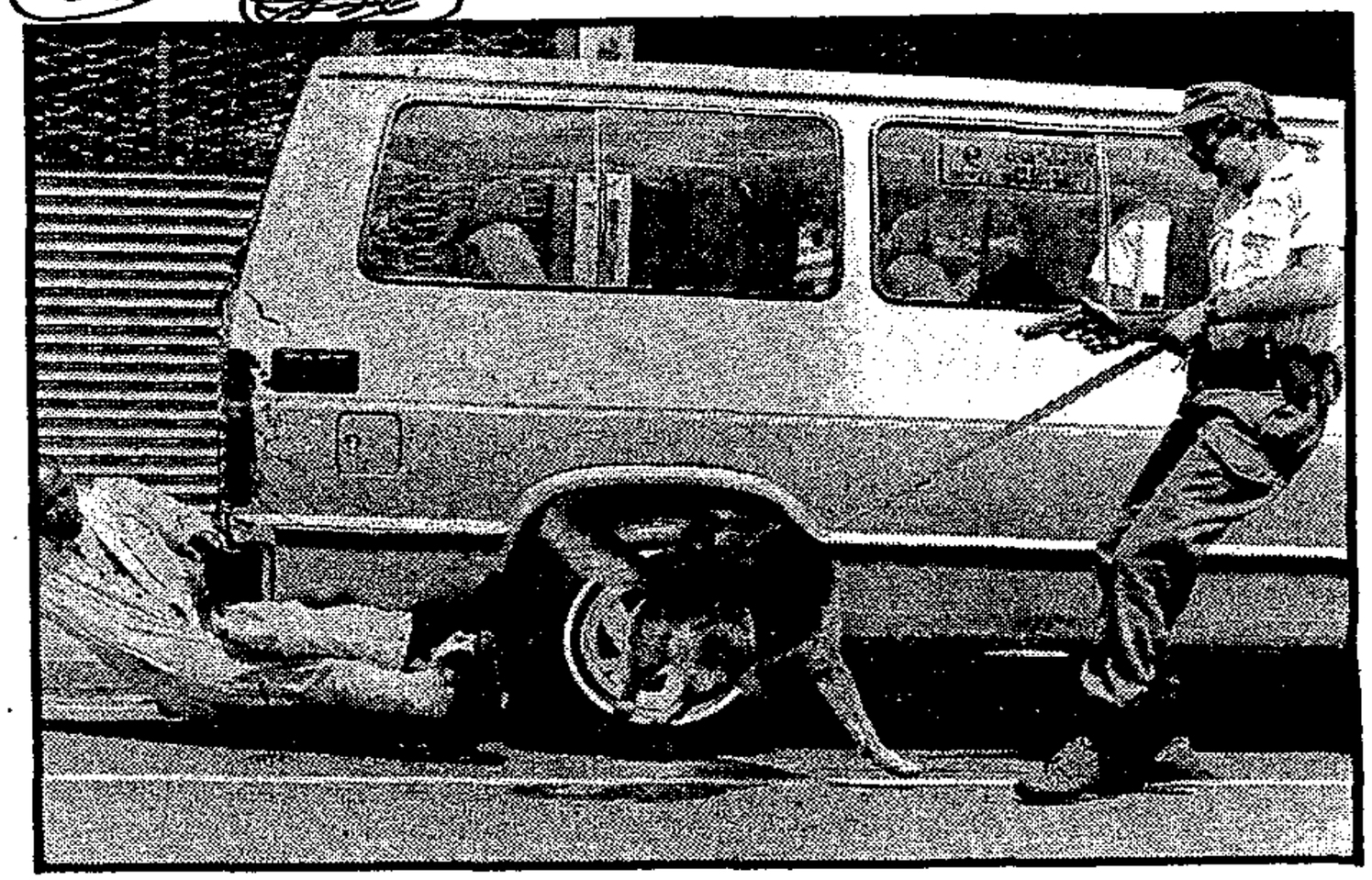
Police reopened the intersection before traffic became hopelessly clogged. The bus drove on, the delivery van driver returned and removed it, refuse bins were rolled away and the traffic flow resumed.

At the corner of Commissioner and Fox streets, a taxi driver who left his vehicle in the right-hand lane was ordered back in by police and told to drive away; as he did so an argument ensued during which an angry, struggling man was arrested.

One of those helping to make the arrest was a young policeman in camouflage uniform. Deciding he needed his hands free to help subdue the protester, he put his rifle down on the road and rushed into the fray. The weapon was quickly picked up by a traffic officer.

Taxi operator Ronnie Fredericks, of Eldorado Park, said yesterday's event would cause a backlash, and vowed that buses would find it hard to operate in the townships.

"Buses won't be able to operate in the townships, in Soweto, Eldorado Park, all over. We won't take our taxis back, but the buses won't be able to run." As Frederick's own taxi was towed away, he shouted to police: "Let the Boers take the car! If they need it, let them take it."



An armed policeman pulls his dog back after it attacked a man during the blockade by disgruntled taxi drivers. Picture: BRIAN HENDLER

LETTERS

employees, to their detriment.

Taxi drivers' street barricades throw Jo'burg CBD into turmoil

B1 Dmy 2/2/93.

RAY HARTLEY
and THEO RAWANA

TRAFFIC officers and heavily armed policemen swarmed through Johannesburg streets yesterday when disgruntled taxi drivers blocked intersections, disrupting city traffic for most of the day.

Traffic chief Michael Davis said ANC president Nelson Mandela had intervened to facilitate talks between the drivers and the Johannesburg Traffic Department. Mandela had made his office available, which led to talks in which the drivers agreed to return the gridlocked streets to normal, allowing discussions on grievances to continue today.

The SA Taxi Drivers' Union warned that the taxi barricade campaign would spread nationwide if local authorities failed to heed drivers' demands.

Davis said it had been agreed at yesterday's talks that fines arising from violations linked to the protest would be disregarded and impounded taxis would be returned without cost to drivers.

He would not say what the drivers' grievances were, but it is believed they are unhappy with what they see as unfair fines they receive for traffic violations.

Police said last night that five civilians, seven policemen and one traffic officer had been injured in various incidents in the course of the day.

Earlier, police warned motorists to stay clear of the city centre during the protest, urging office workers to stay in their buildings until the situation returned to normal.

LLOYD COUTTS reports that a brief battle erupted on the corner of Bree and Sauer streets when officers attempting to clear a taxi barricade were stoned. Police responded by firing teargas into a crowd at a nearby taxi rank after bricks smashed into armoured tow trucks removing taxis from the rubbish-strewn road.

Policemen carrying shotguns, automatic rifles and submachine-guns provided cover for the tow truck drivers, and in turn were backed by colleagues with dogs.

In another incident, two traffic officers were slightly injured when their motorcycles were pushed over by protesters in Louis Botha Avenue.

Police spokesman Col David Bruce said a policeman shot and slightly injured a man who tried to remove his weapon in Sauer Street.

(278)

Police used teargas and rubber bullets on demonstrators in Bree Street, he said. A police vehicle and two buses had been set alight in the area.

Police helicopters hovered over the city throughout the day, monitoring flashpoints.

Sadtu Pretoria regional organiser Morris Bokaba said the blockade was a continuation of action begun in Pretoria last Thursday after the taxi drivers had

☐ To Page 2

Taxi drivers

B1 DAm 2/2/93. (278)

☐ From Page 1

reached deadlock in talks with the city council. He said the campaign would be intensified in Johannesburg, with sit-ins at traffic department offices, pickets at council offices and protest marches. This would occur only if today's talks did not produce results.

"We have complained of lack of facilities — loading and offloading zones — but have met with negative response. Pointing out that 75% of taxi drivers are ticketed for loading and offloading, we have pleaded with the local authorities to set up interim structures that would help to put the harassment of drivers on hold while talks are going on, but to no avail."

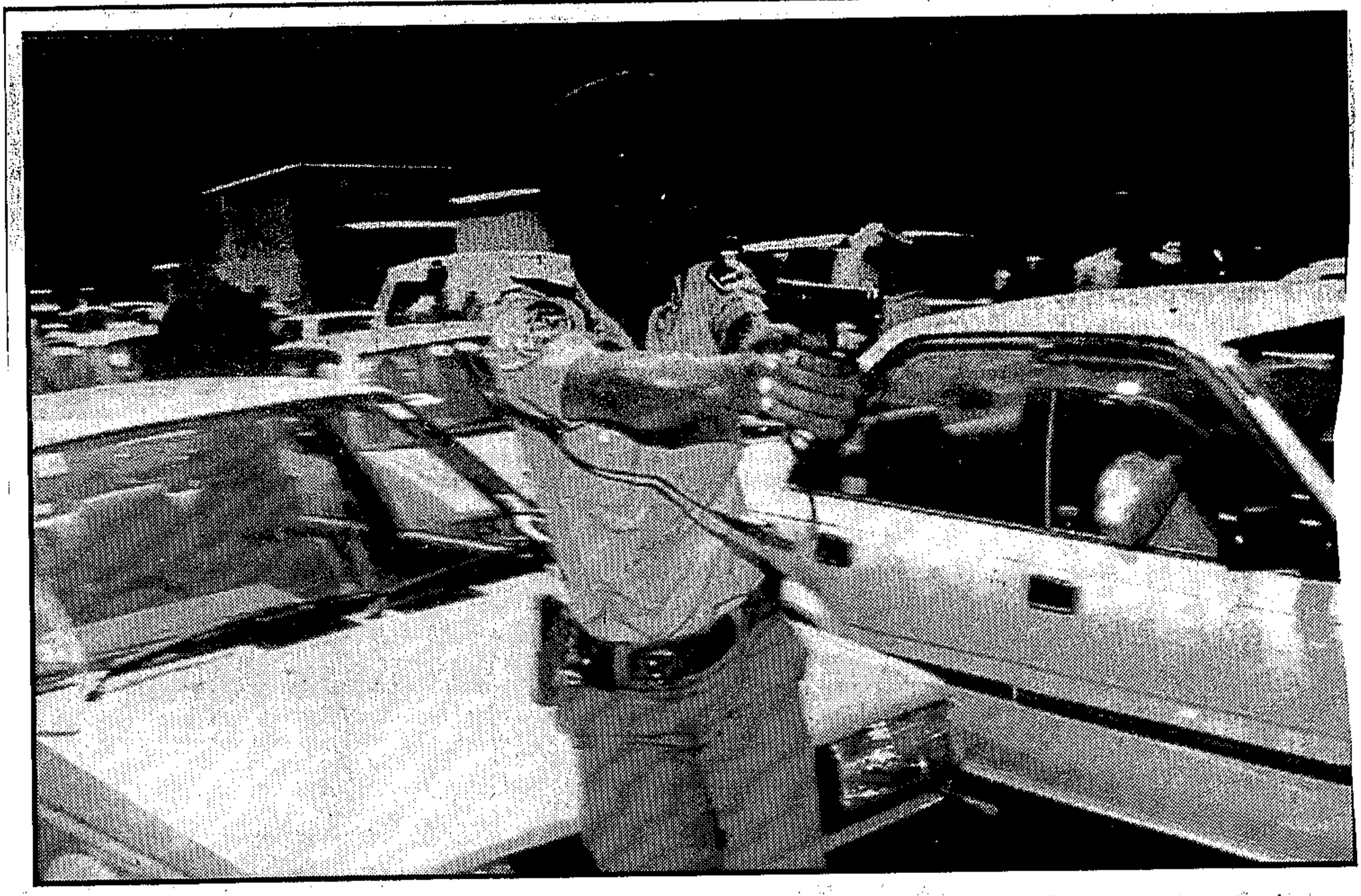
The two major national associations — Sabta and Nafto — warned that the action might spread if grievances were not met.

Nafto chairman Peter Rabali said harassment of drivers by traffic officers was the cause. "It's not unusual for a traffic officer to stop six taxis at one time and have the passengers waiting while he is ticketing the drivers individually."

Sabta condemned the protest and apologised to business and the public for the inconvenience. However, Sabta public affairs director Mike Ntlatleng said his organisation understood "the legitimacy of the grievances on the question of unfair fines and lack of ranking facilities".

A Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry spokesman said business was taken "totally by surprise" and productivity was badly hit.

● See Pages 3 and 6



FLASHPOINT: A traffic officer opens fire as taxi drivers block a central Johannesburg street yesterday.

ARG 2/2/93 278

Traffic chief's taxi deal attacked

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Witwatersrand Attorney-General today condemned the Johannesburg traffic chief for taking the law into his own hands by releasing the taxi drivers responsible for yesterday's city centre chaos.

Traffic chief Mr Mike Davis said a compromise was reached at a meeting between traffic officials and taxi operators brokered by African National Congress president Mr Nelson Mandela.

The deal included the releases with warnings and the handing back of impounded taxis without a fine.

Attorney-General Mr Klaus von Lieres said today that Mr Davis had treated the matter in a cavalier fashion and acted beyond his authority. His conduct would be investigated.

Taxi drivers involved in yesterday's events are to meet traffic department officials today in an attempt to prevent a repetition of the near anarchy that paralysed the city.

The talks arranged by Mr Mandela prevented further violent clashes in the late afternoon after a day of running street battles between police, taxi drivers and belligerent youths.

Eight policemen were injured, at least three taxi drivers were shot and wounded and a municipal bus and a police vehicle were set alight. Twelve buses were also damaged.

Whether taximen attempt later today to set up more blockades depends on the outcome of today's meeting.

Yesterday's mayhem began when barricades made of locked taxis and concrete dustbins were strewn across the city streets and suburban feeder routes.

Taxi drivers were protesting over what they perceive as heavy-handedness by the traffic department in its dealings with drivers.

Massive traffic jams degenerated into a day of gunfire from the police and shots, rocks, bricks, stones and bottles from taxi drivers and their supporters.

Traffic officials and heavily armed police with bulletproof vests and semi-automatic weapons were on most street corners.

At about 11am,the angry drivers attempted to storm the traffic department office. Helicopters circled overhead as police leading about 20 dogs failed to restrain the protesters.

With shouts of "shoot like you usually do" the protesters tore up their traffic fines and hurled the bits of paper at the police and traffic officials.

The Southern Africa Black Taxi Association (Sabta) condemned the protest action.

"Sabta cannot condone such an action as it disrupts the flow of business in this important city," it said.

The organisation apologised to the business community and the general public for the inconvenience they had faced.

But Sabta said it understood taxi drivers' complaints about "unfair" traffic fines and the lack of ranks.

ANC spokesman Mr Carl Niehaus said the organisation was concerned at reports of police brutality and unprofessional action by police.



FLASHPOINT: A traffic officer opens fire as taxi drivers block a central Johannesburg street yesterday.

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Taxi crisis unresolved

Sowetan 2/2/93 (278)

■ EXPLOSIVE SITUATION Chaos reigns in city centre as taxi drivers and police clash

By Lulama Luti

CRITICAL talks to defuse the explosive situation that resulted in a blockade of major routes in Johannesburg by irate taxi operators will continue today it was announced yesterday.

The Johannesburg Traffic Department and representatives of the South African Taxi Drivers Union will resume talks after a meeting between the two parties ended without any major decisions yesterday.

The meeting followed a blockade by members of the South African Taxi Drivers Union in the city centre in which dozens of taxis barricaded major routes in protest against traffic fines and alleged harassment by traffic officers.

Chaos and confusion reigned for the better part of the day but the situation returned to normal late in the afternoon.

At least two people were shot and injured when police opened fire in two separate incidents. Two vehicles were reportedly set alight during the protest that began early yesterday morning.

Thousands of workers reported late for work while scores of commuters, including schoolchildren, were stranded in the city and neighbouring townships by midday.

Major routes into the city became no-go areas while major bus routes were closed as the protest, which was unannounced, got underway.

Both members of the uniformed branch and the Internal Stability Unit of the SAP were engaged in running battles as taxi drivers repeatedly jeered and shouted at them to disperse.

The protest which brought Johannesburg traffic to a standstill was carried out to register protest against the Johannesburg Traffic Department in what taxi drivers described as continued harassment by traffic officers.

They also demanded that the Government subsidise the taxi industry.

"We are tired of these traffic cops. They always stop us any time, anywhere.

They have continued to issue us with traffic fines and when we don't pay we are arrested. How do we make a living under these conditions?" said a Soweto taxi driver who declined to give his name.

Blockade

Taxi chaos grinds Jo'burg to a standstill

CT 2/2/93

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Chaotic street blockades by minibus taxi drivers protesting their grievances erupted into violent battles in downtown Johannesburg yesterday, bringing the city to a standstill and prompting ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela to intervene personally.

Traffic officers and heavily armed policemen swarmed in the streets during the blockade, during which several shots were fired.

And, as angry taxi officials threatened to extend protest actions to other major cities — including Cape Town — at least two people reportedly died in incidents which may have been related to the protest, according to traffic sources. Six people were reported injured — with one taxi driver shot.

Police liaison officer Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce said there had been reports of pedestrians being assaulted at road-blocks and of commuters being forced off buses.

He said a policeman was admitted to hospital after being stoned, and that shots were fired at the police in Jan Smuts Avenue yesterday morning.

It was also reported that a taxi driver was shot in the stomach by a policemen at the corner of Sauer and Commissioner streets when he tried to disarm the policeman. Colonel Bruce said the wounded man's condition was not known.

Two municipal buses and a police lorry were set alight by demonstrators.

Traffic chief Mr Michael Davis said Mr Mandela had made his office available for talks in which the drivers agreed to return the gridlocked streets of Johannesburg to normal while discussions around grievances continued.

The SA Taxi Drivers' Union warned yesterday that the taxi-barricade campaign would spread nationwide if local authorities failed to heed demands by taxi drivers.

In November last year, more than 80 disgruntled taxi drivers blocked parts of Strand and Adderley Streets in Cape Town, causing massive traffic jams.

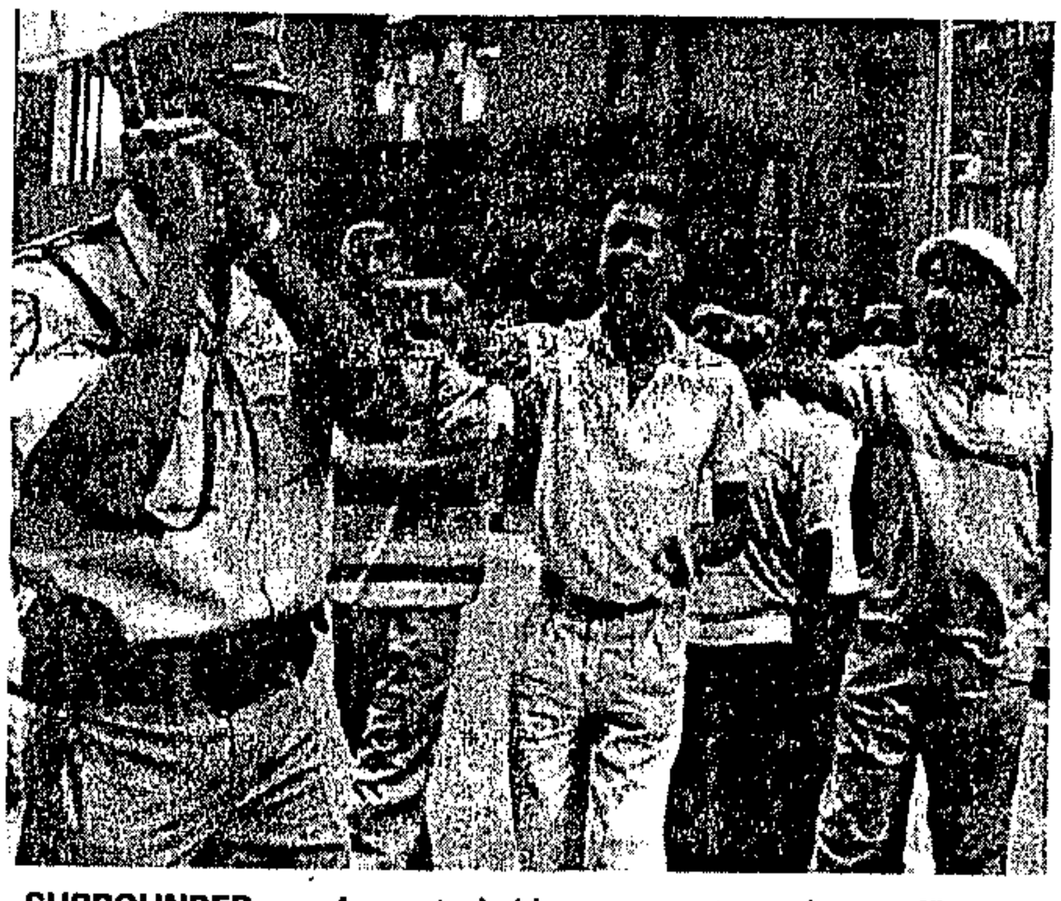
Mr Davis would not say what the drivers' grievances were, but it is believed they are unhappy with the heavy fines they receive for minor traffic violations and what they see as a campaign by traffic department officials to target them in law enforcement operations.

Mr Davis said discussions with drivers would continue this morning.



TAXI PROTEST . . . Minibus taxis yesterday blocked a busy Johannesburg intersection as taxi drivers protest against traffic police harassment and demand government subsidies.

Picture: AP



SURROUNDED . . . Angry taxi drivers move towards a traffic cop yesterday during their protest in Johannesburg. One driver was shot in Sauer Street.

Picture: AP

Sabta condemns protest action

CT 2/2/93

JOHANNESBURG. — The Southern Africa Black Taxi Association (Sabta) has condemned the protest action taken by Johannesburg taxi drivers yesterday.

"Sabta cannot condone such an action as it disrupts the flow of business in this important city," Sabta said.

The organisation also apologised to the business community and the general public for the inconvenience of the traffic chaos caused by the minibus blockade of the city.

But, Sabta said, it understood the legitimacy of taxi drivers' grievances on the issue of "unfair traffic fines and lack of ranking facilities".

It said there had to be urgent meetings between the taxi industry and the Johannesburg City Council, and the taxi industry and the law enforcement agencies, to deal with the grievances.

The Azanian Youth Organisation (Azayo) condemned taxi owners for failing to consult the community before going on strike.

Azayo spokesman Mr Marvin Hlatshwayo said his organisation supported the "genuine and legitimate" demands of the taxi owners, but in future they should consult the community before taking any action. — Sapa

3 nation
Star 21/2/93

Massacre trial in April

The trial of 64 KwaMadala hostel inmates, who were allegedly involved in the Boipatong massacre on June 17 last year in which 40 people died, is scheduled to commence in the Delmas Circuit Court on April 13. All of the accused are out on bail of R1 000 each. (218)

Boipatong massacre: 64 for trial in April

VEREENIGING. — The trial of 64 KwaMadala Hostel residents allegedly involved in the Boipatong massacre in June last year is scheduled to commence in the Delmas Circuit Court on April 13.

The case was referred to the Circuit Court during a brief appearance by the group in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court yesterday.

All the accused are out on bail of R1 000 each.

They face charges that include murder, attempted murder, public violence and malicious damage to property. None of the suspects has yet been asked to plead.

More than 40 people were killed in the June 17 massacre, and it is alleged the late-night attack on residents of the Vaal Triangle township was launched from the hostel. — Sapa

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
SALDRU LIBRARY

NEWS Stayaway today by taxi operators as talks deadlock

Police open fire in city

Sowetan 3/2/93.

■ UNREST AREA One shot dead, scores injured as taximen continue their protest:

278

By Lulama Luti

ONE person was shot dead and scores of others injured when police opened fire on taxi operators during the second day of a protest by taximen in central Johannesburg yesterday. Several others were arrested.

In Parliament Law and Order Minister Mr Hernus Kriel declared Johannesburg an unrest area after running battles took place between taximen and the police in which shots were fired from both sides, sending people scrambling for cover.

Later at an emotionally charged meeting angry taximen decided they would not operate today.

The decision to stayaway followed a deadlock in talks between representatives of the South African Taxi Drivers Association and the Johannesburg Traffic Department.

Dozens of taxis were again impounded yesterday amid heavy shooting and running battles between the police and taxi drivers which lasted several hours.

Police cordoned off all major routes into the city bringing to a standstill mid-morning and lunch hour traffic.

Sunday Times photographer Hebert Mabuza was led from the scene bleeding profusely after he was shot in the arm.

Another Press photographer, Steve Hilton-Barber, was also caught in the crossfire and hit by a teargas cannister.

Spokesman for the ANC PWV region Mr Mondli Gungubele, who was part of the negotiation team, said while the meeting agreed to hold a meeting next Monday, the situation had deteriorated and there was no telling what could happen next.

"The matter has gone completely out of hand. We hoped that by meeting with the traffic authorities we would defuse the situation. People involved in the negotiations have also been arrested.

"The police action has not helped the situation at all," he said.

Taxi chaos likely to continue after talks break down

ARGT 3/2/93

The Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG. — Taxi associations have threatened that the chaos in Johannesburg will continue today after emergency talks broke down between them and traffic authorities.

Johannesburg was declared an unrest area yesterday.

After the city centre turned into a war zone in the second day of taxi blockades and violent clashes which claimed at least one life and left scores injured, police and traffic officials said they would not tolerate more violence.

Traffic chief Mr Mike Davis said: "The disruption cannot be tolerated. Enough is enough.

"Motorists are tired of the conduct, discipline and driving habits of minibus taxi drivers, yet the drivers expect us to take no action against them. Where action against drivers is warranted in the interests of safety, such action must be taken."

His warning followed repeated pitched battles between police and taxi drivers who had besieged the city over the past two days in protest against traffic authorities.

In the first confirmed fatali-

enforced in unrest areas, police were unlikely to do so in Johannesburg unless it became necessary.

"It depends on the taxi drivers," he said.

The unrest declaration received round condemnation from the African National Congress and the trade union federation Cosatu.

ANC head office spokesman Mr Carl Niehaus said the only way the taxi problem would be resolved was through negotiations between taxi drivers and the traffic department.

He said the ANC, including its president Mr Nelson Mandela, was not playing a direct role in the negotiations, but was acting instead as facilitator, when necessary, to help bring the two parties together.

Cosatu said the unrest declaration was "carte blanche to the police to use force", and the ANC PWV region said this would obscure the real grievances of taxi operators.

After a meeting yesterday between Cosatu and a delegation of taxi drivers organised under the South African Taxi Drivers' Union, Cosatu said it saw the drivers' grievances as legitimate.

Johannesburg traffic direc-



CONFRONTATION: A police dog grabs a protester, above, in a Johannesburg street during a confrontation after protesting taxi drivers blocked intersections. Left: Two injured people are attended to after being shot by police. The taxi drivers were protesting against traffic department harassment and the lack of official facilities for an industry that ferries an estimated 300 000 commuters a day in and around Johannesburg.

Mr Davis, discounting reports of acrimony, said he and Mr Von Lieres had met and

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Traffic chief Mr Mike Davis said: "The disruption cannot be tolerated. Enough is enough.

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His warning followed repeated pitched battles between police and taxi drivers who had besieged the city over the past two days in protest against traffic authorities.

In the first confirmed fatality, a man was shot dead by police yesterday afternoon. Police could not confirm reports that a second man had been killed. Scores of people were wounded by live ammunition, rubber bullets or police dogs.

Police and traffic officials went into talks last night to come up with an emergency plan to prevent anarchy, and police geared up to enforce the emergency regulations announced by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel in parliament yesterday.

Spokesmen for the Alexandra, Meadowlands and Eldorado Park taxi associations warned last night it was likely the confrontations would continue today.

"We do not give orders for the drivers to do anything, but they are angry about arrests and violent action by the police. They will continue to fight off their own bat," an Alexandra Taxi Association spokesman said.

There were veiled threats of attacks on buses and municipal vehicles.

In proclaiming Johannesburg an unrest area, Mr Kriel told parliament police would not tolerate violence.

"We intend to prosecute. We do not intend giving in to pressure," he said.

Police in unrest areas have wide powers of arrest, search and seizure and may detain people without bail.

Police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce said that although curfews could be the traffic department.

He said the ANC, including its president Mr Nelson Mandela, was not playing a direct role in the negotiations, but was acting instead as facilitator, when necessary, to help bring the two parties together.

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Johannesburg traffic directorate spokesman Mr Fanie van der Walt said municipal buses would run as normal today, but would be withdrawn if violence flared again.

Johannesburg traffic was stopped in its tracks for the second day running yesterday as taxi drivers piled their minibuses into intersections, refusing to move until negotiations between their representatives and officials had reached a satisfactory outcome.

The drivers demanded that all their traffic fines from the last six months be cancelled and that they be given better treatment, facilities and support from traffic officials.

Witwatersrand police commissioner Lieutenant-General Koos Calitz, who warned that police would not tolerate "wanton violence" from taxi drivers, appealed to taxi associations to take control of drivers.

ANC regional executive member Mr Mondli Gunguble, who was involved in yesterday's negotiations, said discussions broke down because a number of drivers who were arrested in Randburg on Monday had not been released. The situation was out of control, he said.

At the worst battle zone yesterday, in Bree Street, peace monitors said taxi operators were furious that the police had refused to release all the arrested men and had changed their charges from traffic obstruction to intimidation.

At a Witwatersrand-Vaal Regional Dispute Resolution Committee (RDRC) Press conference, Mr Norman Prince, elected as the taxi drivers' representative, said police had deliberately altered the charges to keep some drivers in jail.

On Monday taxi operators and authorities agreed that all drivers charged with traffic offences would be released.

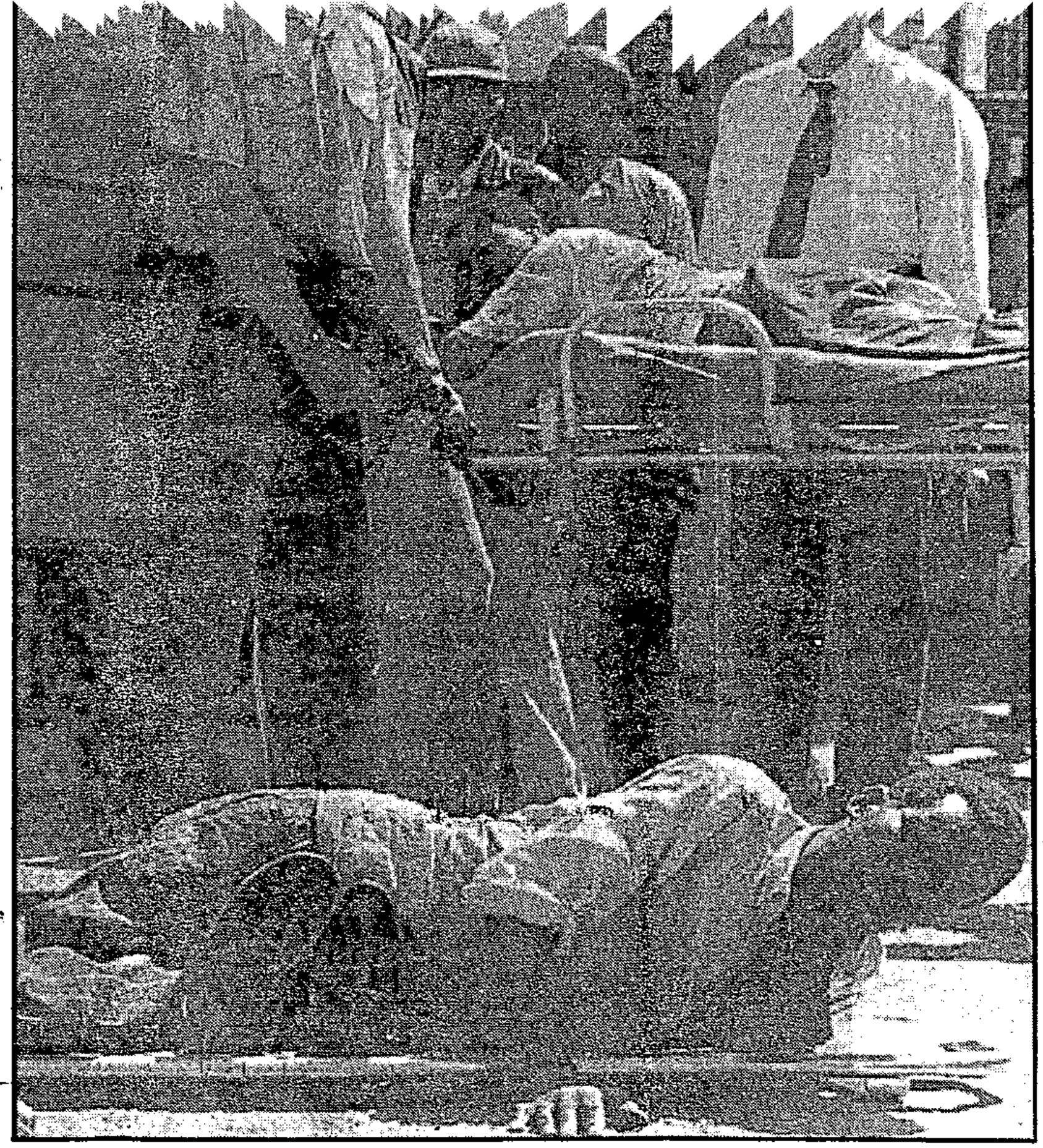
RDRC spokesman Mr Alfred Woodington said Witwatersrand Attorney-General Klaus von Lieres had undertaken to seek a resolution involving those still in custody.

Mr Woodington appealed to taxi drivers and the authorities to adhere to agreements reached. He said his peace committee would work through the night, if needed, to resolve the crisis.

Earlier yesterday Mr Von Lieres condemned traffic chief Mr Davis for taking the law into his own hands and releasing some of the taxi drivers and impounded vehicles. Mr Von Lieres said Mr Davis had treated the matter "in a very cavalier fashion" and had acted beyond his authority.

Johannesburg management committee transport chairman Mr Paul Asherson responded with an attack on Mr Von Lieres for his "inflammatory statements and naivete".

"The release of vehicles was fully within this council's jurisdiction and was done in a careful negotiation process involving the most senior members of the police," he said.



tion after protesting taxi drivers blocked intersections. Left: Two injured people are attended to after being shot by police. The taxi drivers were protesting against traffic department harassment and the lack of official facilities for an industry that ferries an estimated 300 000 commuters a day in and around Johannesburg.

Mr Davis, discounting reports of acrimony, said he and Mr Von Lieres had met and were in "complete harmony". Mr Von Lieres said an agreement had been reached and he was not involved in any negotiations.

Yesterday's taxi barricade apparently started after two fights broke out between taxi drivers at the Bree Street taxi rank. More taxis entered the fray and ended up blocking the street with concrete dustbins.

The siege spread quickly through Bree and Sauer streets and then to the rest of the city, turning ugly when protesters refused to clear the streets and weary policemen took action.

Responding to mealies, onions and bottles being hurled at them, police, without warning, used teargas, rubber bullets and in some instances live ammunition to disperse the crowd.

A pall of smoke from burning dustbins and teargas hung over the area as police sprayed building tops with bullets in pursuit of an alleged AK 47-wielding sniper.

Municipal tow-trucks removed more than 30 taxis blocking Bree, Sauer, Fraser and West streets.

Police said at least 25 people were arrested and more than 194 vehicles impounded.

All the drivers of the impounded vehicles were issued tickets and about 200 people are expected to appear in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court today.

Two men and a 17-year-old youth appeared last night on charges stemming from Monday's clashes between the police and minibus drivers.

Taxis block highway to Jo'burg

AUG 3 2 93

JOHANNESBURG — Minibus taxis blocked the Golden Highway near Eldorado Park, south of Johannesburg, early today.

Traffic officials said the blockade, which began about 7am, was being investigated.

Taxis, however, were not travelling into the centre of Johannesburg — the scene of conflict between police and taxi drivers over the past two days which has left two people dead and 38 injured.

Officials believed taxis would not be operating in the CBD today, but "anything might happen".

They said while Putco buses were running normally, many employees would probably arrive late for work.

Thousands have been stranded in Soweto, where at 5am commuters were milling at empty taxi ranks and street corners.

In Orlando taxis manned their own roadblocks, stopping and ordering commuters out of the few taxis that took a chance transporting them.

Some commuters walked in the hope of finding transport elsewhere to ferry them to the city.

Others were at the mercy of private car owners who charged inflated fares.

● **Full report and pictures, page 4.**

Star 21/2/93

Details of the agreement with operators

The provisional agreement between taxi operators, the police and the Johannesburg Traffic Department to end the taxi protest, pending negotiations today, provided for:

● Charges against taxi drivers for obstructing traffic to be dropped.

● The Johannesburg City Council to investigate claims by taxi owners for injuries or damages to their vehicles during the protest.

● Complaints by the taxi drivers' representatives to be referred to the city council for investigation.

● Taxi drivers' complaints about traffic officers, past taxi shootings, and the role of taxi association representatives to be addressed jointly by National Peace Accord structures, taxi drivers and council officials.

Observers from the United Nations, European Community and regional dispute resolution committee assisted in the negotiations. — Staff Reporters.

Muddle over pact may have sparked clash

RAY HARTLEY (278)

A MISUNDERSTANDING may have led to yesterday's running battle between police and a group of militant taxi drivers in central Johannesburg.

Police opened fire when taxi drivers apparently did not honour an agreement reached between their leaders and Capt Kobus Peche that taxis withdraw from the area at the same time as police vehicles were removed. Bldrg

But the drivers, in the meantime, had been assured by their leaders they need not move until three men held in connection with Monday's protest were released from John Vorster Square. 3/2/93.

This is how events developed:

11.30am: Taxi drivers began blockading the area around the Bree Street taxi rank. Some taxi drivers were forced from their vehicles and made to park them at the intersections.

11.50am: Police began talks over removal of the blockade. Peche told drivers to remove vehicles parked in breach of Monday's agreement to clear the streets. Drivers say traffic police fined them in breach of the same agreement.

12.15pm: Peche reached an agreement with taxi representative Norman Prince that the blockading taxis be moved while police retreated from the area, which they did. An argument ensued among the drivers who refused to honour Prince's agreement, and reiterated that the men in custody be released.

1.00pm: Prince and two UN monitors left to attend talks on securing the release of the three men.

1.20pm: The taxi blockade remained in place. Police began mobilising and Peche donned a bullet-proof vest. One police officer said: "If we don't deal with it now, it'll just go on for a month."

1.25pm: About 50 internal stability unit members and uniformed police carrying

To Page 2

Muddle

Bldrg 3/2/93.

shotguns and teargas and accompanied by three dogs, moved down Bree Street towards the blockade.

1.26pm: A leader of the taxi drivers appealed to police not to use force. Peche replied: "You move now or you will be dispersed." The driver protested and was arrested.

1.30pm: Police fired teargas, rubber bullets and birdshot at the crowd after police were stoned. Several people were wounded. The crowd dispersed.

1.35pm: Police moved in with razor wire. Traffic police removed the first vehicle from the blockade.

1.47pm: The UN monitors returned. One monitor criticised the deployment of plainclothes police carrying machine guns in a crowd control situation.

2pm: Peche told the media no order was given for the use of birdshot. "We acted

From Page 1

(278)

more than half-an-hour after discussions (agreeing to remove vehicles) ended. I think we have used excessive restraint in the past two days." Taxi drivers began to form a new roadblock a block away. "They are not going to tow us away now. They can bring their guns now," a driver said.

2.05pm: A brick and a bottle were hurled at police, sparking a second teargas attack. A traffic department motorcycle was overturned by the crowd.

2.38pm onwards: Police began dispersing the crowd. About 15 dogs joined running battles. A man, whom police said was trying to steal a car, was shot dead by police. Teargas and stones were exchanged between police and drivers in the Bree Street taxi rank. Protests continued for most of the afternoon, but most motorists were able to get home during rush hour when the situation quietened down.

Helpless commuters caught off guard

278

Soweten 3/2/93.

By Joe Mdhlela
Consumer Reporter

■ Assaults and scars bear testimony to volatile situation in taxi industry:

THOUSANDS of commuters from various parts of the Witwatersrand and Soweto were caught napping and in most instances failed to make it to work on Monday as a result of the taxi blockade.

Equally inconvenienced were motorists who were unable to make it to their destinations, either because they were too scared to travel to Johannesburg or were assaulted for daring to travel into the city.

Volatile industry

Some of these motorists bear wounds, ugly scars which serve as a testimony to the volatile situation in the taxi industry.

The gripe expressed by the taxi operators relates to the "excessive traffic fines" they receive from traffic officers operating in the city.

The South African Taxi Drivers Union is locked into discussions with the Johannesburg Traffic Department to try to settle the dispute.

Central to the dispute was a call by the taxi union to have the Government subsidise the industry.

The general feeling among operators was that they are "tired of being intimidated by traffic officers".

"They stop us at every turn. We are tired of all this," most operators complained.

Spokeswoman for the ANC Gill Marcus said the transport situation as it affected taxi operators needed to be looked into.

"All parties involved, including the Government, need to resolve the volatile situation," Marcus said.

Frustrations and tensions

She said the ANC understood the frustration of the industry and appealed to Government and taxi authorities to thrash out a system that would help ease the tension.

"There is a need for the authorities, in conjunction with the taxi association, to develop a transport system to ensure taxi operators work harmoniously," she said.

Spokesman for the Azanian People's Organisation Mr Lybon Mabasa said the laws of the country, drawn in an undemocratic manner, impacted on developments in the crisis that developed in the city on Monday.

Mabasa said as long as blacks were not part of a system that legislated, such crises would be commonplace.

However, Mabasa regretted the fact that the taxi industry did not consult with other black organisations.

"There was a lack of adequate consultation and this is to be greatly regretted," he said.

As a result many blacks felt the taxi industry undermined them and were taking decisions affecting them directly "above our heads".

"We are disappointed that taxi associations took a unilateral decision without bothering to consult with commuters and other black organisations.

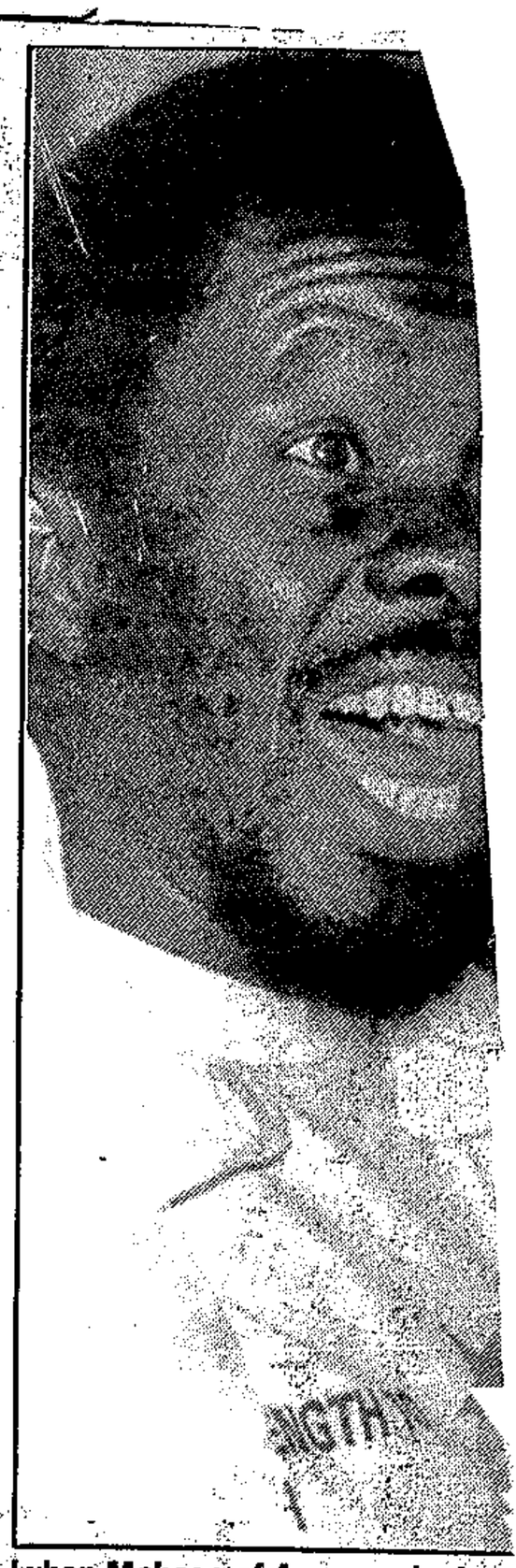
"While we appreciate the frustrations of the taxi operators, we cannot accept that they can just ignore commuters and other black organisations and impose themselves on us," an angry trade unionist, who preferred to remain anonymous, said. The unionist also condemned the high-handed manner in which the police used force to quell the situation.

Action condemned

The South African Black Taxi Association yesterday condemned the action by taxi drivers in blockading the city streets. In a statement Sabta said: "We cannot condone such action as it disrupts the flow of business in this important city.

"To this end Sabta apologises to the business community, general motorists, passengers and the general public. Sabta, however, understands the legitimacy of the taxi drivers' grievances on the question of unfair traffic fines and the lack of ranking facilities.

"Although the drivers meant well, it is questionable whether they acted well."



Lybon Mabasa of Azapo ... lack o consultation.

"Some of these motorists bear wounds, ugly scars which serve as a testimony to the volatile situation in the taxi industry"

Two killed as violence flares

Govt acts to curb Jo'burg taxi protest

B1 DBay 3/2/93 278

RAY HARTLEY, THEO RAWANA and LLOYD COUTTS

JOHANNESBURG was declared an unrest area yesterday by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel after a day of running battles between taxi drivers, bystanders and police which left more than 30 people injured and two dead.

In terms of the proclamation police and the SADF are given wider powers to arrest, detain and search than normally provided by legislation. Police are also given increased authority to break up illegal gatherings. But spokesman Capt Eugene Opperman said police did not intend imposing a curfew on the city.

Yesterday, a group of taxi drivers who felt agreements had not been honoured by the traffic department and police to release drivers detained in Monday's protest blockaded areas of the city centre.

Three drivers detained in Johannesburg and two in Randburg were not released yesterday morning.

Johannesburg City Council transport and utilities chairman Paul Asherson said the blockade was continuing because police substituted charges the traffic department had withdrawn against some drivers and kept them in custody. Asherson said police had made the situation more difficult by putting bail at R5 000 and R10 000.

Yesterday's meeting between traffic officials and taxi drivers, following Monday's violence, had gone well and the parties had agreed to meet again on Monday to thrash out an agreement. However, the drivers heard police were holding their members at Randburg and Johannesburg and trouble flared again.

When drivers refused to move their taxis from a blockade at the corner of Bree and Fraser streets, police opened fire with teargas, rubber bullets and birdshot, injuring drivers, bystanders and journalists.

Police spokesman W/O Andy Pieke said one man had been shot dead by police for stealing a vehicle, but bystanders said the man had been carrying shopping bags and had just left a fast food shop. Pieke said a second person, killed in the Bree Street area, had been involved in "criminal activity" unconnected to the unrest.

In West Street, police chased a gunman — who allegedly opened fire on officers attempting to make an arrest — into a parking garage. Scores of heavily armed and bullet proof-jacketed policemen and traffic officers converged on the building, but twice failed to find the gunman.

People in nearby office blocks were asked to remove their cars from the garage.

Pieke said 25 people had been arrested for offences related to the blockade, and 194 vehicles had been towed away.

□ To Page 2

Taxi protest

B1 DBay 3/2/93 278

□ From Page 1

Asherson said the SAP had taken over from the Johannesburg traffic department as adversaries in the war taximen were waging in the city streets.

Asherson hit out at Witwatersrand Attorney-General Klaus von Lieres und Wilkau for his "inflammatory statements and naivete" in condemning traffic chief Mike Davis after the latter withdrew charges against the drivers.

Von Lieres had accused Davis of going beyond his authority by dropping the charges and returning impounded vehicles.

Asherson said the release of vehicles was fully within the council's jurisdiction and was done "in a careful negotiation process involving senior members of the SAP".

The Johannesburg transportation directorate yesterday withdrew all municipal buses from the CBD in order not to expose passengers and drivers to further dangers, Sapa reports. Spokesman Fanie van der Walt said services would be suspended until the problems were resolved.

□ The taxi drivers' union, Satdu, was in the process of merging with the Transport and General Workers' Union and SA Railways and Harbours Workers' Union yesterday.

● Picture: Page 3
● Comment: Page 6

Running battle

CT 3/2/93

Jo'burg now an unrest area

THE Minister of Law and Order, Mr Hernus Kriel, yesterday declared Johannesburg an unrest area following a running city centre battle between police and protesting taxi drivers in which two men are reported killed.

Hundreds of taxi drivers, protesting against alleged harassment from city traffic police, blockaded the centre of Johannesburg for a second day yesterday, leaving two people dead, one unconfirmed, and at least 32 injured — including six policeman, police said.

Altogether 207 taxis were confiscated and 37 people arrested while 26 vehicles were damaged.

A member of police flying squad yesterday shot and killed a man when a group tried to hijack a private vehicle, police said.

But a foreign press photographer said he saw a man shot and killed by policemen who opened fire with live ammunition and teargas in attempts to clear a blockade.

The running battle between police and a group of militant taxi drivers erupted after an apparent misunderstanding.

Police advanced on a phalanx of taxis and opened fire with teargas, rubber bullets and sharp ammunition when taxi drivers apparently failed to honour an agreement to withdraw from the area at the same time police vehicles removed.

But the drivers had in the meantime been assured by their leaders that they need not move until three men held after Monday's protest were released from John Vorster Square.

Mr Kriel said yesterday firm action would be taken against transgressors involved in the taxi violence.

Late yesterday, hopes for an end to the chaos faded when talks between the Johannesburg city council and representatives of the drivers collapsed.

The ANC's PWV region said last night the declaration of Johannesburg as an unrest area would only fuel tensions. "Unless the real grievances of the drivers were addressed, the present crisis will have a negative effect on the already troubled region." — Sapa



OPENING FIRE ... Police open fire in Johannesburg yesterday as a running street battle between police and protesting taxi-drivers erupts. Picture: AP

Church to act on Boesak



MAN TO THE MINISTRY ... Dr Allan Boesak explains his dilemma about returning to the ministry.

Staff Reporters

THE political future of Western Cape ANC leader Dr Allan Boesak is in the hands of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church of South Africa — and his resignation could deal the ANC in the Western Cape a body blow.

Dr Boesak's application to return to the ministry came "out of the blue" last week, a church spokesman said.

It would be considered by the general synodical committee in Bloemfontein on February 16.

The church does not allow ministers to hold political positions and Dr Boesak would be forced to quit if he is recalled as a minister.

"Dr Boesak would have to choose between the church or a political career," confirmed the acting actuary, the Rev Anton Doyer.

Yesterday, Dr Boesak described his dilemma outside his Constantia home after holding meetings with top Western Cape ANC officials.

"Ever since I left the ministry, I have felt a constant pain. I miss the pulpit. This is part of my agony and part of what keeps me awake at night. Where can I do best?" he asked.

He said he would ideally like to retain his current political position and become a minister again — but realised this was not possible.

Disgraced after disclosures that he was having an extramarital affair with his present wife, Dr Boesak resigned from all his church positions in July 1990.

Dr Boesak dismissed reports of rifts locally within the organisation.

Attempts are being made to convince Dr Boesak that it is "crucial" he remain in his current ANC leadership position, ANC regional secretary Mr Tony Yengeni said.

While Mr Yengeni said the ANC understood that Dr Boesak's work revolved around his faith and the ministry, the organisation believed he was "needed here and now" to contribute to a new democracy.

Mr Yengeni said he had "no ambition" to assume the ANC leadership in the Western Cape. CT 3/2/93

"There is no tension whatsoever, not even on a personal level. Our relationship is one of integrity," he said.



PLEADING ... An unidentified man pleads with advancing policemen yesterday not to use their guns on protesting taxi-drivers. Three people were injured later when police fired shotguns and teargas. Picture: AP

Jo'burg declared an unrest area as talks break down

'Enough is enough'

Star 3/21/93

(278)

Staff Reporters

Johannesburg was declared an unrest area yesterday amid threats from taxi associations that the last two days of chaos in the city would continue today after emergency talks between traffic authorities and taximen broke down.

After a second day of taxi blockades and violent clashes which claimed at least one life and left at least 32 people injured, the SAP and traffic officials said they would not tolerate any more violence.

Traffic chief Mike Davis said last night: "The disruption of ratepayers' rights and those of commuters cannot be tolerated. Enough is enough.

"Motorists are getting tired of the conduct, indiscipline and driving habits of minibus taxi drivers, yet the drivers expect us to take no action against them. Where action against drivers is warranted in the interests of safety, such action must be taken."

His warning followed repeated pitched battles between policemen and taxi drivers who had besieged the city over the last two days in a protest against traffic authorities.



Hanging on . . . a protester resists arrest while a policeman tries to kick away a teargas canister which was lobbed at demonstrators a few minutes earlier.
Picture: Etienne Rothbart

3/2/93 Star

In the first confirmed fatality, a man was shot dead by police yesterday afternoon. Police could not confirm reports that a second man was killed in Bree Street. Scores were wounded by live ammunition, rubber bullets or police dogs.

The SAP and Johannesburg traffic officials went into talks last night to come up with an emergency plan to prevent anarchy, and police geared up to enforce the unrest regulations announced by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel in Parliament yesterday.

Police would not say what their plan entailed but said they would do everything they could to protect the city's people.

Spokesmen for the Alexandra, Meadowlands and Eldorado Park taxi associations warned last night that it was likely the confrontations would continue today.

"We do not give orders for the drivers to do anything, but they are angry at arrests and violent action by the police. They will continue to fight off their own bat," an Alexandra Taxi Association spokesman said.

Veiled threats included attacks on buses and municipal vehicles.

Kriel told Parliament he would proclaim Johannesburg an unrest area last night. He too made it clear the SAP would not tolerate any violence.

"We intend to prosecute. We do not intend giving in to pressure," he said.

Police in unrest areas have wide powers of arrest, search and seizure and may detain people without bail application hearings.

Police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce said although curfews could be enforced in unrest areas, police were unlikely to do this in Johannesburg unless it became necessary.

"But our action depends on the taxi drivers," he said.

The unrest declaration received round condemnation from the ANC's PWV region and the trade union federation Cosatu.

ANC head office spokesman Carl Niehaus said the only way the taxi problem would be resolved was

● To Page 3

Star 3/2/93.

Jo'burg declared an unrest area as taxi talks break down

● From Page 1

through negotiations.

The state of emergency only gave police extra powers. "And they are already behaving in a way which makes one ask questions about the way they handle volatile situations."

He said ANC officials, including Nelson Mandela, were not playing a direct role in the negotiations but were acting as facilitators to help bring the two parties together.

Cosatu said the unrest declaration would be seen as "carte blanche for the police to use force". After a meeting yesterday between Cosatu and a delegation of taxi drivers organised by the SA Taxi Drivers' Union, Cosatu said it saw the drivers' grievances as legitimate.

Johannesburg traffic directorate spokesman Fanie van der Walt said municipal buses would run as normal today but would be withdrawn if violence flared again.

Witwatersrand police commissioner Lieutenant-General Koos Calitz, who warned that police would not tolerate "wanton violence" from taxi drivers, appealed to taxi associations to take control of drivers.

ANC regional executive member Mondli Gunguble, who was involved in yesterday's negotiations, said discussions broke down because a number of drivers who were arrested in Randburg on Monday had not been released.

At a Witwatersrand-Vaal Regional Dispute Resolution Committee press conference, Norman Prince, elected as the taxi drivers' representative, said police had deliberately altered the charges against some drivers to keep them in jail.

On Monday, taxi operators and authorities agreed that all drivers charged with traffic offences would be released.

Earlier yesterday, Attorney-General Klaus von Lieres condemned traffic chief Davis for taking the law into his own hands and releasing some of the taxi drivers and impounded vehicles. Von Lieres said Davis had treated the matter "in a very cavalier fashion" and acted beyond his authority.

Johannesburg management committee transport chairman Paul Asherson responded with an attack on Von Lieres for his "inflammatory statements and naivety". "The release of vehicles was fully within this council's jurisdiction," he said.

Yesterday's taxi barricade apparently started after two fights broke out between taxi drivers at the Bree Street taxi rank. The fracas spread quickly through Bree and Sauer streets and then to the rest of the city.

Responding to mealies, onions and bottles being hurled at them, police, without warning, used teargas, rubber bullets and in some instances live ammunition to disperse the crowd.

Two casualties of the rioting were press photographers Herbert Mabuza, who was shot in the arm, and Steve Hilton-Barber, who was hit by a teargas canister.

A pall of smoke from burning dustbins and teargas hung over the area as police sprayed bullets in pursuit of an alleged AK-47 sniper.

Police said at least 137 people were arrested and more than 207 vehicles impounded.



Attitude . . . Bart Simpson makes his appearance amid the chaos that prevailed in Johannesburg yesterday.

Buses burn as police ban taxis from city

Star 3/2/93 (278)

Staff Reporters

Thousands of Soweto commuters were stranded today as taximen were barred from Johannesburg's city centre after the past two days of violent clashes with police and traffic officials.

Police, backed up by the Traffic Department, have erected roadblocks on all the main entrances into the city and all minibus taxis were being sent back.

Police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said all the taxis were banned from the city centre and police would continue to turn them away "until the situation is sorted out".

Putco buses heading for the city were stopped, their drivers and passengers pulled out and several buses set alight. Drivers were beaten up.

Putco announced it was suspending its services.

Managing director Dr Jack Visser said there would be no buses running from Greater Soweto, Eldorado Park, Lenasia and Orange Farm.

"I have given instructions for all our buses to be taken back to the depots.

"We are being stopped everywhere and firearms are being pointed at our drivers.

"We are unable to take passengers to their destinations along all the main arterial routes into Johannesburg," he said.

Main exit routes from Soweto were barricaded by taxis and burning Putco buses.

Near Baragwanath Hospital, a stand-off had developed at the time of going to press between scores of heavily armed policemen and taxi operators.

Taxis, with operators and supporters armed with pangas and other assorted weapons, were seen roving through the streets of Soweto intimidated any person using a vehicle to transport people into the city.

A Chamber of Commerce spokesman said the taxi strike had affected business quite badly. "People have simply not been able to get to work," he said.

He said figures were not immediately available but there had been considerable disruption of work "which is of great concern to the economy".

In Eldorado Park, one resident told The Star people were being pulled from buses, and taxis were not operating at all.

"We are isolated," he said.

A Spoornet official said more people had been using trains for the past two days to avoid being caught in the taxi feud.

He said there was a definite increase in the number of commuters into the city, especially from Soweto and its surrounding areas.

Man shot dead in taxi chaos crossfire

By Bronwyn Wilkinson

The first person to die in two days of battles between police and taxi drivers in Johannesburg was a man who walked out of a bottle store in West Street into crossfire between a mob and police, witnesses said.

But police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce said the unnamed man was one of a gang of about 15 who tried to rob a motorist of his car.

"The motorist escaped and members of the Flying Squad chased the gang. A warning shot was fired, which was ignored. Another shot was fired and one man was killed. The other 14 got away," Bruce said.

Three bystanders said the man had left a Newtown bottle store with two shopping bags.

"The police ran down the street and started shooting. There was no warning. The man was shot in the back. He had nothing to do with any taxi war or any other violence," said a woman who did not wish to be named.

Minutes later, a man who also claimed to have seen the shooting approached a police vehicle, pointed to a policeman and said he wanted it known that he had seen him fire the killing shot.

A witness said police leapt out of the vehicle, saying "He's talking too much", and arrested the man.

Workers trapped in burning bus

Soweton 4/3/93

278

TAXI DRIVERS yesterday vowed to intensify their action against Johannesburg's traffic department and adopted new strategies many people fear could escalate the violence in Soweto and in the city.

Yesterday buses ferrying people to work were attacked and some set alight and the taximen have warned that they will stop private vehicles from going to the city today. Putco has withdrawn all its services between Johannesburg and Soweto after several of its buses were burnt.

Meanwhile, in a last-ditch effort to defuse the situation, Cosatu and the ANC last night instructed their lawyers to seek an urgent meeting with Transvaal Attorney-General Mr Klaus von Lieres und Wilkau to secure the release of arrested taxi drivers and their impounded vehicles.

See page 2



Commuters narrowly escaped death when a bus in which they were travelling was attacked and set alight near the Baragwanath Hospital. Terrified passengers, many of them elderly, had to scramble frantically out of the bus. PIC: PAT SEBOKO

NO DEPOSIT!!

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NEWS Soweto bus commuters saved by police in Diepkloof



A taxi driver whom police claimed was in possession of an illegal firearm being led to a police van near the Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto yesterday. Police conducted a search for dangerous weapons at the Baragwanath taxi rank in Diepkloof. PIC: PAT SEBOKO

Fiery death scare

Sowetan 4/2/93 278

■ **NO TAXIS** Minibus drivers say they will not allow any vehicles into Johannesburg today:

By Tsale Makam and Lulama Luti

SOWETO commuters narrowly escaped death when their bus was set alight in Diepkloof yesterday morning.

A commuter said the attack was related to the taxi strike.

"Are these people fighting the traffic officials or the community?," asked the irate commuter.

He said their bus was stopped by a group near a petrol station in Diepkloof about 6.30am.

"They were each carrying what later turned out to be petrol. They ordered the driver out of the bus, poured petrol around it and set it alight. Terrified pensioners were trapped as commuters jumped through windows to safety."

The commuters were saved by the arrival of the police who scared the attackers away and doused the flames.

Soweto police spokesman Captain Joseph Ngobeni said seven buses were attacked, but only one was completely burnt.

Putco yesterday withdrew all services to Soweto and areas to the south of Johannesburg.

A Putco spokesman said several drivers had been pulled out of their buses and a senior official of the company was admitted to Baragwanath Hospital after being attacked in his car.

Three buses were attacked and set alight at Baragwanath taxi rank but police quickly extinguished the fire.

Three more buses were attacked in Zone 3, Diepkloof, but police once again put the fire out.

By noon Soweto appeared calm as the drivers who had congregated at the Baragwanath taxi rank were escorted by police to a meeting in the city.

At the meeting the drivers resolved that no vehicles would be allowed into Johannesburg from any direction today.

Angry drivers also called for the resignation of South African Black Taxi Association president Mr James Ngcoya following Sabta's condemnation of the strike.

They demanded the unconditional release of taxi drivers arrested on Monday and Tuesday.

The Rail Commuter Corporation reported a 20 percent passenger increase on trains travelling towards Johannesburg.

* The TPA announced that pension payouts in Soweto scheduled for yesterday had been postponed.

STREET VIOLENCE: A vehicle smoulders in central Johannesburg during the taxi protest disturbances.

Frustration behind the 'explosion'

(218) (Rec) ARGT 4/25/93

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — This week's city taxi protest was as close to people's power as you can get — similar to the way French farmers sometimes block cities with tractors.

By midweek the SA Communist Party, the ANC and Cosatu got involved — to help represent the drivers and to help find a compromise. But they had nothing to do with it in the beginning.

Take the first street blockade by taxis on Monday. This was quite simply an explosion of frustration by pressurised drivers earning R800 a month or less, who feared relations with traffic officers had deteriorated so badly that there would be physical clashes and that passengers would get hurt.

One of their complaints is that they have too few places to load and offload passengers legally, and that they get fined R300 for obstruction when they stop anywhere else.

"Sometimes we get R1 000 in fines in a single day," said driver Fairbridge Khanyile, and we have to pay up within a month."

So, at a meeting a week ago, where they blew off a lot of steam, they decided something dramatic had to be done.

They drove into town on Monday and blocked the streets to illustrate the point.

It made everyone cross, but it showed that the drivers were mad as hell. In a tense situation, police sirens were heard all day. Not wanting to run the sirens at full pitch, they gave short bursts, sounding like Pekinese dogs with heartburn.

A look at the drivers' complaints shows they have a point.

I take minibus taxis most days on the Kensington route, and traffic officers are often rude when they stop the drivers.

On the last occasion, two young officers just out of training school said arrogantly that taxis could stop only at taxi ranks. I got off at the Sauer Street taxi rank at the corner of Fox Street.

Another aspect is that they say most of the harassment and extortion they experience comes from white officers, so there is a racial element to it.

And the effect of their protest was to bring their struggle against apartheid from the townships to the city, for everyone to see.

They are very hot under their blue collars, and it showed in an emotional and sometimes confusing meeting at the Central Methodist Church.

A whole bunch of organisations were there — including drivers from the Reef with similar complaints — and just about everyone got stick, including Cosatu, for not producing drivers who had been arrested during the protests.

The taxi drivers' union has nevertheless applied for affiliation to Cosatu.

Besides the ANC-led alliance, members of Inkatha, Azapo and others were present.

In the end the attitude of the traffic police — and the City Council's failure to provide facilities — were the major problems, but owners were also fingered, for expecting drivers to do up to 400km a day in traffic.

Townships erupt as taxi chaos spreads

278

ARGUS 2/93

The Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG. — Townships erupted in chaos when taxi drivers stoned and petrol-bombed commuter buses and police used live ammunition to control crowds as the city centre taxi anarchy spread to Eldorado Park and Soweto.

More than 50 people, many of them children, were injured last night when police fired birdshot, rubber bullets and teargas to disperse crowds of Eldorado Park residents who had gathered to watch a bus beingset alight by taxi drivers.

Panic-stricken commuters fled for their lives in Soweto yesterday when at least 21 buses were attacked by taxi drivers, police said. One man was shot and seriously injured by police.

After two days of mayhem in the city centre since Monday, Johannesburg — declared an unrest area on Tuesday — was relatively quiet. Heavily armed riot police patrolled streets.

Worker absenteeism of between 80 and 90 percent was reported and retail business was slashed by half.

Soweto schools were also disrupted as teachers released children early.

As riotous taxi drivers vented their anger on bus drivers and commuters, at least 21 buses were attacked in Soweto during the morning peak hour, police said.

Putco abandoned morning services to Soweto after one bus was torched and five were damaged. Services were resumed in the afternoon.

Thousands of taxi drivers, impatiently awaiting the outcome of talks on the heated taxi dispute, vowed they would not operate today and threatened continued violence against commuters using other modes of transport.

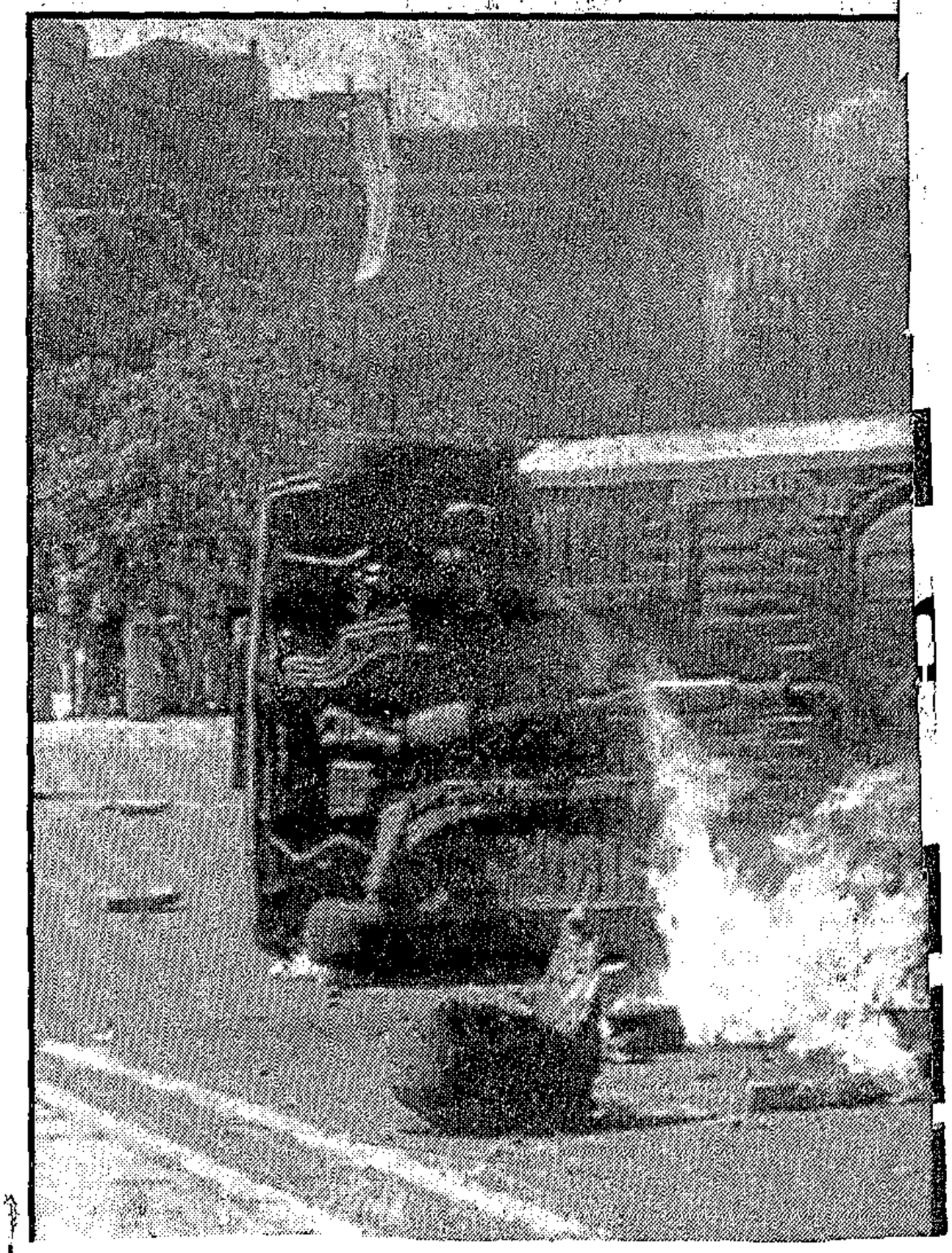
Police and taxi owners squared up on the main Soweto road. Soweto Taxi Association chairman Mr M J Simelane and police Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Loock came to an agreement after drivers had initially demanded to be escorted en masse into the city centre.

Some taxi drivers were then escorted to the Central Methodist Church for a meeting with the Cosatu trade union grouping and traffic police.

The Southern Africa Black Taxi Association (Sabta), which has condemned the drivers' action but acted as a facilitator in negotiations, was denounced by taxi drivers. They called for a new association.

The tense meeting ended in the afternoon with armed riot police ordering drivers to disperse. Taxi drivers will meet again at the same venue today to continue discussions on whether to suspend their action.

The parties failed to reach agreement on the release of drivers arrested and vehicles impounded on Tuesday. But they did agree to the establishment a multi-party forum to investigate drivers' grievances, which centre largely on alleged harassment by traffic officials.





14 hurt: Police fire rubber bullets

278

04/2/93

JOHANNESBURG. — Fourteen people were treated at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital last night for injuries allegedly suffered when policemen fired rubber bullets to quell unrest in Eldorado Park, a hospital source said.

The source added people were still being brought in for treatment at 9.30pm from the township near Johannesburg.

Earlier, eyewitnesses said police fired rubber bullets and teargas into a mob attacking buses on the Golden Highway that runs past Eldorado Park.

Police said the attack was linked to a protest by minibus taxi drivers that has plunged central Johannesburg into chaos since Monday.

The source at Baragwanath quoted some of the patients as saying they were hit by rubber bullets as they walked to the shops or while standing in the yards of their homes.

He said the victims were youngsters of between 14 and 28 years.

The source said none of the victims were in a serious condition.

An eyewitness who telephoned Sapa said a teargas canister was shot through the window of a car travelling through Eldorado Park last night, causing the vehicle to crash.

The family of four travelling in the car were apparently unhurt, but a baby was overcome by teargas fumes and had to be rushed to a doctor.

The incident could not be immedately confirmed with the police. — Sapa

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278

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Bosses urged to be sympathetic

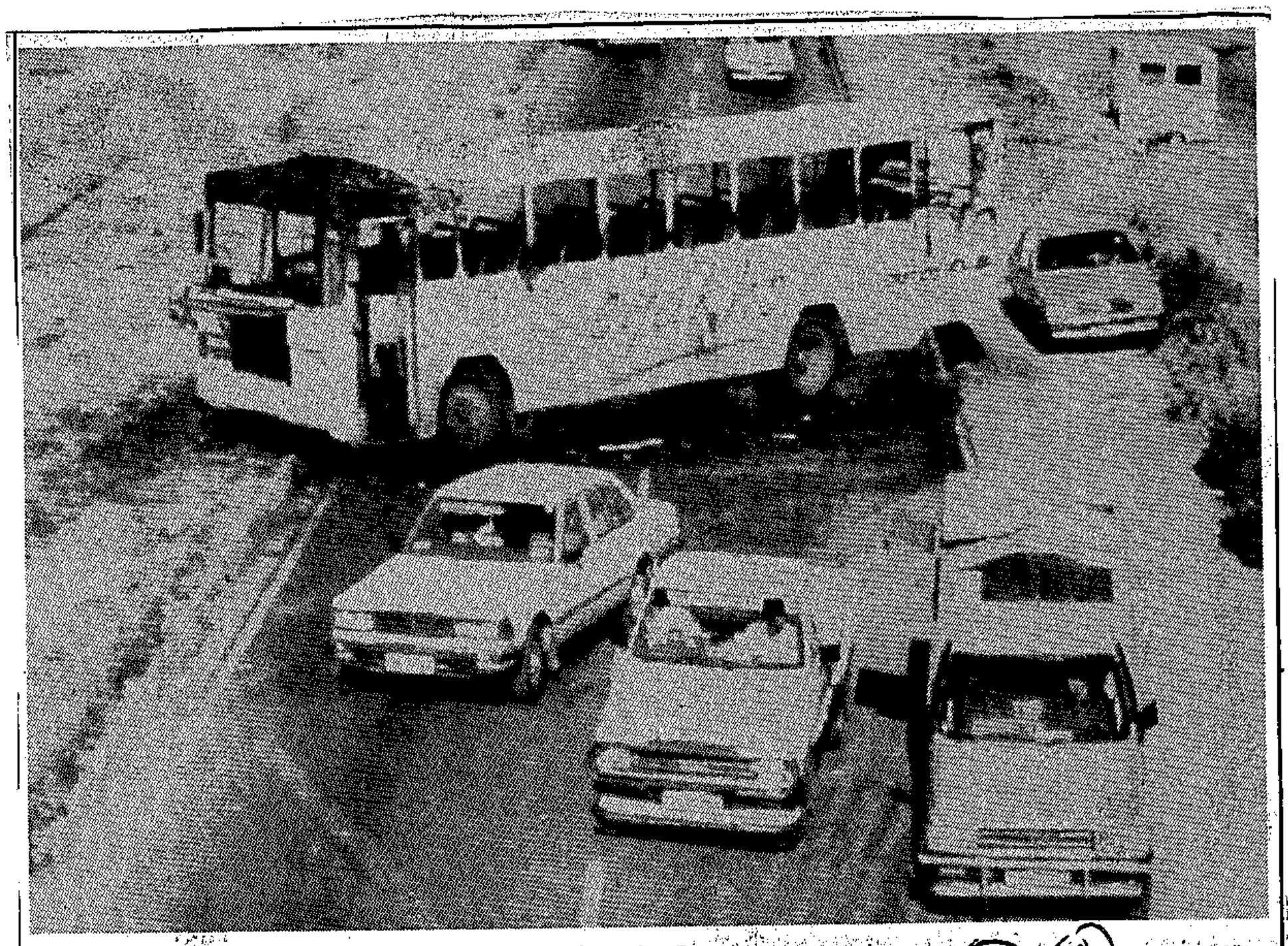
STAR 4/2/93

The Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) yesterday urged employers to treat with "sympathy and understanding" employees who failed to attend work.

JCCI chief executive Marius de Jager made his call amid fears that the taxi dispute and declaration of Johannesburg as an unrest area would inflict a fresh blow to the ailing property rental market.

De Jager said while it was difficult to give exact figures, feedback received by the JCCI was that the disruption had slashed the turnover of some retail businesses.

SA Property Owners' Association executive director Brian Kirchmann said the unrest would have far-reaching effects. "Business owners are bound to think twice about locating in an area subject to major disruption." — Staff Reporters.



TAXI ANGER . . . Cars pass a burnt-out bus in Soweto yesterday. Picture: AP

Crucial Reef taxi talks

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A crucial meeting today between the Johannesburg City Council, the traffic department, police, ANC, Cosatu and taxi drivers will try to take steps to help end the taxi crisis.

Cosatu assistant general-secretary Mr Sam Shilowa said this yesterday as the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry disclosed that retail sales had dropped by 50% in the past three days owing to the taxi protest. And Putco reported R1 million damage to buses burned in Soweto yesterday.

The JCCI estimated that 80% of the city's workers did not report for work yesterday.

Fifty-four of the 204 taxis impounded in the confrontation are stolen, according to the police.

The Minister of Transport, Dr Piet Welgemoed, said yesterday he might reorganise the whole permit system and its administration so that supply and demand could be corrected to a healthy balance.

Sapa reports police said 26 people are being held on charges of obstruction, malicious damage to property, robbery, attempted murder and armed robbery.

Cosatu official Mr Zwelinzima Vavi yesterday singled out Witwatersrand attorney-general Mr Klaus von Lieres as the man responsible for the continuing conflict because of his "arrogant and insensitive" attitude.

Mr Von Lieres openly criticised a decision by Johannesburg traffic chief Mr Mike Davis on Monday to release those arrested and impound taxis without charge to resolve the conflict.

Security force personnel were deployed throughout the city yesterday with a heavy presence on street corners in the troubled Bree and Sauer street area where taxis had obstructed traffic on Monday and Tuesday.

TAXI DRIVERS' DEMANDS

Staff Reporter

FURIOUS drivers from taxi associations around the Reef handed out crudely scribbled and photocopied lists of their demands to the Johannesburg Traffic Department during the protest.

Among the demands are:

- Stop setting speed traps in peak hours in fog and rain;
- Stop issuing tickets for parking in a loading zone or metered parking space;
- Stop fining for obstruction while taxis stop to let passengers alight;
- Stop fining excessively and adding extra fines for tickets not paid on time;
- Provide free parking for taxis that stop to pick up or discharge passengers, regardless of No Parking or No Stopping signs, and
- Policemen must stop interfering with traffic officers' duties by demanding that taxi drivers produce their public driving permits during peak times and to stop fining taxi drivers for hooting when trying to attract commuters.

Tight security to protect commuters from angry taximen

Star 4/2/93

Armed escort for buses

(278)

Staff Reporters

Heavily armed police and members of the SA Defence Force today stepped up their efforts to ensure the safety of commuters by escorting buses into the city and patrolling railway stations.

The increased security force presence follows pitched battles yesterday in Soweto and Eldorado Park which left scores injured.

Armoured vehicles today escorted packed buses into Johannesburg from the two townships. Trains were also reported to be packed.

Extra security forces were deployed at railway stations in and around Johannesburg, police said.

A police spokesman said they decided to increase train and railway station patrols after receiving information yesterday that train commuters would also be targeted by disgruntled taximen.

Patrols

Police started patrolling trains and railway stations at about 5 am.

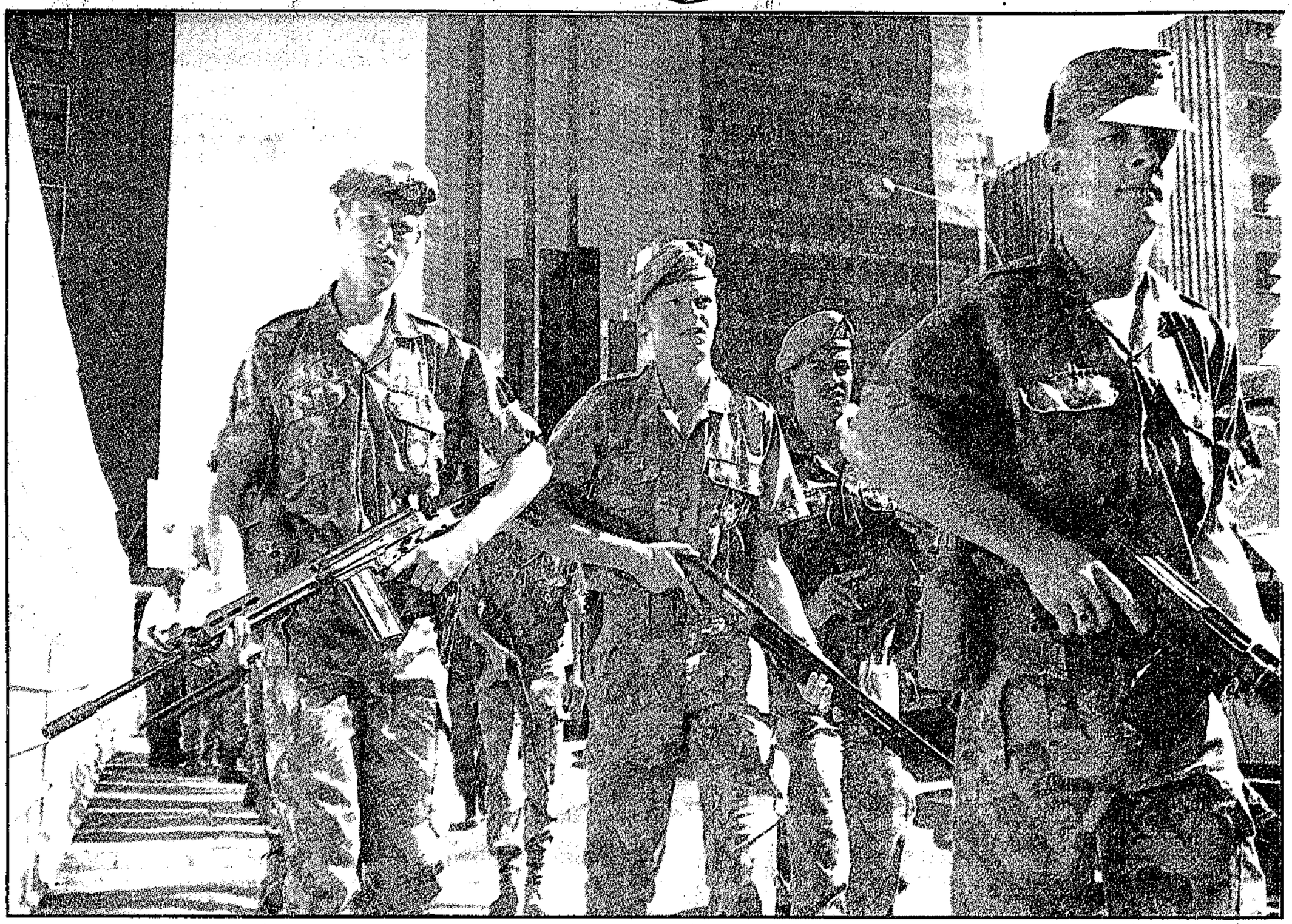
Soweto police spokesman Lieutenant Eugene Henning said one bus was gutted by fire in the township this morning. At about 5.40 am police patrols discovered the burning bus at Marafi taxi rank in Mapetla.

At least 22 buses have been attacked in Greater Soweto since yesterday morning.

He said virtually no taxis were operating from the townships today.

Commuters were seen lining the main routes from Soweto today trying to get to work in any way possible.

The two townships erupted in chaos yesterday when angry taximen stoned and petrol-bombed commuter buses, and police used live ammunition as taxi anarchy spread.



Emergency treatment . . . residents injured in battles with police in Eldorado Park last night wait for attention at the Eldorado Park Civil Protection Centre. Many had to be treated on blankets on the centre's veranda. Picture: George Mashinini

About 50 people, many of them children, were injured last night when police fired birdshot, rubber bullets and teargas to disperse crowds of Eldorado Park residents who had gathered to watch a bus set alight by taxi drivers at about 5 pm.

And earlier in Greater Soweto, panic-stricken commuters fled for their lives when buses were attacked by taxi drivers. Later in the day, police shot and seriously injured one man who tried to hurl a petrol bomb at a bus.

After two days of mayhem in the city centre, Johannesburg — which was declared an unrest area on Tuesday — was relatively quiet yesterday. Heavily armed riot police patrolled the almost deserted streets.

Worker absenteeism of between 80 and 90 percent was reported yesterday and retail business was slashed.

Initially taxi drivers were banned by police from entering the city but today the taximen decided they would not operate.

Township residents who managed to get to work yesterday morning were stranded in the city last night. Many people had to walk kilometres to get back home.

Soweto schools were also disrupted as the teachers released children early.

Putco abandoned morning services to Soweto after a bus was torched in the morning, but resumed its services in the afternoon.

Putco managing director Dr Jack Visser said several Putco officials were assaulted yesterday.

Thousands of taxi drivers, impatiently awaiting the outcome of talks on the heated taxi dispute, vowed they would not operate today and threatened continued violence against commuters using other modes of transport.

The crucial talks concerning the worsening taxi situation continue today.

Yesterday Soweto Taxi Association chairman M J Simelane and SAP Lieuten-

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P.T.

FARM SCHOOLS NETWORKING SEMINAR

Report of the Proceedings

Johannesburg
19-20 October 1990

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Buses get armed escorts

From Page 1

ant-Colonel Paul Loock came to an agreement after drivers had initially demanded to be escorted en masse into the city.

Cheering taxi drivers were then escorted to the Central Methodist Church for the meeting with Cosatu and traffic police. They were met by armed police and members of the International Stability Unit.

All Smal Street Mall shops closed their doors and hawkers packed up stalls, anticipating trouble.

The Southern African Black Taxi Association, which has condemned the drivers' action but acted as a facilitator in negotiations yesterday, was denounced by angry taxi drivers.

The taximen called for a new taxi association which would respect their views and look after their interests.

Emergency talks — between the city council, its traffic department and taxi driver representatives, assisted by the trade union federation, Cosatu — ended in deadlock yesterday.

The parties failed to reach agreement on the release of drivers arrested and vehicles impounded on Tuesday.

They did, however, agree to establish a multiparty forum to probe taxi drivers' grievances.

Cosatu assistant general-secretary Sam Shilowa, speaking on behalf of the taxi drivers, warned that there was still potential for conflict if no resolution was achieved.

Drivers had been asked to exercise restraint while talks continued.

Star 4/2/93

Stretched Davis gives his best shot

By Helen Grange

A red-faced and flustered Mike Davis rushes into his reception area, ushers a police general and a Cosatu representative into his office, and rushes out again to ask his secretary to phone the Attorney-General.

During a moment's reprieve, Johannesburg's Traffic Department director sighs: "I'm out of my mind. I'm gone."

In a brisk interview with The Star, Davis (49) confidently put his case for the actions he has taken in the last three days of taxi chaos.



Davis ... has no regrets.

On Monday, the taxi operators "lit a bomb" with their sudden blockades, he says.

Davis moved into action. His department impounded 43 taxis, and he immediately launched into the negotiations — much to the ire of Attorney-General Klaus von Lieres.

But Davis believes his strategy was sound: "I took the decision ... so the city could slumber rather than burn. It's easy to say climb in there with a hammer. I have no regrets."

The taxi representatives had agreed to halting disruptions pending further negotiations on Tuesday, but Davis was to be surprised. Deliberations began at 10 am — and the next thing he heard was that the streets were being blocked again.

A violent Tuesday afternoon followed which saw 204 vehicles removed, 60 of them found to be suspected stolen vehicles.

That brought an increasingly frustrated Davis to deliberations on Tuesday. His biggest task by [illegible]g all parties together — and ensuring they had mandates so that whatever was negotiated stuck.

Phones are ringing. Maybe it's the Attorney-General. Davis gets moving. It's going to be another long day.

Star 4/12/98

Taxi action was 'people power'

(278)

By Peter Wellman

This week's city taxi protest was as close to "people power" as you can get; the way French farmers sometimes block city streets with tractors.

By midweek the SACP, the ANC and Cosatu got involved — to represent the drivers and help find a compromise.

The first street blockade by taxis on Monday was quite simply an explosion of frustration by pressured drivers earning R800 a month or less, who feared that relations with traffic officers had deteriorated to the point where there would be physical clashes in which passengers might get hurt.

One of their complaints is that they have too few places to load and offload passengers legally, and get fined R300 for obstruction when they stop anywhere else.

"Sometimes we get R 1000 in fines in a single day," said driver Fairbridge Khanyile, "and we have to pay up within a month."

So, at an emotional meeting on Sunday, they decided something dramatic had to be done. They drove into town on Monday and blocked the streets.

The move made everyone angry, but it showed that the drivers were mad as hell. Police sirens screamed and the situation was tense.

But the drivers have a case on some points.

I take minibus taxis most days on the Kensington route and traffic officers are often rude when they stop the drivers.

On the last occasion, two youngsters just out of training said arrogantly that taxis could stop only at taxi ranks.

As the drivers claim most of the harassment and extortion they experience comes from white officers, there is a racial element. Their protest brought their struggle from the townships to the city, for all to see.

They are very hot under their blue collars and it showed in an emotional and sometimes confusing meeting at the Central Methodist Church on Tuesday morning. All were there and just about everyone got stick.

But in the end the attitude of the traffic police, and the city council's failure to provide facilities, were the major gripes.

Group discussions and the drivers reveal that:

- Given the pressure they are under, they are more likely than other motorists to get tickets.
- They feel targeted by the traffic department and are often pulled up even when driving carefully.
- Traffic officers often ask for bribes.
- If there is a warrant against them for contempt of court (missing a traffic case), they are handcuffed in public.

Star 4/2/93

Police deny firing without warning

(278) 532

By Charmeela Bhagowat
Crime Reporter

Furious Eldorado Park residents claimed last night that police had opened fire on them without warning as Johannesburg's taxi mayhem spread to the nearby township.

Police said they were forced to fire teargas and rubber bullets at crowds which had tried to stone them, but later used birdshot to disperse another crowd.

About 50 people, many of them children, were wounded in last night's clashes between residents and police.

Witnesses said trouble flared when two Putco buses carrying commuters home were attacked — allegedly by taxi drivers — in Extension Two at about 5 pm.

One resident, who refused to be named, said he saw a red minibus taxi trying to run the buses off the main road.

"The red taxi swerved and one of the buses turned into the street to avoid being hit. The minibus, full of taxi drivers, threw two petrol bombs through the back window of the bus and drove away."

He said commuters had to leap out of the windows to escape from the blazing bus.

The other bus had apparently come to a standstill on the main road and the driver had fled.

"All the people came out to see what was happening and to try and help the passengers who were standing around the bus.

"When the police arrived they started shooting at people and firing teargas in all directions," the man claimed.

SAP spokesman Lieutenant Eugene Henning denied the allegation. He said Internal Stability Unit members, who were escorting a breakdown truck to a bus that had been attacked, were attacked by residents.

"The police had to use teargas and rubber bullets to disperse the people."

He said policemen guarding the gutted bus opened fire on residents after they were attacked with bricks and bottles.

A taxi driver, who refused to give his name, said taxi drivers were meeting at the rank in "Old Eldorado Park" at about 6.30 pm when police surrounded them and opened fire.

The driver was shot in the eye and was treated at the Civil Protection Centre.

Paramedics at the Civil Protection Centre said 25 people with birdshot and rubber-bullet wounds were referred to Baragwanath Hospital. About 30 people were treated at the centre between 7.45 pm and 8.30 pm.

focus on taxis

There was no violence when farmers invaded Pretoria in 1991, in sharp contrast to the reaction to taximen's acts in Johannesburg this week. **Alinah Dube** reports:



WHEN FARMERS BESIEGED PRETORIA on January 29 1991, there were no acts of violence as compared to when taximen took to the streets of Johannesburg this week.

The farmers had come to town to protest to the Government about years of drought, financial problems and lack of income. They claimed they were not getting a fair share of the price consumers paid for the food they produced.

There was chaos as protesting farmers blockaded roads by chaining their vehicles to any structure available. They used tractors, trailers, heavy trucks, caravans and an assortment of farming equipment.

The nightmarish action, which paralysed the central business district of Pretoria, was carried out with the blessing of the Pretoria City Council.

The council granted permission to the Potgietersrus-based Farmers Crisis Action organisation on condition that laws of the land and municipal by-laws were respected and that specially demarcated areas would be used.

But this was not adhered to and businesses in the city centre suffered losses running into millions of rands with turnovers slumping by more than 50 percent because of the protest and blockading of roads.

Supreme Court help

As a last resort, the City Council and its traffic department turned to the Supreme Court for help. They brought an application against Mr Daniel Elardus de Beer, the Boere Krisisaksie and 5 000 others.

Mr Justice Swart issued an order directing organisers and protesters to immediately remove all barricades from areas under the council's jurisdiction.

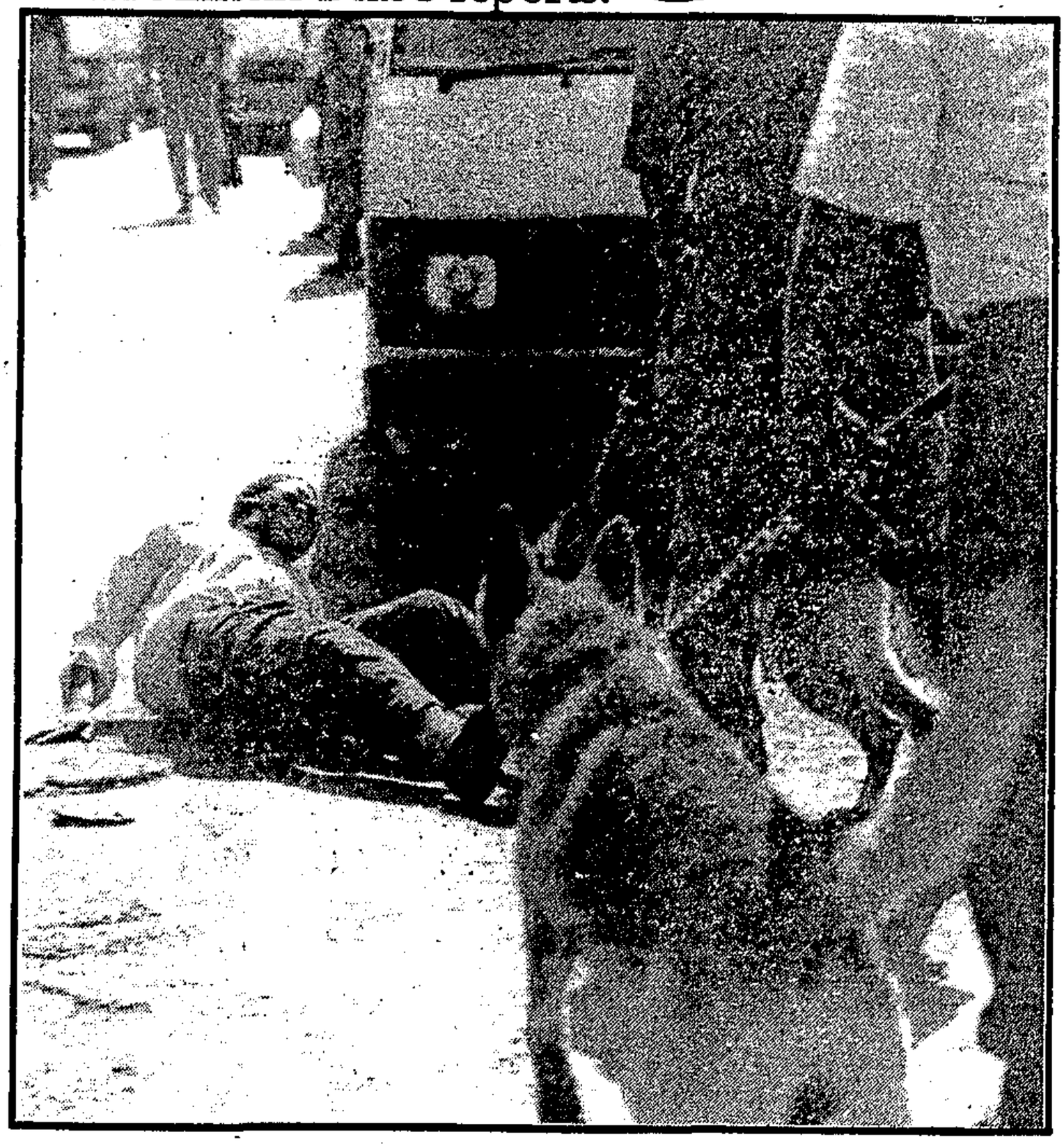
But police failed to evict farmers after the order was granted. Asked why they did not act immediately, a police spokesman said no further police intervention was needed at the time because "at this stage it appears the protest will fizzle out".

The spokesman also pointed out that police at some stage did act and that 200 farmers were detained and later released without being charged.

Owners of vehicles that were impounded were also allowed to collect them.

But the protest was marked by the absence of skirmishes between the protesters and the police.

In another "siege" in Pretoria last week, members of the South African Taxi Drivers' Union, protesting the local traffic department's failure to address their problems, brought taxi operations to a halt.



A disabled taxi driver screams for help after being bitten by a police dog at a taxi rank in Noord Street, Johannesburg. PIC: PATTY MOENG

The operators, who believed their members were being "unnecessarily fined" when loading and off-loading passengers in the CBD, were also demanding more ranking facilities.

A street leading to the Bloed Street taxi rank was blockaded by minibuses to highlight the fact that the existing rank was too small for the estimated 3 500 taxis operating between Pretoria and the neighbouring townships.

Although no incidents were reported during the protest, three people were arrested for alleged acts of intimidation.

This followed heated arguments between protesters and members of the Internal Stability Unit. The three were later released without being charged.

One wonders why there was so much restraint from the police when farmers invaded Pretoria in contrast with the swift reaction against the protesting taximen.

Improved control 'needed at stations'

PRETORIA — The ANC and Inkatha argued yesterday for improved control of railway station access and ticketing procedures as a means of preventing violence on trains.

After almost two years of evidence, various parties including the ANC, Inkatha, Spoornet and the police began concluding arguments before the Goldstone commission yesterday.

ANC representative Gys Rautenbach said a police presence at railway stations, passenger searches and proper ticket and access control were "the first step to the prevention of violence on trains".

He said a monitoring committee should be formed, under the auspices of the Goldstone commission, to hold regular inspections at affected stations. "The employment of a monitoring committee is probably the only manner to ensure that an objective assessment of the situation on the ground is submitted regularly to this committee."

Rautenbach also said the ANC believed there was, in some instances, "a lack of will among certain members of the police force to act against perpetrators of train violence".

He said police had not planned a satisfactory means of monitoring hostels, from where the violence sometimes emanated.

The absence of ticket controllers during peak hours was conducive to acts of terror, Rautenbach said.

ADRIAN HADLAND

Inkatha's legal representative Louis Visser said economic reasons, including unemployment and the housing shortage, were vital factors in the violence.

Visser disputed the central role of hostels in train incidents and said only the economic and political upgrading of people's lives would end the problem.

"Hostel dwellers might not be angels, but can one generalise from a few incidents," he asked. "Violence on trains is only part of the larger spectrum of ongoing violence in black communities."

The lack of ticket inspectors or adequate dispensing procedures lay at the heart of the problem, Visser said.

When police checked commuters for tickets as well as weapons recently, the number of passengers decreased by almost 50%, he said.

He agreed that tighter control was required over access to train stations and the issuing of tickets.

Spoornet lost about R600m last year through commuters travelling without tickets, he said.

Visser said there had been no evidence of the existence of a third force with regard to train violence.

"The idea of the third force was hatched for political reasons," he said.

Star 5/21/93 (278)

'Police shot man dead near taxi rank'

By Charmeela Bhagowat
Crime Reporter

A young Eldorado Park, Johannesburg man died after he was injured in clashes between security forces and residents in the township on Wednesday night, witnesses claimed yesterday.

They claimed police fatally injured Randall Sequera (20) while they used birdshot, rubber bullets and teargas to disperse a crowd at about 6.55 pm in a spillover of the city centre taxi violence.

A witness told The Star he took Sequera to the local fire station at about 7.15 pm. An ambulance employee confirmed the man had been taken to Baragwanath Hospital at 7.30 pm, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police said yesterday Sequera's body, with gunshot wounds, was found at about 8 pm at the clash between residents and police.

Soweto police spokesman Colonel Tienie Halgryn said police would not comment until an autopsy was conducted.

Another Soweto police spokesman, Lieutenant Eugene Henning, said a murder docket had been opened.

Eldorado Park resident John Hudson (28) said he, Sequera and a friend were at a park when police opened fire on a nearby taxi rank.

"We didn't even know who shot us."

Hudson claimed a policeman hit him with the butt of his gun while he was trying help Sequera.

"He shot at us again and fired teargas."

Two other witnesses claimed Sequera was killed by police.

Star 5/2/93

Court acquits two Swanieville accused

(278)

By Susan Smuts

Two of the seven men accused of taking part in the Swanieville massacre in May 1991 were yesterday acquitted of 28 counts of murder.

Sizwe Majola (21) and Bhekowakhe Moffat Mdlalose (41), both of Kagiso Hostel near Krugersdorp, were acquitted in the Rand Supreme Court after an application by defence counsel A S Burger.

Some 28 Swanieville squatters were murdered and scores injured during an attack in the early hours of May 12 1991.

The court has heard that hundreds of men attacked the squatters and damaged property. Witnesses have denied allegations by the defence that policemen were also involved.

Mr Justice C J Botha found the State had no case against Majola and Mdlalose, but ordered the trial of Vumisani Majola (37), Joseph Mphiwa Khanyile (51), Bakers Dlamini (32) and Pheyi Mlango (54), all of Kagiso Hostel, and Mzanya Flash Sithole (44), of Wattville hostel in Benoni, to continue.

The men have pleaded not guilty to 28 counts of murder, one of public violence, and charges of illegal possession of a machinegun.

TAXI WARS FM 5/2/93 (278)

Driving a hard bargain

Black taxi drivers in Johannesburg were mad as hell this week and they weren't going to take it any more. They say traffic officers hound them, owners abuse them and government won't subsidise them or provide places to park. In protest, they simply jammed intersections and tied the city in knots.

There's no doubt the traffic department has been cracking down. Loaded taxis are routinely pulled over for inspection while private cars are allowed to pass. Idle taxis have taken over some city streets during the day — much to the annoyance of casual parkers and meter readers — because they have nowhere else to go. Drivers also claim that they are forced to cut corners because owners will sack them if they don't meet stringent quotas for trips and passengers.

Mike Ntlateng, spokesman for their main representative body, the SA Black Taxi Association (Sabta), says the drivers' action took even it by surprise. "We do not condone the way they disrupted business and traffic and the inconvenience it caused motorists. And we condemn the violence their action caused. It comes at a particularly sensitive political period.

"But we do understand their complaints that they are constantly hassled by the traffic police; that there are no places where they can load and offload passengers; and that though they bring more passengers into Johannesburg every day than trains and buses, they have no facilities."

The traffic problems, however, seem to be a symptom of more deep-rooted ills in the industry, which has exploded since ex-President P W Botha deregulated the sector as a way to build a black middle class. Black commuters welcomed the chance to avoid the dirty, overcrowded and dangerous government-funded buses and trains in favour of quicker and more convenient taxis, even if they were more expensive.

But recession has reduced the supply of passengers, though the number of taxis has kept increasing. Owners have forced drivers to make more trips to make a living, which means travelling faster and replacing vehicles earlier. Deadly taxi wars escalated as rival organisations fought for local dominance and to keep out pirate operators.

And thanks to a very vocal ridership, owners have had to keep fares down even though the cost of new mini-buses and petrol has risen sharply every year. All this obviously reduces profits. To cut costs, maintenance is reduced to the minimum. It is estimated that only one in four taxis is compre-



Wildest action ... *tying up the streets of Johannesburg* FM 5/2/93 (278)

hensively insured and most do not carry third-party, fire and theft insurance.

So what's an industry to do when customers disappear and costs rise? Ask government make up the difference, of course.

Sabta has been campaigning for government to subsidise black taxi passengers, as it does those who ride trains and buses. Transport Minister Piet Welgemoed recently met Sabta, the SA Long Distance Taxi Association and the National African Federation of Transport Operators and made it clear there is no money in the Budget for that.

Nevertheless, he formed a working group consisting of taxi association and Department of Transport representatives to work out a long-term, integrated transport plan that will include taxis, trains and buses. He wants one ticket to be used on all three modes, which means the government will subsidise the passenger, not the carrier.

But the people with the subsidies are fighting to prevent the pie being cut more ways.

SA Bus Operators' Association chairman Nic Cronjé does not want government to even "contemplate paying subsidies to an industry riddled with wars, unlicensed drivers and an alarming accident rate, where operators do not render tax returns for themselves, nor deduct tax for their employees."

Cronjé believes much will have to change before the taxi industry can share the subsidies. "The industry will have to move into the formal sector and adhere to formal business practices. The number of taxis on the road must be reduced. Too many taxis are allowed to ply for business on bus routes."

The bottom line is that, despite Welgemoed's desire to pull a rabbit out of his hat, there is no money available to underwrite the tens of thousands of taxis plying the streets. The best government money would do is bureaucratise an industry that has flourished because of its independence, flexibility and entrepreneurial spirit and its ability to outmaneuvre subsidised modes of transport. ■

Unknown donor paves the way for taxi peace

17/5/93 (278)

JOHANNESBURG. — A major stumbling block to a resolution of the taxi strike was removed yesterday when an unknown party paid about R8 000 to the Traffic Department so the remaining 110 taxis — bar those identified as stolen — could be released.

Negotiations were expected to be concluded last night over the release of the last four taxi drivers in custody.

The city centre was quiet as police maintained a high profile.

Mr Peter Rabali, president of the Southern African Long Distance Transport Association and the National African Federated Transport Association, was confident that the drivers would call off the strike.

"The main problems were the release of the taxis and those in jail."

Traffic chief Mr Mike Davis hoped that the taxi "saga" of the past few days was over.

He hoped taxi drivers and owners would bring their grievances to a meeting planned for Monday morning.

He said additional demands had been dealt with: Taxis can now use the Soweto/Booysens busway and the alleged excessive fining of taxis as well as fining of taxis for excessive hooting, had been addressed. — Sapa

Star 5/2/93

Cycle of train violence 'broken'

278

Crime Reporter

New security measures implemented on Reef trains at a cost of R150 million last year have led to a substantial decrease in train violence in the last two months, the South African Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC) said yesterday.

SARCC managing director Wynand Burger said: "Some of the measures have contributed to breaking the cycle of violence and ... will help us to finally eliminate train violence."

However, the SARCC had not been "lulled into a false sense of security", Burger said. He noted that a number of attacks had taken place on stations or trains last month.

According to police reports, nine people have been killed in train attacks this year.

The SARCC would continue to take steps this year to ensure train safety, Burger said.

He said measures implemented to combat train violence included:

- Higher police profile and regular searches on trains and stations.
- Deployment of SARCC rail guards at Soweto stations.
- Security fencing at 124 southern Transvaal stations, with the remaining 34 to be fenced by the end of March.
- Better lighting, shelter and facilities at some stations.
- The development of modified trains with surveillance cameras, communication networks linking guards and drivers, interleading doors between coaches, and unbreakable windows that can only be opened one third of the way from the top.
- The installation of high-security access control systems on stations.
- The establishment of a Train Alliance Group in which the ANC, SARCC and police were looking at methods of ensuring safety on trains.
- Meetings with other groups representing train users, such as the IFP.
- Implementation of Goldstone Commission recommendations.

Burger also attributed the decrease in train violence to the recent arrest of attackers following information given by members of the public.

Star 5/2/93

Taxi drivers, council to talk again

(278)

● From Page 1

taxi saga and tension of the past few days were over.

At the same press conference, Peter Rabali, president of the Southern African Long Distance Transport Association (Saldta) and the National African Federated Transport Association (Nafta), said he was confident drivers would call off the strike today.

But at a simultaneous report-back meeting at the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg, the taximen decided they would not operate until talks resume on Monday.

The city centre, heavily patrolled by riot police, was again quiet yesterday. Thousands of township residents could not get to work as taxi drivers refused to operate.

Nearby Soweto and Eldorado Park, which erupted in chaos on Wednesday when at least 24 buses were attacked and police wounded about 50 people, were also relatively quiet but tense.

Yesterday morning one bus was gutted in Soweto.

Heavily armed police and members of the SA Defence Force yesterday stepped up their efforts to ensure the safety of commuters by escorting buses into the city and patrolling railway stations.

Armoured vehicles escorted packed buses into Johannesburg from townships. Trains were also full.

In the afternoon peak hour, stranded Soweto workers had to walk up to 4 km to get home after they had been dropped off at the township's entry points by Putco buses.

The Johannesburg Transportation Directorate said municipal buses would make extra trips until the taxi crisis was resolved.

Soweto police said virtually no taxis were operating from the townships.

But hopes are high that the violent dispute — which centres on alleged harassment of taxi drivers by traffic authorities — would be resolved.

Davis said taxi drivers were free to collect their vehicles.

A meeting has been set for 9.30 am on Monday for the Johannesburg City Council and taxi operators to deal with grievances.

Rabali said it was vital that stability returned. "We seriously ask drivers to send representatives to the negotiations (on Monday)," he said.

He said of 18 additional demands made by drivers, three had been dealt with: taxis would now be allowed to use the Soweto-Booysens busway; and the alleged excessive fining and stopping of taxis and fining for excessive hooting had been addressed.

Some remaining grievances were being investigated by the council's Metropolitan Planning Department. Other demands related to provisions in the Road Traffic Act, which every motorist was subject to.

In their statement the ANC, Cosatu and Sadtu said: "We appeal for calm and understanding among commuters during this difficult period."

The ANC, in an earlier statement, called for a reorganisation of the minibus taxi industry and fair employment standards for drivers.

● Doctors at Baragwanath Hospital, a flashpoint during this week's taxi violence, yesterday called for the premises and access routes to be regarded as "safe areas" which remained violence-free.

● IFP central committee member Themba Khoza yesterday urged traffic chief Davis to address grievances.

● International observer groups in South Africa yesterday urged all the parties involved in the taxi dispute to exercise maximum restraint and move to resolve the conflict through negotiations, Sapa reports.

Star 5/2/93

Taxi talks due to resume on Monday

(278)

TIMES

Staff Reporters

Heavily armed security forces continued to patrol Johannesburg and all the major routes leading into the city this morning in an attempt to maintain yesterday's peace after three days of clashes with protesting taxi drivers.

Witwatersrand and Soweto police said the city was quiet this morning, but police would continue to monitor the area until the emergency was lifted.

Johannesburg taxi drivers decided yesterday to down tools until Monday afternoon despite a breakthrough in crisis talks to end this week's taxi mayhem.

The ANC's PWV region, Cosatu and the newly formed SA Democratic Taxi Union (Sadtu) said taxi drivers would continue their protest into next week, even after a private benefactor paid fines for vehicles impounded when angry taximen blocked off city streets during protests.

One of the stumbling blocks to a peaceful resolution of the taxi strike was removed when an unknown person paid about R8 000 to the Johannesburg Traffic Department so that the remaining 110 taxis — bar those identified by police as stolen — could be released.

All 43 taxi drivers arrested this week have been released on bail.

After a day of talks between taxi representatives, unions, the City Council and its traffic department, Johannesburg traffic chief Mike Davis told a press conference he hoped that the

● To Page 2

Three killed, soldier hurt on East Rand

JOHANNESBURG. — Three people were shot dead and a soldier was wounded in the leg in three incidents on the East Rand in the past two days.

Police said a Kempton Park householder shot and fatally wounded a man who was trying to break into his home on Wednesday.

Another man was shot dead with an AK-47 rifle from a moving car in Tembisa near Kempton Park. An exchange of fire between squatters, police and an army patrol near Katlehong left a man dead and a soldier with a leg wound.

KwaZulu Police arrested eight men suspected of murdering an Umlazi resident last week and a KZP member in Port Shepstone last month. — Sapa

RUNNING GUN BATTLES IN CENTRAL JOHANNESBURG THIS WEEK AS A TAXI FEUD TAKES THE CITY BY SURPRISE...

Bloody war as industry implodes on itself



Peace protest ... Amid the bloody chaos in town some peace-loving protesters show their feelings

TAXI battles haemorrhaged on to the streets of Johannesburg this week, signalling the collapse of an industry many have held up as a bastion of free enterprise.

The running gun battles, stranded commuters in the township and scores of arrests and injuries witnessed in the city centre mayhem this week are the signs of an industry which is starting to "implode on itself", says Jane Barrett of the Transport and General Workers Union.

Barrett believes the government lacked vision in dealing with the minibus taxi business: "It went from outlawing the industry to allowing it to operate in a completely unregulated way."

A saturated market, dwindling profits, high accident rates and taxi wars about over-subscribed routes highlight the need for some control of the industry.

The taxi drivers took on the traffic police, but the real 'villains' are the taxi owners, an unregulated sector and a saturated market.
By **FERIAL HAFFAJEE**

"Even if you are an ardent free marketeer, there is a need for regulation," says Paul Browning of the Taxi Business Group (TBG).

He believes that traffic authorities do not have the capacity to regulate the taxi industry but believes that with subsidisation, taxi associations will have the economic clout to do it themselves.

Regulations the TBG suggests include limiting the number of permits granted to correlate with the number of ranks available, in order to thin the number of taxis on the roads.

Those taxis with permits must be clearly marked so that commuters can distinguish them from pirate taxis.

Minister of Transport Piet Welgemoed this week said: "I am seriously considering reorganising the whole permit system ... so that supply and demand can be corrected to a healthy balance."

High accident rates and the reputation taxi drivers have earned for daredevil, often dangerous, driving can in some measure be attributed to a lack of training and the unscheduled trips they squeeze into their day to supplement their wages of R100 to R180 a week.

Barrett says an integrated approach to subsidisation is sorely needed, taking into account different modes of transport like rail, buses and taxis.

While taxis cater for 44 percent of black commuters, taxi operators receive no subsidies.

Buses and trains together cater for 40 percent of black commuters and Transnet and bus companies receive about R1,5-billion a year in subsidies.

Last week the government announced it will put into place an integrated system of subsidies which will include taxi operators: one ticket will take commuters from the beginning to the end of their journey, regardless of whether they use bus, train or taxi.

Subsidies will ensure that money is available to improve the conditions of drivers. "Salaries and benefits, training and support must be available to drivers," says Browning.

Two types of subsidies are being mooted. Taxi operators can put in tenders to service subsidised routes, or tickets can be subsidised.

But neither is without problems, say transport planners and taxi associations.

The tender system is complicated; taxi owners and drivers will need assistance in applying for and servicing contracts put on offer by the Department of Transport.

And a ticket or user subsidy system, Barratt fears, may present an administrative nightmare which costs almost as much as the subsidy does to maintain.

The TBG this week announced plans to form taxi co-operatives which will help operators take advantage of subsidies. "Vehicles will continue to be owned by individuals, but will be operated in a collective or co-operative fashion."

The co-operative will receive training from specialists funded by the private sector who will also help to maximise the industry's viability by helping taxi operators to introduce commuter services in areas of high car ownership, tourism as well as parcels and courier services.

Their plan was in part inspired by the Goldstone Commission report on taxi violence which called for the assistance of the private sector.

A transport planner at Stanway Associates believes that "Johannesburg bends over backwards to plan (for taxis) in the best way it can". Every month the city council holds separate meetings with different associations to discuss their problems.

"But," she acknowledges, "the city was caught off-guard by the taxi industry and hasn't caught up yet."

There is a need for more ranks in the townships where commuters catch their taxis and drop-off points in the central business district so taxis don't cause congestion.

In the off-peak period, taxis need holding areas to park in. Each taxi association in Johannesburg has one, but they need to be extended to grow with the burgeoning industry, she suggests. Then for the trip home in the afternoon, the process must be turned around: there must be adequate pick-up points in the CBD and more drop-off points in the townships so that homebound traffic is not obstructed.

Call to arms finds fertile ground

JACQUIE GOLDING reports

SPONTANEOUS grassroots organisation rather than carefully made plans lay behind this week's taxi blockade of central Johannesburg.

The spark for the demonstration was last week's announcement of a mass campaign by the South African Taxi Drivers' Union (Sadtu) over demands for state subsidisation of the minibus taxi industry, after an abortive meeting with the government in Pretoria.

Subsidies are an issue for taxi owners, whom Sadtu and the South African Black Taxi Association represent, but not for the men behind the wheels. The drivers' action was the result, they told *The Weekly Mail*, of long years of official harassment.

"We don't give a damn about state subsidies, we just want the cops off our backs," said a driver at the Bree Street rank. But he stressed that the Sadtu call to arms had "found fertile ground here by us. We were encouraged to launch our own protest."

Drivers interviewed at Johannesburg's ranks this week voiced common grievances about harassment by traffic officials, who were accused of racism and rudeness, and the issuing of exorbitant tickets by the traffic department.

The organisation behind the minibus blockade had sprung into existence, said a Noord Street driver, because "we can relate to one another; we go through the same things.

"We're all pulled off the road by cops who decide they want to conduct a routine check. The cop then radios his office to find out if you have any outstanding tickets for traffic offences.

"If so, you're handcuffed in front of all your customers and taken to the traffic department or police station. The passengers have paid a full fare but they're told to disembark and find other means of getting to work."

Another driver agreed that the protest had not been planned. "We're not organised, but we are angry and sick of being mistreated. It's easy to get to a red robot and shout to another driver to pull over.

"That's what we did. We parked our vehicles at the major intersections, got out and just pocketed our keys."

"We know the CBD like the back of our hands and taxis only need to be put at strategic points," added another.

On Monday this week, some drivers parked their taxis across the road outside Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto, ordered passengers out of taxis that stopped at the barricade, and then advanced on Johannesburg in convoy.

Drivers are adamant that "whether it takes three weeks or three months" they will continue to disrupt traffic until their demands are met.

In addition to an end to alleged harassment, they said they wanted certain roads to be restricted to taxis — West and Noord streets, in particular — as a means of defusing growing tension between motorists and taxi drivers.

"We need roads for our kombis to pick up and offload passengers without getting a ticket for pulling over where there is a no-stopping sign," said one driver.

"It always takes place at month-end when our profits are supposed to increase. But it's this time of the month when they clamp down and issue tickets of R300 or more."

Johannesburg taxi mayhem comes to an end

JOE LOUW
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The week-long work stoppage imposed by minibus taxi drivers came to an end yesterday afternoon — at least as far as 3 400 taxi owners and their drivers, present at a stormy meeting held in Fordsburg, were concerned.

The two largest regional branches of the SA Black Taxi Association (Sabta) — consisting of nearly 3 000 owners and affiliated drivers from Soweto, in addition to another 400 owners and drivers from former "coloured" areas — unanimously decided to get their taxis back on the road "immediately after this meeting".

Hundreds of jubilant drivers poured out on to the street honking their horns and congratulating each other.

Officials of the second-largest taxi association, the National Federated Taxi Organisation (Nafto), also called for an immediate end to the stoppage.

Both Nafto and Sabta unreservedly apologised to the public for the inconvenience and mayhem caused by the disruption.

Mr Morris Bokaba, regional secretary of the SA Taxi Drivers Union (Satdu), said earlier yesterday the drivers would continue their dispute unless their demands were met by Monday.

An early-evening reporters' survey found that the main taxi ranks had already started operating.

Come back later, witness told

Star 6/2/93

JOHN PERLMAN
Chief Reporter



FATAL ERROR: "Joseph" is whisked away after claiming to have seen police kill a man. No statement was taken.

THE man in the accompanying picture, known only as Joseph, wanted to make a statement about the fatal shooting of a man in West Street on Tuesday, an incident that occurred during the taxi protests of that day. Police took him to John Vorster Square but then sent him away without taking a single detail of what he had to say.

"With all the confusion, there was nobody to take his statement," said police representative Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce. He was asked to return and make a statement, Bruce says, but has not done so.

"Joseph" was one of a number of bystanders who say they saw the fatal shooting of Tefo Harry Dube, an unemployed builder. He and others dispute the police version of Dube's death – that he was among a large group of men who attempted to hijack a vehicle during the confusion created by the taxi blockade.

They say Dube stepped out of a bar at the moment when police fired at the fleeing hijackers and was inadvertently gunned down. The proprietor of the bar told Saturday Star that Dube had been drinking there just before the shooting.

Soon after the incident, "Joseph" told policemen on the scene that he wanted to make a statement and said he could point out the policeman who had fired the shot. He walked over to an SAP vehicle and pointed someone out. He was swiftly bundled into a police car and driven off.

Bruce said police were concerned at the allegations that Dube had not been involved in the hijacking. "We've got to get to the bottom of this," he said, and appealed to witnesses to come forward. "If allegations are made, it is the duty of people to come forward with them," he said.

That, presumably, was what Joseph was trying to do.

● Bruce has asked witnesses to the shooting of Tefo Harry Dube on Tuesday, February 2 to contact W/O Willemse at John Vorster Square on (011) 497-7263.

Amid chaos, a willingness to talk

Star 6/2/93 (278)

JOE LOUW

JOE Simelane, chairman of the Soweto Taxi Association (STA) regional branch, is a man with a lot of patience and diplomacy. But he is also tough.

This week, during the long, hot and laborious "negotiations" during which an angry, volatile group of taxi drivers squared up to a contingent of heavily armed policemen at Baracity taxi rank opposite Baragwanath Hospital, Simelane found himself in a familiar situation: the man in the middle.

For several hours, militant youths and even some elderly drivers (who might have known better) taunted and jeered at the steely faced police.

In the piercing mid-morning heat, Simelane — a portly, amiable man in his 60s — found himself running up and down between the police and the restless crowd, sometimes pleading for patience, other times explaining — often to people not listening.

More than 200 taxi drivers demanded a police escort into the CBD to attend a negotiation session at Johannesburg traffic headquarters. The convoy they wanted would have stretched over several kilometres. The police refused, citing that Johannesburg had been declared an unrest area.



KEEPING CALM: Soweto Taxi Association's Joe Simelane (left) interceded between drivers and police this week.

The situation became very tense when the taxi drivers demanded that the police leave "immediately".

Simelane has high praise for Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Loock with whom he negotiated. He says he is detecting a change in the attitude of the police, generally a change for the better.

"A few years ago it would have been unheard of to negotiate for long hours like we did with Colonel Loock without something terrible happening. I hope I'm not speaking too soon in noting their willingness to talk instead of shoot."

But when a young officer apparently at the end of his tether spoke rudely to Simelane and called him a racist name, the patient negotiator shook with rage and demanded an apology — and got one.

"I couldn't let a manner-less young pup like that get away with it," he said.

Simelane has been in the taxi business since he was a young man. First as a driver, then as a taxi owner and, for the past seven years, as an official of the STA.

He is currently branch chairman of the STA, which is a conglomerate of 14 taxi associations serving routes from Greater Soweto into the Johannesburg CBD.

"I felt like I was going to age a year in one day," he told me this week, "but in the end it was all worthwhile because, through talking and talking, we were able to defuse a potentially explosive situation. I shudder to think what might have happened if one of those boys threw even one stone in that situation."

In the end, a compromise was reached whereby 10 minibuses with 10 "representatives" were allowed, under strict police escort, to enter the city to attend a meeting of taxi drivers at the Central Methodist Church.

Train violence: Rivalry blamed

(2-78)

CT 6/2/93

PRETORIA. — Political strife between organisations in townships, which has spilled over to trains, was one of the major causes of train violence, a Goldstone Commission committee heard yesterday.

Police counsel Mr Flip Hattingh said since the unbanning of the ANC the nature of train violence had changed and violence in townships had escalated.

Referring to witnesses of train violence being reluctant to testify, Mr Hattingh said the ANC had a "deliberate strategy" of discouraging people from co-operating with the police.

He cited incidents where witnesses had spontaneously given statements to the police, but had stopped after alleged intervention by the ANC.

Mr Hattingh said members of the IFP had been more co-operative in the past, but this had changed since the souring of relations between the IFP and the government.

ANC counsel Mr Gys Rautenbach replied that there had been evidence from a woman that the police did not respond when they were being attacked by the IFP, but did when she said they were being attacked by the ANC. — Sapa

the drivers had made departments [illegible] agreed that drivers [illegible] but did not agree with the drivers' frustration was [illegible]

Drivers boil over at 'unfair' fines, bribes

C/Press 7/2/93 (278)

By THEMBA KHUMALO

THE week-long taxi blockade in the heart of Johannesburg highlighted the frustrations experienced by black taxi drivers at the hands of "corrupt and ruthless" traffic officers.

The three days of unprecedented anarchy took five days of covert planning by frustrated drivers.

The blockade, marred by sporadic violence between police and strikers, left two dead and scores injured – leaving thousands of commuters stranded in the process.

The strike has brought to the fore conflicting views. Many whites participating in a Radio 702 talk show said the strike was a harbinger of things to come in the new SA.

Veteran Cosatu trade unionist Zwelibanzi Vavi dismissed this view as myopic, saying a similar blockade by farmers in Pretoria last year was largely accepted by whites as a "democratic act for legitimate grievances" – and did not draw the same violent response from authorities.

"The irony of racism and how it rears its head in certain communities in these changing times is amazing."

The magnitude of the blockade surprised Vavi, who conceded that Cosatu had had no advance warning.

Spider Monareng, a senior member of the SA Taxi Drivers' Union (Satdu), said the strike came after drivers had enough of bribes and being ticketed for petty traffic offences.

Angry taxi drivers spoke to City Press about their problems. Vusi Hlatshwayo, 30, of Emndeni served four months' jail sentences last year after he was twice convicted of obstruction. The charges arose from unloading passengers.

Another taxi driver who was caught in last week's feud was Philemon Tshabalala of Zondi.

Like Hlatshwayo, he earned R250 a week from his employer – whom he said made a profit of more then R1 000 in the same period.

Tshabalala is angry with the officers, especially whites, whom he accused of demanding bribes.

The drivers' general complaint was the officers' tendency to stop taxis during peak hours to check for minor defects and licences. They also complained bitterly about bribes.

Tension heightened at the drivers' public meeting at the Johannesburg Methodist Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday when the drivers protested against interference by political organisations.

The drivers also called for the resignation of the Sabta president, James Ngcoya, whom they accused of being indifferent to their plight.

Dear Hotline ...

CIPress 7/2/93 (278)

Wildcat strike could make a weak drivers' union the . . .

Rulers of the road

By DESMOND BLOW

THE taxi chaos this week could result in the weak SA Taxi Drivers Union (Satdu), backed by Cosatu, becoming the strongest force in the taxi industry.

If all the drivers unite it could end what the Goldstone Commission concluded in December was a bloody power struggle by various taxi associations for control of the taxi industry.

The taxi industry is the strongest black industry in the country but, although Satdu has been in existence for more than a year, it's had too few members to bring about changes.

Satdu had not been very successful with its recruitment, but it is predicted it could become strong now that it has bared its teeth.

The drivers began the protest on Monday without any warning to the SA Black Taxi Association (Sabta), which they consider to be the owners' association.

Sabta spokesman Lindile Lavisa confirmed this week that Sabta had been unaware of the drivers' plans, but said it had not come as a shock because the drivers had made their grievances known to them and they had passed on these complaints to the Johannesburg City Council several times – but nothing had been done.

Johannesburg Traffic Chief Mike Davis denied that Sabta had passed on the complaints.

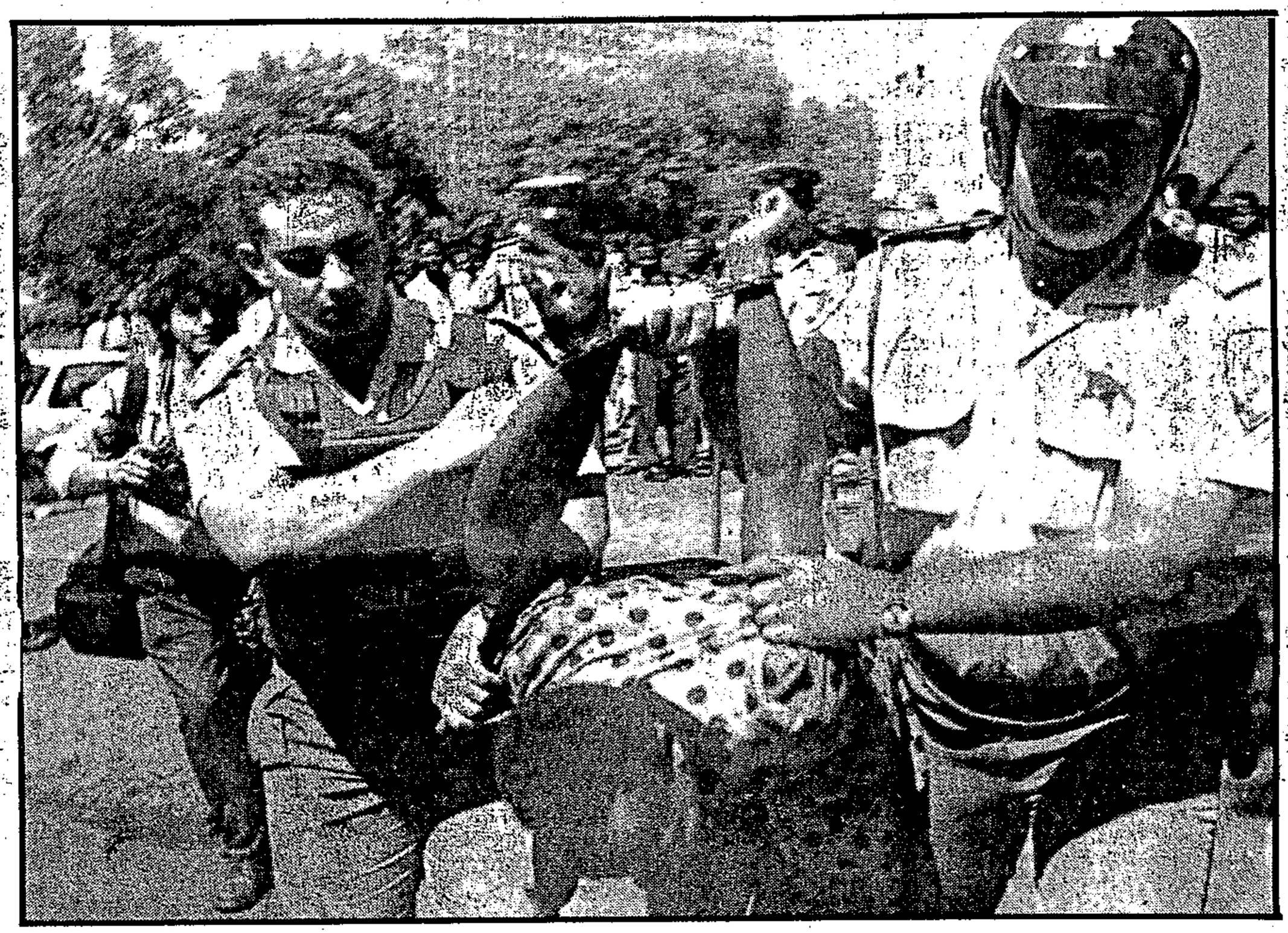
"We have had liaision committees in place for a long, long time," he said, adding that the chaos had been "very well orchestrated" – and that the traffic problems were a minor detail.

"There are serious shortcomings in the drivers versus the taxi owners' situation. The traffic problems we can sort out in two minutes."

He denied a complaint by the drivers that traffic officers stopped them in peak-hour traffic to check on whether they had outstanding traffic tickets and then handcuffed them and took them away, leaving their passengers stranded.

"We do not handcuff people, you must check with the SAP," Davis said.

He denied that his claim, that all the drivers' fines resulting from the strike had been paid anonymously, was a ruse to save face for the traffic department.



HEAVY HAND . . . A riot policeman and traffic cop manhandle a taxi driver. ■ Pic: THULANI SITHOLE

"Come to me and I will show you the receipt. The department has issued a receipt for R11 120."

Davis said he did not know who had paid it.

He agreed that drivers were fined for hooting, but said: "we use our discretion".

Sabta's Lavisa said he believed the protest by the drivers was justified, but did not agree with the strike, although he admitted that the drivers probably did not have any other recourse.

He confirmed reports that a large part of the drivers' frustration was caused by the market being saturated – and that profits were dwindling.

Lavisa said that because of the heavy competition taxis could not increase their fares sufficiently to cover the spiralling costs of fuel, insurance and vehicle maintenance.

He said they also had to compete with buses and trains, which benefited from state subsidies.

When it was pointed out that bus companies and the railways paid taxes, whereas taxis did not always keep books as they dealt in cash, Lavisa said that the subsidy matter had to be resolved – even if the solution was to deprive the other transport sectors of their subsidies to make the competition fair.

Drivers' complaints were that the owners were "fat cats" and made all the profits while drivers had to bear the costs of fines. They also said there were no proper pick up points for their passengers and that they were fined for hooting to attract passengers.

However, Lavisa maintained drivers agreed on the salaries they should be paid.

He said this reasoning by drivers was not a good argument – and could be levelled even at people like Harry Oppenheimer.

C Press 7/2/93

Call for safe Bara access routes

THE Baragwanath Hospital Doctors' Association has urged its members not to to go to the hospital, near Soweto, when there is danger along its access routes. 278 11

Since the start of Johannesburg's taxi violence on Monday, doctors and all other medical staff had been subjected to increasing risks to their lives and damage to their property, said association chairman Dr R Kemper.

The association appealed to all parties to regard Baragwanath Hospital and its access routes as "safe areas" which had to remain violence-free at all times, irrespective of political or economic considerations.

Drivers boil over at 'unfair' fines, bribes

By THEMBA KHUMALO

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How fake permits corruption sparked street chaos

THE TAXI WAR CROOKS



Jilted beauty: I did it for my son



S/Times 7/2/93.

By CHARLENE SMITH

278

A NETWORK of corrupt transport officials selling fake taxi permits fuelled the taxi violence which has rocked the country and culminated in the siege of central Johannesburg this week.

Many taxi owners have paid up to R2 000 for dummy permits issued by local road transportation officials, but find themselves jostling for space at hopelessly overcrowded ranks. So serious has the situation become that the National Peace Secretariat is arranging a special forum to discuss the crisis that led to city blockades and taxi wars in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria and other centres.

The Sunday Times has established that seven top officials of the Local Road Transportation Board in Johannesburg — the biggest in the country — were suspended last month during a huge corruption probe.

One of the officials, Mrs Ronelle van Heerden, subsequently committed suicide.

The Goldstone commission, which has been investigating taxi violence for almost a year, also found evidence that a corrupt permit system is one of the

Drama head loses post over sex harassment

By ROY RUDDEN

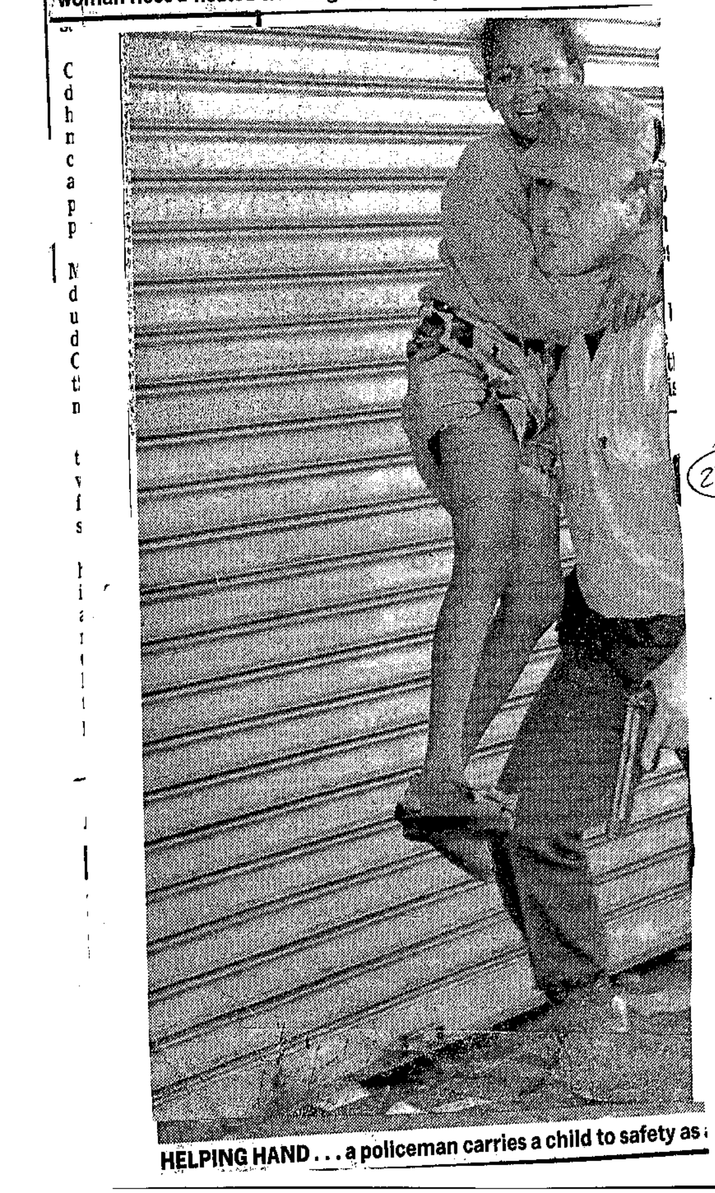


WELL-KNOWN Durban actor and lecturer Patrick Collyer has been sacked as head of the Natal Techni-



woman flees a heated exchange between police and taxi drivers

Picture: BRIAN HENDLER



HELPING HAND . . . a policeman carries a child to safety as

Taxi violence

□ From Page 1

said he did not know details of the corruption scam at the board as he "did not deal with administration".

Mr Long said the precise extent of the corruption was not known, but it could involve "hundreds of thousands of rands".

However, a transport consultant who works closely with the board said the corruption involved millions of rands.

Mr Long said that although the board issued between 15 000 to 20 000 permits (from 30 000 applications) in Johannesburg alone in 1991, it now issues 1 000 to 1 200 a month.

He also denied Goldstone commission and city council complaints that permits were issued regardless of available rank facilities.

Johannesburg city council transport chief Paul Asherson said the council had complained to the Local Road Transportation Board about the "over-issuing of permits and a lack of consultation", but had been ignored.

Yesterday most taxis were back on the roads in and around Johannesburg. Meetings between taxi owners and drivers and city officials to iron out grievances resume in the city tomorrow.

● See Page 25

S. Times 7/2/93 (2'5)

This week taxi blockades cost Johannesburg — and taxi owners — millions of rand in lost revenue. CHARLENE SMITH looks at some of the people and issues behind the conflict

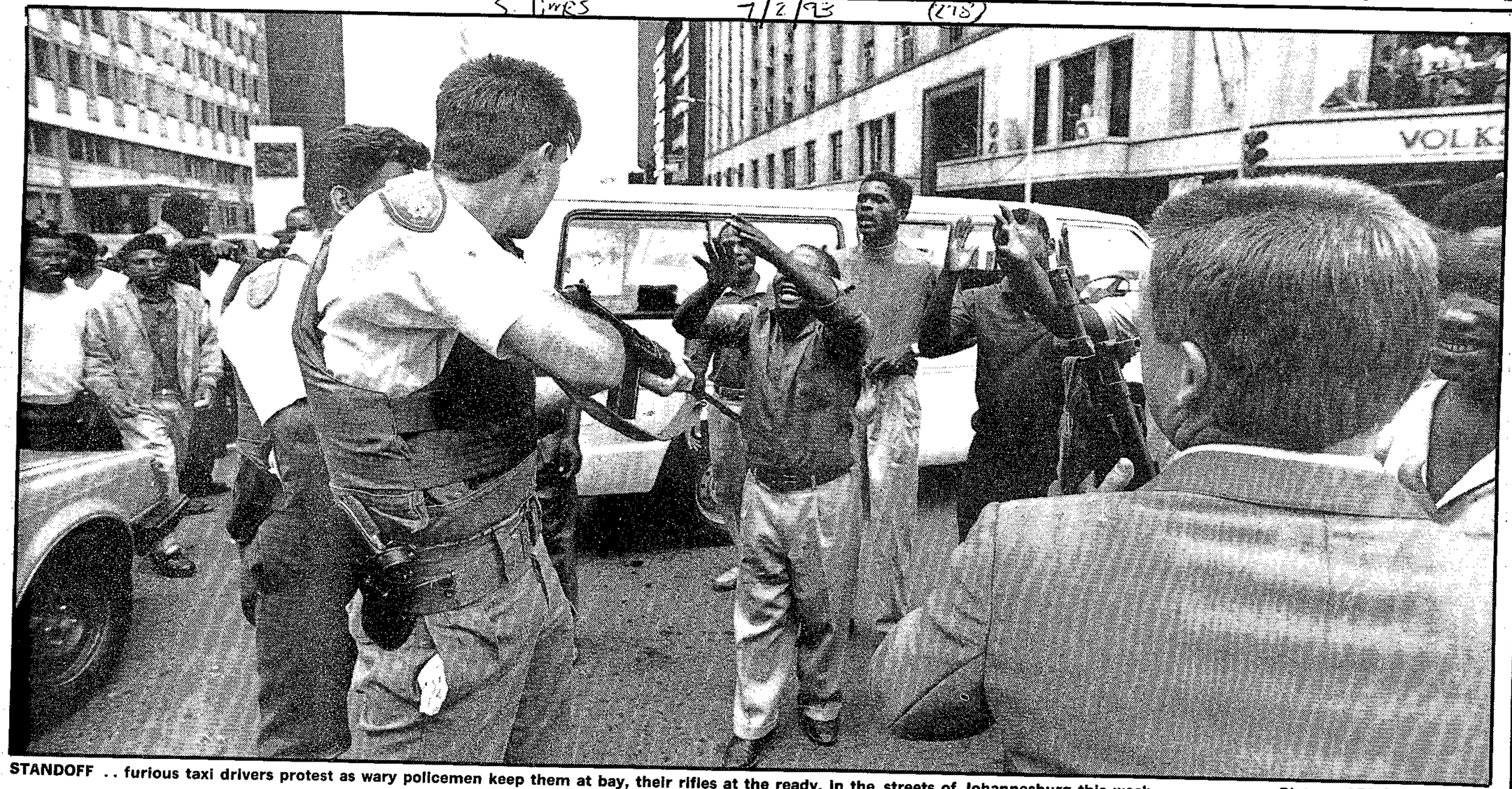
TAXI driver and owner Ansly Brown leans against the wall of a Johannesburg parking garage, his crisp white shirt uncreased. A few metres away a police dog tears at the buttocks of a man on the ground.

White teargas plumes float skywards. It is 2.30pm on a hot Tuesday in downtown Johannesburg. The traffic department situation report notes over the next half hour the arrests of two taxi drivers, the impounding of 59 taxis, five roads blocked by taxis, two shooting incidents in which four people are injured, a sniper shooting at police and roads barricaded with cement refuse drums.

The countdown to the chaos that gripped central Johannesburg this week began the previous Tuesday.

Then, delegates from 17 taxi associations that operate in the city met city council officials to complain about harassment.

The meeting ended unsatisfactorily as far as the taxi associations were concerned



STANDOFF .. furious taxi drivers protest as wary policemen keep them at bay, their rifles at the ready, in the streets of Johannesburg this week

Picture: ARNOLD PRONTO

The day they decided to 'tear apart the town'

ST Times 7/2/93

so on Thursday drivers met at a secret township venue and decided to take action. Over the next few days the word was spread around taxi ranks: "Monday ons hlkeneza die hele tone" (Monday we tear apart the town).

It was no idle threat. They blocked city arterials, forcing other drivers to join in the protest. Similar protest action was repeated the following day, with devastating consequences — four people killed and millions of rands lost in revenue to taxi associations, store keepers and the city.

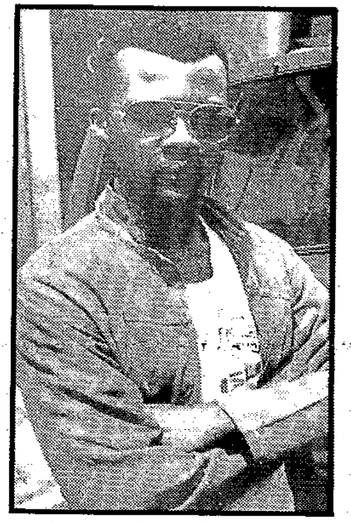
THE taxi protest was not only a rebellion against a road transport system that 10 years after the taxi industry imprinted itself on the nation still does not accommodate the needs of the R4-billion industry or the millions of commuters it conveys.

It was also an explosion of anger against often exploitative owners and associations that pay little heed to the pressures experienced by drivers.

Taxi drivers say that since a Sunday Times article revealed corruption in the Traffic Department late last year and action was taken against 16 officers, they have experienced intense harassment.

Peter Mahlo who, like most taxi drivers, earns R200 a week, showed the Sunday Times tickets for January 25, 26, 29 and 30 for not having a public driving permit. He also showed the permit to the Sunday Times.

"Each time I show the traffic cops the permit. Each time they say I didn't take it out fast enough and fine me R100. These four tickets are two weeks' pay. How can I afford that?"



Taxi owner Ansly Brown made a R150 profit in January

Drivers pay traffic fines out of their own pockets, even if their vehicle's lack of roadworthiness, as an example, may be the fault of the owner.

Declining profits in an overtraded industry have meant drivers need to travel faster and carry more passengers. Competition for routes and rank space has led to bloody taxi wars that in the Cape saw damage amounting to R3-million and numerous lives lost.

Drivers complain that in Johannesburg, on the heavily plied arterials of Sauer Street and Bree Street, up to 10 traffic officers stand on the corner issuing tickets — R100 for hooting, R300 for offloading passengers in the wrong place. The list goes on.

City traffic chief Mike Davis says road users are sick of bad driving by taxis and taxis cannot be exempted from the rules of the road. However, by week's end he had given orders to combat any harassment of drivers.

City council transport head Paul Asherson is not unsympathetic to taxi industry complaints: "White taxpayers don't realise how much the taxis have saved them. Subsidies to Putco and the railways cost R2-billion. Johannesburg buses alone receive a R32-million subsidy. The taxi industry has saved the taxpayer a lot and now they want something in return."

He notes that while Johannesburg buses cost R7,30 a kilometre to operate, taxis cost R1,80 and that if Johannesburg convened a passenger transport authority that included commuter representation, it could train drivers — who would remain independent of the council but subject to certain rules — and they could receive subsidies.

They could move more passengers faster and cheaper than the buses.

It is a project, Mr Asherson says, that Johannesburg hopes to pilot within the next six months.

Mr Asherson said the area around Sauer and Bree streets, which were the focus of the worst disturbances on Monday and Tuesday, will see foundations dug in June for a R174-million development called Metro Mall that will revolutionise taxi travel and consumer shopping in the CBD.

But taxi drivers' problems do not end with the city authorities.

Deregulation has meant permits are issued like confetti. Too many taxis are strangling profits, leading to taxi wars and actions like this week's blockade in Johannesburg.

A spokesman for Toyota notes that commuter fare prices have not kept pace with the costs of buying and operating taxis: "A major reason for the speeding and overloading is the struggle for economic survival."

The Goldstone commission suggested in May last year that "the high rates charged by financial institutions on hire purchase contracts and ever increasing running costs collectively contribute to the need on the part of taxi operators to convey as many passengers as possible ..."

It called on financial institutions to re-examine their policies.

BUT there is little sign of more innovative thinking from financial institutions toward the industry. This is a consequence in part of scant interest from government in accommodating the industry. Present Transport Minister Piet Welgemoed was also the author in 1983 of a controversial government report that recommended outlawing the then burgeoning industry.

But the leaders of many taxi associations must also share part of the blame. Many have become fat cats who drive expensive German vehicles and hobnob with executives from the private sector and municipalities. Many care little about improving the lot of their poorly paid drivers, who battle harassment from traffic officers, commuter anger, vehicle hijackers and other encroachers on their shrinking turf.

Ansly Brown, a driver and owner for nine years and one of the delegates chosen to represent the taxi drivers in negotiations this week, says in January he made R150 profit. Each week he pays his driver R300 and R550 for fuel. "We drive Monday to Monday to try to make money. But brake pads last two weeks and cost R140 for a new set, tyres have to be changed every six months and cost R3 200 a set.

"Every six months we have to take the taxi for a certificate of fitness. If we don't, we are fined R100."

For almost two years, despite rising running costs, commuters on the Eldorado Park route that he services have paid R2 for the 28km trip. If the taxi is full it earns R30 a trip.

The taxi stayaway this week has cost him at least R1 000 in lost fares, plus a R2 500 contract with a supermarket chain. "I told them if I transported their workers the vehicle would be destroyed and people could get injured. They don't pay insurance on my vehicle, but they did not care."

The Alexandra-Midrand-Randburg Taxi Association says it lost R250 000 in drivers' wages and lost fares alone in the first two days of the dispute. "That doesn't include the cost of fines and damage," an official said.

"The terrible thing is that innocent people were caught in the crossfire. There should have been compromises."

The official said Armsta initially had not supported the action, but drivers' demands were legitimate. "They get R300 fines for stopping at bus stops, but there are no other stopping points for taxis."

Mr Brown pulls a sheaf of documents related to the dispute from under his arm: "The trouble is, until we took this action, no one wanted to listen to us. But I am not sure they take taxi drivers and owners seriously as businessmen. What will it take?"

Weary of battle, hostel dwellers pray for peace

By KURT SWART

HOSTEL dwellers took a further step towards peace this weekend when representatives of 25 violence-plagued hostels came together at a prayer service in Johannesburg.

The service at Selby Hostel yesterday morning followed a peace initiative started in November last year by residents weary of the violence emanating from their hostels.

Hostels represented included Jeppe, Dube, Denver, Mzimhlophe, City Deep, Selby, Kelvin, Orlando Power Station, Antea and Van Beck.

A further 15 hostels aligned themselves with a statement of purpose adopted at the November meeting, which was also attended by international observers and officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Johannesburg city council.

"The meeting was a clear signal that the hostel residents were sick and tired of the violence that had dogged their lives and had taken a firm decision to do something about it," said Rev Mvume Dandala, superintendent of the Johannesburg Central Methodist Mission, who chaired the meeting.

"A pledge was undertaken to adopt a programme of preaching peace to all other hostel residents and that other hostels not represented at the meeting would be kept informed of progress being made.

"This is a unique, meaningful and low-key exercise in fostering harmonious relations and could become a valuable blueprint for the rest of the country," said Rev Dandala.

On Friday, chairman of the National Peace Committee John Hall expressed strong support for the hostel dwellers' peace initiative.

He said: "The statement of purpose adopted by the 25 Johannesburg hostels laid down that the initiative had come solely from residents themselves and would remain under their auspices, that tribal and ethnic differences would not be exploited and that peace would be preached to all hostel dwellers.

"I commend this initiative and wish them every success."

Mobs attack taxi 'strike-busters' — 1 dead, 5 hurt

278

ARG 8/2/93

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Three Western Transvaal taxi drivers who ignored a call last week to suspend their services into Johannesburg until today, were attacked by angry mobs who ordered them to support the taxi strike, police said.

The attacks, at the Wonderkop Mines in Marikana, near Rustenberg, on Saturday left one person dead and five injured. A minibus taxi and a car were gutted.

And in Natal, police reported two gun attacks on minibus taxis on Saturday. One passenger was killed and about six were slightly injured.

Western Transvaal police spokesman Captain Ronnie Palmer said 200 people attacked a taxi at the mine's Shaft 2 about 11.30am.

The driver was allegedly hauled out of the taxi and told that people did not want taxis running near the mines. He was robbed of a pistol and R100.

While the passengers were being ordered out of the minibus, another taxi stopped and its driver fired two shots into the crowd.

● Sapa reports that a man was shot dead and another injured in an attack on a minibus at Bramley last night.

ARGUS 12/2/93

Fake taxi permits bedevil crisis talks

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Today's crucial meeting to resolve the bitter Johannesburg taxi dispute will face an added burden after claims that corrupt transport officials are selling fake permits to taxi owners.

A Sunday newspaper reported that the false permits, issued by a network of corrupt officials of the Local Road Transportation Board in Johannesburg, fuelled taxi violence as taxi drivers jostled for space at overcrowded taxi ranks.

Piroshaw Camay of the National Peace Secretariat confirmed yesterday that the allegations would be one of the items on the agenda for today's meeting, to be held at the Johannesburg Traffic Department office in the city centre.

He said the meeting, to work out long-term peace in the crisis-riddled minibus taxi industry, will be first to bring together drivers, traffic police, the SAP, law officers, taxi owners, the Peace Committee, the municipality, unions and political parties.

The meeting follows a range of discussions between various parties last week after angry taxi men had brought Johannesburg and its surrounding townships to a standstill to focus attention on their grievances.

The South African Taxi Drivers' Union (Satdu) on Saturday proposed a four-point plan to resolve the crisis.

Satdu hoped the plan would lead to a "mature and meaningful" relationship among all parties concerned, Satdu spokesman Norman Prince said in a statement to Sapa.

The union proposed that it and the Johannesburg City Council should demarcate specific loading zones or stopping bays in the city centre for use by taxis.

It was hoped that until this was done traffic officials would refrain from issuing tickets to drivers for randomly picking up commuters.

In respect of drivers, Satdu proposed that a forum of drivers, the city council and taxi owners' associations be established to devise an educational programme to guarantee the safety of commuters and road-users.

With regard to taxi owners, Satdu would formalise its labour relations so drivers' rights were protected. All taxi owners would be required to ensure taxis were roadworthy and that their ownership was valid, Mr Prince said.

Satdu was devising a code of conduct to ensure its drivers abided by all traffic rules and regulations.

The union called for the establishment of an ombudsman to protect the interests of the public.

Commenting on claims that corrupt officials sold dummy permits to unsuspecting taxi drivers for as much as R2 000, Paul Asherson, the Johannesburg City Council's transport chairman, yesterday blamed the "reckless granting of licences" on the Local Road Transportation Board.

He said the board should have tried to control the transport industry by not issuing more permits than for what space was available.

He said they had been warning the board for 18 months against issuing too many permits, but the warnings were ignored.

However, Councillor Cecil Long, who has served on the board since 1988, said the metropolitan section of the Johannesburg City Council had compounded the problem by issuing parking permits to drivers, which strengthened their case when they applied for taxi permits.

Explaining the procedure for applying for a taxi permit, he said the board was not entirely to blame as all affected parties had a say.

Mr Long said when a taxi operator came to the board, he was asked questions and had to complete a form, supplying details such as the route proposed.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
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NEWS Petrol bombs found near scene of traditional ceremony

Six killed, 11 hurt in attack on squatters

Sowetan 8/2/93

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■ MOTIVE UNKNOWN Mystery gunmen attack Chris Hani squatter camp in Daveyton:

By Tsale Makam

AT LEAST six people were killed and 11 seriously injured when men armed with automatic guns attacked the Chris Hani squatter camp on the East Rand on Saturday evening.

Police said AK-47 assault rifles were used in the attacks in Daveyton although residents said they also heard isolated shots that could have been from a pistol.

The motive for the attacks is unknown.

Two petrol bombs were found near one of the shacks. The attackers had apparently tried to set the shack alight but the bomb did not ignite.

Five of the dead people were killed at about midnight in a shack in which a traditional cleansing ceremony was being conducted.

Police yesterday said the names of the deceased could not yet be released.

One of the dead was however identified as Mr John Malapela (35), whose body was still lying in the shack at noon yesterday.

The other four people have been identified as: Mr Samuel Ngube, Ms Esther Dlomo, Mr Jonas Skhosana and Mr Johannes Botha.

Malapela's widow, Miss Sinah Rakgwatle, tearfully told *Sowetan* that the attackers struck at about 11.30pm on Saturday.

"My husband said he had been shot in the thigh. I tried to stop him from going out but he opened the door to investigate and met up with a volley of shots."

After the gunmen had left she ran to her sister, Miss Sophie Rakgwatle, whose shack was also hit.

She also confirmed hearing automatic rifle fire at about the same time.

Sophie said: "I heard continuous fire and isolated shots and saw bright sparks that seemed like lightning."

They then woke neighbours and ran out to call an ambulance. They saw a group of suspicious-looking men and ran back.

A man who refused to be named said he was at the cleansing ceremony when the attackers struck.

"Before we knew what was happening there were shots from all around us. People were bleeding and five died from gun shot wounds."

Other eyewitnesses said more people would have been killed by the rampaging gunmen had the police not arrived when they did.

A delegation from the ANC yesterday visited the squatter area and held a meeting with the residents to discuss the attack.

Angry residents expressed anger and dissatisfaction at the local self-protection unit known as "amabutho" and said the area had become unsafe.

Six people killed in Dayeyton unrest

B/Day 8/2/93. 278

RAY HARTLEY

SIX people were shot dead in several incidents at Chris Hani squatter camp in Daveyton after midnight on Saturday, bringing to 12 the number of people killed in Reef unrest at the weekend, police and ANC spokesmen said.

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the ANC had decided to convene an inquiry into killings in Daveyton this year after ANC PWV chairman Tokyo Sexwale's visit to the site of this weekend's killings.

Mamoepa said residents were dissatisfied with youths who were patrolling the township at night, but it was impossible to say who was responsible for the killings.

Police spokesman Lt Wikus Webber said the gunmen attacked squatter camp residents between midnight on Saturday and 5am on Sunday morning, Sapa reports.

Webber said the motive for the killings was not yet known, but police believed the same attackers were involved in all the incidents.

Another six people were killed in incidents around the country from Friday.

Two people were shot dead in Edendale near Maritzburg. In another incident, a Maritzburg prison warder was shot dead when he chased attackers near his Imbali home. A man died after he was shot at Belhar near Cape Town.

Star 8/2/93

Six killed in AK-47 attack on (278) squatters

By Julienne du Toit

At least six people were slaughtered on Saturday night at the Chris Hani squatter camp in the East Rand township of Daveyton in an apparently motiveless attack.

Eleven people were injured, some of them critically. They were taken to the Boksburg-Benoni Hospital.

Police confirmed the attack and the number of dead and injured, adding it was believed the attackers had driven around in a Valiant car.

Witwatersrand police liaison officer Lieutenant Wikus Weber said the SAP could not pinpoint a motive for the killings. No arrests had been made.

Police were yesterday conducting a thorough inspection of the area, cordoning off houses and searching areas of littered ground.

PWV regional leaders rushed to the scene yesterday to investigate the attack, but concluded that there was no political motive.

ANC PWV chairman Tokyo Sexwale said he and other officials — including Mundli Gungubule, Ronnie Mamoepa and Obed Bapela — had visited the scene "as part of being responsible leaders, not because this is a political business".

He told a crowd of about 200 that the killings did not seem to be political.

"This is the work of tsotsis," he said.

None of those killed was a member of any political group, he told The Star.

The first people to die on Saturday were attending a ceremony at which about 20 people had gathered to honour ancestors.

Another two people were killed in apparently random shooting at shacks farther away. One of the men [illegible] to have originally be[illegible] family gathering. [illegible] Michael Sitholen [illegible] was present at the gathe[illegible] said

● To Page 3

Star 8/2/93 (278)

Squatter camp slaughter

● From Page 1

that between 11 pm and midnight on Saturday nine gunmen armed with AK-47s opened fire on people in shack 4346.

The killers then disappeared, only to reappear a few minutes later. They told the astonished victims in Xhosa that they would contact ambulances, then vanished. They did not get any ambulances, added Sithole.

The inhabitants of shack 4346 were in shock yesterday. Josephina Mtshali, whose brother, cousin and two friends were killed, said she knew of no motive for the killing.

Police were unwilling to give the names of those who had died. The ANC, however, released five of the names yesterday. They are: Samuel Ngube, Esther Dlomo, Jonas Skosana, Johannes Botha and John Malapela. The ANC alleged that an eight-year-old girl had also been killed, but this could not be confirmed.

Sexwale asked camp residents to bring any information on the attack to the ANC offices.

The ANC representative in the township, Sithembiso Myaluza, said there had been indications of disputes in the area recently — a shack had been burnt down, and one or two people had been killed in isolated incidents.

It seemed ANC members had been targeted, and that there were certain elements of ethnicity in the attacks, he said.

A Peace Action spokesman said there was no active dispute resolution committee in the area, but field monitors would be sent into the camp today to assess the situation.

Six killed in minibus violence

Six people were killed and several others injured in weekend taxi violence.

—A 17-year-old passenger, Kalo Nkabinde (17), was killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on a minibus taxi with pistols and AK-47 rifles on the corner of Corlett Drive and Louis Botha Avenue in Bramley, Johannesburg last night, police said.

Police spokesman Warrant-Officer Andy Pieke said the gunmen drove a grey Ford bakkie.

He said it appeared that the attack on the taxi, which was driven by an Alexandra Taxi Association (ATA) member, was in response to earlier attacks on Alexandra/Randburg/Midrand/Sandton Taxi Association (Armsta) members; the two associations have been at war in the townships.

He said an Armsta driver was killed and a passenger was seriously injured on Friday night when snipers fired at his taxi on the Old Pretoria Road.

Earlier yesterday, men armed with AK-47s attacked the Armsta offices in Wynberg, killing a driver and a passenger, said Pieke.

● A 19-year-old man was seriously injured in a dispute with a taxi driver on the De Deur-Vereeniging road last night.

SAP spokesman Major Piet van Deventer said Desmond Budcher, his son Cecil (19) and a friend, George Nel (26), were forced off the road by a taxi which overtook them recklessly.

Budcher, sen, stopped the taxi further up the road and a confrontation ensued.

Fired

Shots were fired and Budcher, jun, was hit in the head. He underwent emergency surgery last night and a bullet was removed from his head.

● Three western Transvaal taxi drivers who ignored a call last week to suspend their services were attacked by mobs at the weekend.

In one of the incidents, western Transvaal police spokesman Captain Ronnie Palmer said 200 people attacked a taxi at the mine's Shaft 2 at about 11.30 am.

The driver was hauled out of the taxi and told that people did not want taxis running near the mines. He was robbed of a pistol and R100.

Another taxi stopped and its driver fired at the crowd. The first driver recovered his firearm and also opened fire.

One person was killed and three others were injured.

Palmer said murder and attempted murder charges were being investigated.

At about 1 pm, at the same shaft, about 300 people attacked another driver, Peter Matebana, and set his taxi alight.

At 9 pm, a crowd attacked another taxi.

Palmer said the crowd set another car alight with two people inside. Elaja Roljo and David Ncgwena were in a serious but stable condition at the Rand Mutual Hospital in Johannesburg yesterday.

● And in Natal, police reported two gun attacks on minibus taxis on Saturday. One passenger was killed. — Crime Reporter, Sapa.

Top-level talks seek end to crisis

Star 8/2/93

Taximen's four-point peace plan

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Staff Reporters

The week-long Reef taxi dispute comes to a head today when representatives of the city council, Cosatu, police, the ANC and the minibus taxi industry meet to thrash out a solution.

Piroshaw Camay of the National Peace Secretariat said the agenda would include weekend reports that corrupt Local Road Transportation Board officials selling fake permits to taxi owners have swelled the number of vehicles fighting for space at overcrowded city taxi ranks.

The meeting at the city's traffic department offices, follows a range of discussions between various parties last week after angry taximen had brought Johannesburg and some surrounding townships to a virtual standstill to focus attention on their grievances.

Early this morning it was still unclear whether taxi drivers would resume full services today, but some drivers from breakaway organisations took to the roads at the weekend despite a decision on Thursday to continue the strike until after today's meeting.

The South African Taxi Drivers' Union (Satdu) has approached the crisis by proposing a four-point plan aimed at leading to a "mature and meaningful" relationship among all parties concerned, Satdu spokesman Norman Prince said in a statement to Sapa.

The union proposed:

● The union and the city council demarcate specific loading zones or stopping bays in the city centre.

Education

It was hoped that, until this was done, traffic officials would refrain from ticketing drivers for randomly picking up commuters.

● A forum of drivers, the city council and taxi owners' associations be established to devise an educational programme to guarantee the safety of commuters and road users.

● Regarding taxi owners, Satdu said it would formalise its labour relations so that the rights of drivers were protected.

● All taxi owners would be required to ensure taxis were roadworthy and that their ownership was valid.

Ahead of today's top-level meeting, the council has detailed ongoing multimillion-rand plans to improve taxi facilities in the central business district.

The Metropolitan Planning Department said private sector funds would be poured into schemes organised by the council to upgrade taxi amenities.

The improved facilities included new stopping zones which could be in place within months in Reserve Road, Noord, Fraser, Loveday, Banket and Commissioner streets.

Also in the pipeline is the completion of the Pat Mbatha public transport thoroughfare restricted to buses and taxis from Soweto to the corner of Bree and Sauer streets.

Councillor Cecil Long, who has served on the Road Transportation Board since 1988, said six employees had been suspended in connection with the fake permits scam, and the matter had been referred to the police.

Talks today may end taxi crisis

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Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Tense taxi commuters will only find out this morning whether or not a week-long minibus boycott had been called off, following confusion among drivers over the weekend as some resumed normal services. CT 8/2/93

The SA Taxi Drivers' Union said it would decide today, after a critical meeting with the Johannesburg city council, traffic department, police, and ANC and Cosatu officials, whether or not to call off the protest that has crippled city centre businesses.

But a breakaway section of the drivers, supported by the SA Black Taxi Association (Sabta), resumed operations at the weekend in defiance of the union decision made on Thursday.

Council management committee transport chairman Mr Paul Asherson yesterday estimated that the protest may have cost the taxi industry as much as R10 million in lost revenues in the Johannesburg area.

Mr Asherson called for a halt to the issuing of taxi permits following weekend revelations that Johannesburg Road Transportation Board officials had been suspended following a corruption probe into the issuing of the permits.

The union at the weekend proposed a joint taxi driver, owner and city council association forum.

It also proposed an ombudsman to protect the interests of the general public.

Death toll 12 in Reef unrest

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Six people were shot dead at Chris Hani squatter camp in Daveyton after midnight on Saturday, bringing to 12 the number of people killed in Reef unrest at the weekend, police and ANC spokesmen said.

ANC PWV spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said the ANC had decided to convene an inquiry into the Daveyton killings.

Mr Mamoepa said residents were dissatisfied with youths who patrolled the township at night, but it was impossible to say who was responsible for the killings.

A police spokesman said the gunmen attacked squatters between midnight on Saturday and 5am yesterday, Sapa reports.

He said the motive for the killings was not yet known, but police believed the same attackers were involved in all the incidents.

(2-78)

Peace group reached aim

8/12/93

JOHANNESBURG. — A significant degree of co-operation had been achieved by the Vaal Local Peace Committee in the volatile Vaal Triangle, in spite of often divergent viewpoints, the committee said this weekend.

The committee, a structure of the National Peace Secretariat, said its progress would be reviewed at a workshop later this week, where organisations would recommit themselves to the peace accord and formulate plans for 1993.

— Sapa

News in brief

Sowetan 9/2/93

UN observer is attacked

A UN observer, Mr Jim Anderson, was attacked in Alexandra at the weekend and stabbed in the arm.

Police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said yesterday that Anderson was pulled out of his car by a group of men at the corner of 13th Avenue and London Street at about 2pm on Saturday. His assailants sped off in his vehicle after stabbing him. The car was later recovered by police.

Reef taxi dispute resolved after talks

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ARG 9/2/93

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The taxi revolt is over after three days of bloody violence which virtually crippled Johannesburg by leaving thousands of commuters stranded last week.

But the breakthrough was marred by an attack on the Soweto offices of the South African Black Taxi Association (Sabta) yesterday, in which two officials were seriously injured.

Taxi drivers agreed to go back to work after a lengthy and sometimes heated meeting with traffic officials and political organisations yesterday.

A permanent multiparty forum was established to discuss all matters affecting traffic and taxi issues.

All parties agreed to settle their differences and agreed that the maintainence of law and order and consultation were paramount.

Mr Piroshaw Camay, chairman of the Johannesburg Local Dispute Resolution Committee (LDRC), who chaired yesterday's meeting, said a preliminary meeting would be held next week to decide on the paramaters of the forum.

Spokesmen for Cosatu and the ANC's PWV region said they were relieved the crisis had been resolved.

Johannesburg Traffic Department spokesman John van der Westhuizen said the department had decided not to issue a statement after the meeting, but Traffic Chief Mike Davis was reported as saying he was pleased with the outcome.

Mr Davis said the traffic department realised it had to communicate with the drivers and taxi industry, which it now realised was a major force.

An agreement of intent was signed by, among others, the South African Taxi Drivers Union (Satdu), Sabta, other taxi unions, Cosatu, the ANC, SAP, SACP, Azapo, PAC, IFP and traffic officials.

A source at yesterday's negotiations said the meeting came close to exploding over the issue of vehicles which had been impounded and not yet released because police suspected they had been stolen.

According to the source, 12 vehicles were still being held and the police told the meeting they would be released when the owners produced documents to show they were legally owned.

"The drivers are now facing pressure from the owners who say the police would never have suspected the vehicles were stolen if they (the drivers) had not used them to blockade the streets," he said.

He said the issue had still not been solved by the end of the meeting, and would be discussed in the new forum.

Star
9/2/93

Weapons found in hostel

Staff Reporter

Soweto police and members of the Defence Force yesterday raided the Dube hostel and seized a large cache of weapons and ammunition.

Police believe the raid may have averted "a bloodbath".

Four hostel dwellers were arrested and 15 AK-47 rifles, three Makarov pistols, two 9mm pistols and "a large amount of ammunition" were confiscated.

A "substantial" amount of money and dagga was also recovered, police said.

Soweto police spokesman Colonel Tienie Halgryn said security forces raided the hostel after a tip-off.

He said it was clear that some elements are planning to end the relative peace.

Halgryn appealed to anyone who may have prior knowledge of any planned violence to call the toll-free Crime Stop number 0800-111213.

Star 9/2/93

(2x8)

Attack mars taxi settlement

By Bronwyn Wilkinson

Johannesburg's taxi revolt, which erupted into three days of violence and virtually crippled the city by leaving thousands of commuters stranded last week, is over.

But the breakthrough was marred by an attack on the Soweto offices of the SA Black Taxi Association (Sabta) yesterday, in which two Sabta officials were seriously injured.

Taxi drivers agreed to go back to work immediately after meeting with traffic officials and political organisations yesterday.

A permanent multiparty forum was established for drivers, taxi owners, local authorities and other parties to discuss all matters affecting traffic and taxi issues.

All the parties agreed to settle their differences and agreed that the maintainence of traffic law and order and consultation were of paramount importance.

Piroshaw Camay, chairman of the Johannesburg Local Dispute Resolution Committee (LDRC), who chaired yesterday's meeting, said a preliminary meeting would be held next Wednesday to decide on the paramaters of the forum.

The main forum would be convened by the LDRC and another smaller forum would also be established to represent taxi drivers and owners.

Spokesmen for Cosatu and the ANC's PWV region said they were relieved that the taxi crisis had been resolved amicably.

Johannesburg Traffic Department spokesman John van der Westhuizen said the department had decided not to issue a statement after the meeting, but Traffic Chief Mike Davis was reported as saying he was pleased with the outcome.

Davis said the Traffic Department had realised it had to communicate with the drivers and taxi industry, which it now realised was a major force.

An agreement of intent was signed by — among others — the South African Taxi Drivers' Union (Sadtu), Sabta, other taxi unions, Cosatu, the ANC, SAP, SACP, Azapo, PAC, IFP and traffic officials.

But violence continued to plague the taxi industry when two Sabta officials were seriously injured in a gun attack on Sabta's offices in Merafe, Soweto, yesterday.

Sabta Soweto chairman Raymond Nchunu and Sabta's Soweto secretary, Alfred Madlala, were admitted to the Baragwanath Hospital.

Although Sabta took part in the talks to defuse the crisis, it distanced itself from the taxi drivers' strike and street blockades last week.

Police said yesterday a passenger was beaten to death during a fight inside a taxi in Parkview, Johannesburg, on Saturday. Police said George Masalesa of Parkview died in the Johannesburg Hospital after being beaten by another passenger in the minibus.

On Sunday night a 17-year-old passenger was killed when gunmen opened fire on a minibus in Corlett Drive, Bramley.

Attacks on minibuses on the Reef, western Transvaal and Natal at the weekend claimed at least four lives. Police believe the attacks were all related to the taxi dispute.

Paul Asherson, chairman of the Johannesburg City Council's transportation and utilities committee, said there had been little acrimony during the talks yesterday.

Commenting on allegations that the Local Road Transportation Board had compounded the taxi crisis by issuing illegal taxi permits, Asherson said the board had nothing to do with the city council, but was part of the Department of Transport in Pretoria.

The Department of Transport was not available for comment last night.

Other matters that were finalised in yesterday's agreement included:

- Traffic officers will help with the on and off-loading of passengers from taxis during peak hours in areas where no facilities exist.
- Traffic officers will not stop taxis during peak hours for documentation checks.
- Minibus taxis will be allowed to use the Booysens bus lane between Soweto and Johannesburg.
- The City Council will not tolerate victimisation of drivers or racist behaviour on the part of traffic officers.
- Traffic officials will stop only one minibus at a time.
- The council will investigate every avenue to improve communication with the industry.
- A 24-hour hotline has been opened where complaints and any incidents can be reported. The number is (011) 490-1530.

Sabta officials attacked

JOHANNESBURG. — Two South African Black Taxi Association (Sabta) officials were seriously wounded in an attack on the organisation's Soweto office yesterday afternoon.

Local chairman Mr Raymond Nchunu and secretary Mr Alfred Madlala were in a serious condition in Baragwanath Hospital.

The attack came as concerned parties met yesterday in an attempt to defuse the taxi crisis on the Reef.

In an agreement reached at the talks, traffic officials in Johannesburg will in future assist taxi drivers in loading and off-loading passengers where no facilities exist and will not stop minibus taxis during peak hours for documentation checks.

ET 9/2/93

● The Johannesburg City Council was not involved in the alleged indiscriminate and illegal issuing of taxi permits, councillor Mr Paul Asherson said yesterday. — Sapa

DP blames Govt

THE Government must act immediately to clean up bribery and corruption in road transportation boards which issued taxi permits, Democratic Party spokesman on transport Mr Wessel Nel said yesterday.

"The appalling shortcomings of Government are an important contribution to the taxi violence and it must accept its share of the blame."

Claims against attorneys on the increase, conference told

B/Day 10/2/93.

CAPE TOWN — There had been a substantial increase in the number of claims lodged against attorneys in recent years, Small Claims Court commissioner Des Williams told the International Bar Association regional conference yesterday.

Claims under the Attorneys' Fidelity Fund Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme had increased from about 200 in 1987 to about 450 in 1991, he said.

Considering there were only about 8 000 attorneys in SA, this meant the annual number of claims represented more than 5% of the total number of attorneys.

The increase was part of a worldwide trend; attorneys were handling more work and were expanding into new areas of practice which carried greater risk and exposure to claims; and clients were becoming more demanding and more aware of their rights.

About 47% of claims in 1991 related to claims under the Motor Vehicle Accidents Act, 20% were conveyancing-related, 15% related to general commercial matters and 15% to general litigation matters.

SA attorneys had automatic cover under the fidelity fund scheme, and the limits of indemnity under the scheme had been increased considerably in recent years. But many legal practices needed substantial

LINDA ENSOR

top-up cover, and some were obtaining cover of up to R1m of each claim.

"A further reason for obtaining additional cover is that the scheme no longer grants indemnity in respect of the provision of investment advice. Separate cover must therefore be arranged in respect of the provision of investment advice."

Williams urged law firms to institute malpractice exposure audits, as the adoption of risk management would "almost certainly lead to a major shake-up and revision of management, administration and professional procedures".

Prof Werner Ebke of the University of Konstanz School of Law in Dallas, Texas, said several common-law courts abroad were anxious to limit auditors' liability for negligence affecting people with whom they had no contract.

Deneys Reitz partner Michael Hart said that while SA auditors had had reasonably good claims experience until the end of the '80s, and underwriters had been willing to provide professional indemnity insurance for this market, there had been an appreciable increase in the number and size of claims brought against local auditors during the past five years.

in an effort to increase the chances of prosecuting perpetrators of violence in the region.

B/Day 10/2

LHR director Brian Currin said the programme would counter the "top down" flow of authority in regional and national peace accord structures by "creating a culture of trust at grassroots level".

ANC PWV peace section co-ordinator Robert McBride said the training programme would increase the awareness among observers of the potential role their evidence could play in securing the conviction of perpetrators of violence.

Currin said the programme could also help to build trust between the police and communities that were often reluctant to give evidence to the authorities.

ANC PWV official Obed Bapela said the monitors would also be expected to "sift out bad elements in our organisation" in the course of their duties.

The programme would start on Saturday with a workshop on the causes and effects of violence, an LHR official said.

High-tech anti-violence train put through test

B/DAY 10/2/93.

A COMMUTER train equipped with high-tech security devices worth R1,4m was tested by the SA Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC) yesterday after a delay while video monitoring equipment was improved.

The train, which has new violence-proof windows and doors, a video monitoring system, a public address system and radio communication between drivers and guards, was put through a two-hour test on the

RAY HARTLEY

Braamfontein-Krugersdorp line.

SARCC development engineer Brian Carver said the train had proved ready for service and would carry its first passengers between Johannesburg and Soweto by the weekend.

SARCC security GM Francois van Eden said the new train would cut down on the time it took to arrest those involved in violence as guards would react immediately to incidents shown on closed circut television.

Carver said the new video system, which consisted of 56 concealed video cameras on a 14-coach train and a monitoring booth, would cost R500 000 a train. (278)

A further five trains would be equipped with the video system, which would then be evaluated thoroughly before a decision was made on whether or not to install the system on all trains, he said.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Precedence given to interpellations on general affairs on Wednesdays pursuant to the resolution adopted by the House on Friday, 29 January 1993.

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

General Affairs:

278

ANC march in Nylstroom : costs

1. Mr D S PIENAAR asked the Minister of Law and Order:*

   Whether the South African Police incurred any direct and/or indirect costs in connection with an ANC march which took place in Nylstroom on or about 21 November 1992; if so, (a) what were the total costs and (b) why were these costs incurred?

B76E.INT

*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER: Mr Speaker, on behalf of the hon the Minister of Law and Order the reply to the first part is yes, R56 721,24, and to the second part to enforce law and order.

According to all indications the protest march would have proceeded in an orderly fashion but threats from right-wing ranks to prevent the protest march gave rise to tension. The nature and extent of the threats created and extremely tense atmosphere and the hon the Minister of Law and Order was obliged to declare the magisterial districts concerned as unrest areas. To prevent violence and bloodshed, the police had to mobilise 600 men. It is regretted that political intolerance resulted in such a tasteless situation and that valuable time and manpower had to be wasted in this way. [Interjections.]

The SA Police Force has the responsibility to see to the safety of its citizens. The fact that mass protest marches are a cultural shock to many still does not give any organisation the right to forbid such marches of their own accord.

The local magistrate granted permission to hold a protest march during which a note of protest would be handed over to the station commander at Nylstroom. The conditions for the protest march, as determined by the town council and the magistrate and on which agreement was reached on 16 November during a meeting with the ANC's youth league, included *inter alia* that at 12:30 the march would move from a railway line outside Nylstroom along Hertzog Street in Nylstroom and return by the same route. Only residents of Phagameng were permitted to take part in this protest march and about 500 marchers had permission for this.

In its recently published proposals on a bill of fundamental rights, the Government suggests in article 10 that every person has the right to assemble peaceably and unarmed with others, to protest and to draw up and submit petitions. To have the freedom to gather peaceably and unarmed is a basic principle of democracy. Violent demonstrations and gatherings are not protected by this bill.

As a result of threats coming from the AWB among others, these 600 policemen had to be mobilised for this specific operation. [Time expired]

*Dr W J SNYMAN: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I should like to know how many policemen, vehicles, armoured vehicles and helicopters were involved in this operation.

I want to say today that, if ever there was an occasion during which the Government blatantly permitted the revolutionary forces of the ANC-Cosatu-SACP alliance to provoke, insult and belittle the inhabitants of a Northern Transvaal town, the main town of the hon the leader of the CP's constituency and the heartbeat of the Afrikaner, within their own residential area, it happened on 21 November at Nylstroom when 600 residents of the Black town Phagameng under overwhelming police protection, as the hon the Deputy Minister himself said, and apparently under the leadership of the UNO observers with their blue uniforms and Dr Antonie Geldenhuys of the Peace Secretariat, which definitely formed part of that march, toy-toyed triumphantly through the streets of the town. The inhabitants of this town were offended by cries of "Viva ANC", "Viva SACP" and"Viva Comrade Joe Slovo", expressly in conflict with the conditions that were drawn up for the protest march.

I want to tell the hon the Deputy Minister today that they made the terrorists, the communists, international observers and the hostile media very happy. In fact, the hon the Deputy Minister

and the police force were subsequently patted approvingly on the back by the media and the observers at a social function. At the same time, however, they unleashed enormous resentment and repugnance among their own people which will never disappear.

When I speak about that hon member's own people, I am not only referring to compatriots who live in that town. Does the hon the Deputy Minister of Law and Order regard them as rubbish too like the Deputy Minister of Defence? [Interjections.] I am talking of that hon Deputy Minister's own policemen who personally expressed their resentment to me because they stood in the hot sun for hours and incurred the ire of hundreds of farmers by turning them back at the roadblocks and preventing them from visiting their own town, and this for the sake of a few hundred residents of Phagameng who were incited and misused for their revolutionary objectives by the enemies of our people.

It did not pass unnoticed that the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition personally went to acquaint himself with what had happened in his constituency. His movements were monitored by members of a task force who passed on situation reports in this regard on a regular basis to the operations room. Those hon members need not spy on him. [Interjections.] It is simply reprehensible. They should know that they will always find him with his people where he is seeing to their interests and his people . . . [Time expired.]

*Mr P H P GASTROW: Mr Speaker, I do not know why the hon member for Pietersburg becomes so excited about the demonstration. The representatives of the White population of Nylstroom, the town council, approved this protest march by a good majority. [Interjections.] The march took place and it was necessary for the police to erect roadblocks round Nylstroom in order to turn back armed AWB members. They were on their way to Nylstroom bearing arms. To me it is understandable that the police declared the area an unrest area.

The reason why that party is so sensitive about this specific incident is that the hon leader of that party went to the police station before the march with a request to make a speech. [Interjections.] They told him this would be illegal because the area had been declared an unrest area. This hon leader insisted on making a speech, but the police refused. He then left there very angrily. [Interjections.] Now the matter is being submitted to Parliament. [Interjections.]

If ever there was a march during which the police conducted themselves in a professional manner, in which the spectators, those who took part and the members of the public clapped hands for them in the public, it was during that march at Nylstroom. It was an example of how a person could deal with a legal demonstration in a professional way. In contrast with the attitude of that party, this is a case for congratulations to the police on the way in which that demonstration was handled. The hon the Leader of the Official Opposition wanted to make a speech illegally but he was forbidden to do so. That is why he is angry.

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Speaker, on a point of order:May the hon member for Pietersburg say that the hon member for Durban Central is telling a lie?

*Mr SPEAKER: Order! Will the hon member withdraw that?

*Dr W J SNYMAN: Yes, Sir, I withdraw it.

*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER: I thank the hon member for Durban Central for his congratulations to the SA Police Force for the way in which they conducted themselves that day. According to all indications and according to the rumours that were circulating in that area, that day would have seen the beginning of the actual Third Liberation War in South Africa.

In reply to the hon member for Pietersburg who asked how many people were involved, I can say that 600 policemen were deployed that day, which in terms of travel and accommodation expenses cost the State R28 000. There were 110 vehicles which jointly travelled 33 000 kilometers and six troop carriers which travelled 1 900 kilometers to ensure control that day. There was also one helicopter which usually does service in that area.

Before that incident occurred, members of the public telephoned me personally to tell me what was being planned for that day. Right-wing reactionaries from the Far Northern Transvaal region wanted to assemble under arms to oppose that protest march. Members of the AWB from Pretoria would take part. There would be a mounted unit and all members would have to carry firearms and batons. [Interjections.] According to further information and arising from people crying on my shoulder, they intended putting the SA Police Force vehicles

out of action by slashing their tyres. Firearms would be used to fire at people. Fire extinguishers and tear gas were a method to them. Spray paint would be used to prevent the police from taking photos of what really occurred there. [Time expired.]

*Mr P J GROENEWALD: Mr Speaker, as early as 1990 an important officer in the SA Police, Maj Gen Herman Stadler, head of the SA Police Public Relations division said:

> Die Regering se verslapping van politieke beperkings het 'n besliste styging in landwye onrus tot gevolg gehad en, waar openbare protesoptogte weer toegelaat is, tot onrusverwante voorvalle gelei.

This statement was vehemently denied by the Government. The realities of last year's mass protest marches forced the Government to other insights, however.

How did the hon the Minister of Law and Order react when two journalists were attacked in Sebokeng last year? He said that the unnecessary attack on two journalists by armed Blacks without provocation was yet another example of the climate of violence created by mass action. He added that the mass action created tension and heated the political temperature unacceptedly, and this in turn created a climate in which violence occurred more readily and can still occur.

The present hon Minister of Local Government goes even further and says that mass action is a political instrument which comes down to economic terrorism. The hon the Minister calls it economic terrorism. Then the hon the Minister says that the ANC-Cosatu-SACP alliance at least owe the country an apology for their irresponsible behaviour.

The NP Government at least owes the country an apology because the Government acts so irresponsibly by permitting this mass action and having permitted it.

What does the hon the State President say? He says the ANC action increases tension and aggravates violence, and can be compared in some circumstances with striking a match next to a tank full of petrol. [Time expired.]

*Dr W J SNYMAN: Mr Speaker, I want to tell the hon member for Durban Central that the allegation that the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition wanted to make a speech is blatantly untrue. I was present there myself.

I want to ask the hon the Minister how long the Government intends continuing to oblige the ANC and its fellow travellers and to help them in the revolutionary takeover of governmental power in this country. Surely these demonstrations are part of their strategy.

In conclusion I want to ask those hon members to put a stop to this on behalf of the voters of the House of Assembly. They must not hide behind lesser authorities like town councils. I want to tell them that, if they do not stop this, as certainly as night follows day conflict will erupt in this matter and then we shall hold those hon members responsible for the misery which will arise from this.

*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER: Mr Speaker, any threat emanating from right-wing ranks must be viewed seriously, and with regard to such threat care must be taken that everything is put into operation to prevent people losing their lives.

We have seen this. We know the history of Ventersdorp. We have also seen how the AWB act at orderly gatherings where people get together to acquire information and to put their problems to the authorities. They intimidate people by walking about heavily armed and in this way creating the impression that they are in control of the situation and can enforce authority through violence.

By cancelling mass action, one inflames the feelings of the protestors. One is not eradicating the evil and one does not actually improve the matter. If one recognises that basic fundamental right, it is of cardinal importance that it be managed. The point at issue is therefore not the permissibility or not of such a demonstration. [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

National Peace Accord: proposals

2. Mr W U NEL asked the Minister of Justice:

   Whether the Government has any proposals to improve the effectiveness of the National Peace Accord and its implementation through the National Peace Accord structures; if so, (a) what are these proposals and (b) what steps will be taken to implement them?

B80E.INT

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Mr Speaker, I shall answer on behalf of the hon the Minister of Justice. cont. . . .

Taxis back in business on the streets of Joburg

CT 10/2/93 (278)

JOHANNESBURG. — The reappearance of hundreds of taxis in the city centre yesterday marked the end of the week-long protest which had resulted in violent clashes between police and drivers.

At a marathon five-hour meeting with Johannesburg traffic officials and the city council on Monday, taxi drivers agreed to return to work after the council made certain concessions.

Buses also were operating as usual.

The South African Taxi Drivers' Union and the Pretoria City Council yesterday agreed on measures to help solve that city's taxi problems.

Among the points of agreement were:

- **Drivers will not be arrested if the documents were false or illegal unless they owned the taxis.**
- **Drivers will report irregular conduct by traffic officials to the department or to the police. — Sapa**



Veronica Peterson, seen examining Paulos Makubane's eyes, was among more than 40 RAU optometry students hauled out of classes yesterday to help about 2 000 people who converged on Braamfontein Station to have their eyes tested on a specially equipped train. Spoornet public relations manager Huibert van Teijlingen said there was chaos at the station as the train was in Braamfontein for repairs, not to test people's eyes. Picture: SUE KRAMER

Govt wants national peace accord beefed up

CAPE TOWN — Government yesterday proposed that the national peace accord be beefed up by allowing more effective sanctions on transgressors.

Deputy Justice Minister Danie Schutte told Parliament government would also like to see the accord strengthened by:

☐ More effective adjudicating procedures;

☐ Involving non-signatory parties at local and regional levels; and

Political Staff

☐ Improved communication between the 6 500 people involved in peace work and changes to peace structures.

Sapa reports a meeting to discuss deficiencies in the accord wold be held soon between its signatories, secretariat chairman John Hall and a delegation of regional dispute resolution committee chairmen.

Monitors warn police of Boipatong tension

RAY HARTLEY

TENSION between Boipatong residents and KwaMadala hostel dwellers was mounting after the killing of a hostel resident last week and a shooting incident at the weekend.

A Peace Action spokesman said police stations in the area had been warned of possible conflict in the area. Two field workers had been sent to monitor the area yesterday.

In its weekly report, the monitoring group said police told them they had been fired on with homemade weapons during a 30-minute shooting incident on Sunday night.

The monitoring group said yesterday it had received reports that "a large number of Inkatha members had been marching through the streets of Boipatong during the night".

Sapa reports that a man was killed and five were injured when about 15 attackers fired shots into a room at the Kagiso Hostel near Krugersdorp yesterday morning.

Police spokesman Maj Henriette Bester said two men had been arrested in connection with the incident, believed to have been a revenge attack following a faction fight on Sunday at Tugela Ferry in Natal.

☐ Sapa reports that 32 people, including two policemen, died in political violence countrywide in the past week, the Human Rights Commission said yesterday.

In its weekly repression report the commission said 16 had died in township violence, 13 in Natal and three in other areas.

The commission expressed concern over continuing attacks on commuters, saying two people had died in such attacks in the past seven days.

It said the latest victims were killed in attacks on a commuter train and minibus taxi in the PWV region and Natal. Their deaths raised to six the number of people killed in attacks on commuters in the past two weeks.

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B/DAY 11/2/93 (278)

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Right-wing threats 'cost R56 000'

CAPE TOWN — Providing police reinforcements after right-wing threats over an ANC march in Nylstroom in November cost R56 000, Law and Order Deputy Minister Gert Myburgh said yesterday.

While permission was granted for 500 people to march, right-wing threats of disruption led to increased tensions, and the Minister was compelled to declare the magisterial district an unrest area.

An extra 600 policemen and 116 trucks were sent to the town.

Police had been informed that armed right-wingers intended to gather from far and wide to slash vehicle tyres and use fire extinguishers, teargas and aerosol paint to stop the SAP from taking photographs.

Peter Gastrow (DP Durban Central) said it was understandable that the area had had to be declared an unrest area.

"If ever there was a time when the police behaved in a professional way, it was then. They were an example of how to handle such a situation." — Sapa.

Court told of killing on train

Star 11/2/93

By Susan Smuts

A Johannesburg train commuter described to the Rand Supreme Court yesterday how a fellow passenger was stabbed and beaten before being thrown out of a train on to the tracks where his body was sliced by the train's wheels.

Trevor Jabulani Ndlovu was giving evidence at the trial of Xolane Mnguni (27), of Soweto, who has pleaded not guilty to murdering Matsosale William Aphane on November 29 last year.

Ndlovu told Mr Justice J H Coetzee he saw Mnguni and another man chasing Aphane through the coach of the Naledi-Cleveland train. When they caught him, one of them said: "Hit him, this dog must die." (278)

Mnguni stabbed Aphane with a sharpened object while the other man hit him with a knobkerrie.

Shortly before the train reached Doornfontein Station, the attackers pushed their victim under the train.

Hostel raid may be revenge

Star 11/2/93

A resident of Kagiso hostel on the West Rand was killed and five others were injured early yesterday in an attack which police believe could be linked to violence in Natal. (278)

West Rand police spokesman Major Henriette Bester said the attack by about 15 gunmen on occupants of a room in the hostel's block 5 could have been in revenge for recent killings during faction fighting in Natal's Tugela Ferry area.

Mfana Manyani was killed at 6 am yesterday, Bester said. The injured men, who are in a stable condition in hospital, are Phinda Cebekulu, Jabulani Cebekulu, Mandla Majola, Loyakhe Mhlungi and Vikeleni Shelombe.

Two men, said by witnesses to be attackers, were found hiding in a field close to the hostel. — Staff Reporter.

Star 11/2/93

Youth killed by police (278) – family

By Charmeela Bhagowat and Bronwyn Wilkinson

A young man who was shot dead in controversial circumstances in Eldorado Park at the height of last week's taxi violence was killed by a 12-bore shotgun, sources close to an investigation into his death revealed yesterday.

Randall Sequera (20) of Eldorado Park was shot in the township last Wednesday in clashes between residents, taxi drivers and police.

Witnesses claimed police shot Sequera at close range, while he and other residents were fleeing for cover from police fire in "Old Eldorado Park". Police denied they killed him.

Police last week said they discovered Sequera's body with gunshot wounds at 8 pm at an undisclosed place in Eldorado Park where an incident had occurred three hours earlier.

This was disputed by witnesses and fire brigade, ambulance and hospital officials.

A witness, John Hudson, said he and other friends drove Sequera, who was alive but bleeding profusely from the mouth and nose, to a fire station.

An ambulance worker said Sequera was picked up from the fire station at 7.30 pm and taken to Baragwanath Hospital.

Soweto police spokesman Colonel Tienie Halgryn said last week that police had used only rubber bullets, birdshot and teargas to disperse protesting residents.

Sources close to the investigation told The Star yesterday that Sequera had apparently been killed by heavier shot, probably from a 12-bore shotgun.

A police source said the SAP often described both 12-bore shotgun pellets and smaller ammunition called "SSG" as "birdshot".

Halgryn said last week police would only comment on Sequera's death after a State post-mortem on Monday. Yesterday he declined to comment on the case, saying the post-mortem report could only be made public by the Attorney–General.

At the request of Sequera's family, independent pathologist Dr Jonathan Gluckman conducted a post-mortem early yesterday but said he could not reveal his findings to the media.

The family's attorney, Magesh Moodliar, said the independent post-mortem was requested because it was suspected police were responsible for the killing.

He said the police version of the story implied Sequera was shot by people involved in the taxi protest.

Sequera's funeral yesterday was attended by about 300 people. Speakers included an Azapo spokesman and a member of the Eldorado Park Taxi Association.

Mayekiso in court on arms charge

THEO RAWANA

UNIONIST and civic leader Moses Mayekiso and three other men appeared in the Johannesburg Regional Court yesterday on charges of illegal possession of Russian-made firearms and ammunition.

Mayekiso is National Union of Metalworkers of SA general secretary and SA National Civics Organisation president. He and Mbulatsane Munyai, 32, and John Phike, 31, all of Alexandra and Wonga Mrubata, 28, of Plein Street, Johannesburg, were arrested in Alexandra on May 19 last year.

The four, who appeared before Magistrate J P Myburg, have pleaded not guilty. No evidence was led yesterday and the case was postponed to May 17.

A warrant of arrest issued by the court on Wednesday was withdrawn after the court found that the State and the defence had agreed they would not appear in court that day.

Bail of R4 000 for Mayekiso and R1 000 each for the other three was reinstated and extended.

Peace committee to boost advertising

URGENT moves to increase the powers of the national peace accord and to market the idea of peace are under way as violence continues to plague Natal and PWV areas.

RAY HARTLEY

The national peace committee executive was expected to discuss new powers to bolster the accord at a meeting today and a source in the peace accord's marketing committee said efforts to market the idea of peace would be stepped up in March.

Peace committee chairman John Hall was unavailable for comment yesterday, but was expected to address the question of new powers for the peace accord after today's meeting.

These developments followed an announcement by Deputy Justice Minister Danie Schutte that attention needed to be given to quicker legal procedures and effective measures to be taken against those violating the accord.

The involvement of parties at local level that had not signed the accord also needed to be explored, Schutte said.

He said government would not act unilaterally in increasing the legal powers of the accord, but would consult all its signatories about the new measures.

He said the national peace committee had been asked in January to look into ways of increasing its powers. Five parties had violated the accord in recent months, he added.

The peace accord is expected to adopt a new logo, which consists of two doves on a pale blue background, by the end of March as part of a campaign with the slogan: "What have you done for peace today?"

The new marketing strategy would aim to "sell the idea of peace" to all South Africans in an effort to break down pessimism and renew hope for a peaceful future, a peace accord source said.

Peace accord structures are also expected to lessen their financial dependence on government when R1,8m in Justice Department funding runs out, the source said.

Money will then be collected from foreign donors and businesses to fund the activities of accord structures.

Hall and peace secreteriat chairman Antonie Gildenhys indicated earlier this year that they supported achieving greater independence for accord structures after criticism of government links by UN observer mission chief Angela King.

These initiatives followed an increase in violence in January this year compared with the same period last year.

An monitoring source said UN and EC monitors had been sent into Boipatong after indications this week of renewed tension between hostel dwellers and residents.

The peace accord's local dispute resolution committee was organising a meeting between Inkatha and ANC leaders and a multiparty workshop was scheduled for this weekend, the source said.

Claims investigator's car burnt as pupils run amok

WILSON ZWANE

PUPILS ran amok in Soweto yesterday morning and attacked two policemen who had entered the township to escort an insurance investigator.

Soweto police spokesman Capt Joseph Ngobeni said in a statement the incident occurred in Zone 5 of Soweto's suburb of Diepkloof.

One of the policemen was in a serious condition in Baragwanath Hospital. The other policeman escaped unhurt.

Ngobeni said the pupils robbed the policemen of their weapons — a shotgun and a 9mm pistol.

A car belonging to Allen Gallon was set alight. A colleague said Gallon, who worked for Domestic and Industrial Loss Adjusters, had gone to Soweto to assess damage to a house on behalf of an insurance company.

The colleague said it appeared the damaged house belonged to a school teacher. Gallon went to a school where the man worked. While there, about 25 pupils attacked the policemen and burnt his car.

Gallon was not harmed. Ngobeni said no arrests had been made.

□ Sapa reports that two men were killed in an attack by a group of unidentified men in Thohoyandou yesterday morning.

Venda police said Tshifhiwa Mulangathuma, 42, was stabbed and died after being admitted to hospital.

Police did not name the second person killed, believed to be a milling company representative.

On the Natal South Coast two people were killed in separate overnight attacks at Umlazi near Durban and at Zingolweni near Port Shepstone.

The body of a man was found with stab wounds at Umlazi's K-Section.

The second man died after an attack by unidentified people armed with AK-47 rifles at Qngolweni.

A Natal police spokesman said no arrests had been made yet.

Star 12/2/93

Row over shack defused

278

Mediators from the National Peace Committee yesterday defused a confrontation between residents of Newclare, Johannesburg, and municipal security officers who had received orders to demolish a shack in a park in Ida Road.

The makeshift tin shelter was built by the community to house 13 families, left homeless when a fire last week destroyed the abandoned house in which they had been living.

Municipal security chief Colonel Phillip du Plessis told the residents he had orders to demolish the shack as it was an illegal structure in a public park.

National Peace Committee mediators Edwin Molahleli and Suzanne Nossel drew Du Plessis and Newclare Residents' Action Committee member Shahem Ismail aside. Du Plessis agreed not to go ahead with the demolition until after the mediators had negotiated with the council.

Johannesburg's director of housing Ian Taitz agreed to postpone the demolition until Monday. — Staff Reporter.

 FM 12/2/93.

Coping with the pressure

278

The taxi dispute was not just about a tough market

Just about everyone, black and white, who had any business in central Johannesburg last week was hopping mad at the minibus drivers' protest. And, because this is SA, a municipal disruption cannot be just that; it was not long before the protest was haunted by images of politically explosive battles between police and hostile crowds.

Selective TV coverage broadcast to other countries recalled the classic images of high apartheid, in the days when all this country's problems were reduced to an elemental battle between bad whites and good blacks, Hitler and the Cosby family.

But things are no longer so simple, though the fear of violence at the taxi confrontations was real enough. Perhaps for the first time, cracks could be seen in what would once have been an automatic black solidarity with demonstrators against authorities. Even if they have real grievances, the taximen are hardly a persecuted group — and the commuters know it.

Many blacks were furious when they were prevented from getting to work, while their children were endangered by being stranded at the roadside and when other modes of transport, like buses, were stoned. An impromptu survey among Sowetans by the *Weekly Mail* found that they were "overwhelmingly critical of the drivers' behaviour." The Southern Africa Black Taxi Association (Sabta), which has an estimated 58% of the black taxi market, criticised the action; it felt the grievances could have been dealt with in another way.

This reaction suggests that the ANC alliance, PAC and others will in future have to choose their causes with more care.

The immediate background to the protest was the drivers' perception that they have been severely harassed by traffic cops. They talked mainly of victimisation and "excessive" fines, which, in turn, are often related to a shortage of taxi-rank and other facilities. But many other road users support special vigilance over these vehicles, which are widely regarded as a menace. They tend to stop suddenly anywhere, cut in dangerously and are often overloaded. There is pressure by owners on drivers to meet targets by speeding and overloading.

The taximen are feeling the squeeze because there are too many permits and too few ranks — but that's tough; a shakeout is perhaps overdue. In Springs on the East Rand, 40% of taxis are standing idle because there are simply no fares. The market will decide whether they can survive.

Last week, in Johannesburg, the pressure produced a dangerous blend of frustration, desperation and recklessness among the drivers. Matters were complicated by the fact that they did not appear to have accessible representatives. On the second day of the protest, the Johannesburg traffic department, having shown remarkable restraint on the first day in the hope of defusing the crisis without police involvement, swung into action — as it had to if order was to be restored.

Some drivers were detained and 204 taxis were impounded — of which 54, said city officials, were found to have been stolen. A mystery benefactor paid the fines to get drivers discharged. This helped the mediation attempts by the ANC, Cosatu and the local dispute resolution committee of the Peace Accord, involving the taxi associations (mainly Sabta), the SA Taxi Drivers Union (Satdu), local transport authorities and the

police.

It is extraordinary, observes Wits University political scientist Tom Lodge, that the casualty rate over the four-day confrontation between police and the drivers was relatively low, with one reported death and about 30 people injured. The police were restrained in the face of what was clearly great provocation: bus and other commuters had been attacked by taxi drivers. The fact that the protest occurred in the city centre and that international observers were present may be part of the explanation.

Clearly, the more restrained policing was also a result of greater sensitivity and experience gained from dealing with thousands of protests and marches since political organisations were unbanned in 1990. Guidelines for handling protests, which were formulated by the Goldstone Commission with international police assistance, seem to have had a beneficial impact.

Yet there is still a lingering illegitimacy about our law & order agencies. Despite the unpopularity of the taximen's action last week, there was no outright condemnation by blacks — any official security force is still seen as hostile. Until SA has a popularly elected government, or at least one of national unity, most blacks will be ambivalent.

It was significant that neither the ANC alliance nor the PAC condemned the protest, even though taxi drivers attacked other black commuters. This is not to detract from the role played by the ANC to facilitate talks in the taxi dispute. Instead, these organisations chose to highlight the drivers' legitimate grievances.

The taxi industry in general and the drivers in particular are, to a large extent, victims of the legacy of apartheid and what passed for a public transport policy, based on the politically inspired subsidy system. Deregulation was cynically embraced by government as a means of coping with the problem.

In recent years, minibus taxis have largely displaced other forms of public transport for blacks. According to a Transport Department study, the minibus taxi industry's share of black commuter transport had increased to 44% in 1990 from 29% three years earlier (see chart).

According to Sabta, which has 60 000 members and is the biggest black taxi association, the industry represents a total investment of R8bn. Sabta members use 800 M*l* of petrol, 3,5 M*l* of engine oil, spend R800m on spares and drive 40bn km/year.

Sabta spokesman Mike Ntlateng says it is difficult to establish how many owner-drivers there are — he knows of one owner with 65 taxis — but most are owner-drivers. Ntlateng denies that the industry is facing collapse — there are "only some belly-aches," chief among them, that "there are too many taxis on the road" and economic conditions mean that it is "a question of survival." There is, he adds, not enough training.

The problems of sustaining the industry were foreseen. Two years ago, for example, Development Bank senior researcher Mike Muller wrote: "The minibus industry is frequently hailed as a free market triumph. It is, of course, more the product of gross interference in the market for labour and land. Only because people have been so widely scattered, without concern for rational transportation provision, has it thrived.

"While there was fat in the economy, that was possible to sustain. Now that the fat is melting away, subsidies are under pressure. So, too, are the settlement patterns they underpinned." Muller concluded that friction over the high price of commuting would encourage more people to live closer to their jobs. Low-income people normally live within a 10 km radius of a city.

One role for the transport industry during the long and difficult process of transition, wrote Muller, would be to help dissipate the heat from the friction. "It will have to pass on to its consumers the unpalatable market message that travelling great distances is expensive — and leave them to make the rational decision."

These messages, he added, would help people make the transition from an apartheid city to an integrated city, from an apartheid economy to an integrated one and be an important element in SA's own structural adjustment.

In an interview with the *FM*, Muller drew attention to a CSIR study of the Pretoria region. It shows that, over 20 years, the transport subsidy for workers in KwaNdebele travelling to work could have provided commuters with housing in Mamelodi. The core of the problem over the taxi wars, he says, is an inefficiently planned apartheid city.

This may explain but cannot excuse the fact that many taxi drivers are not familiar with municipal by-laws — a problem which will now be addressed with the co-operation of the traffic authorities. As it was, an attitude of benign neglect on the part of the authorities seemed to have crept in — even though the city has a transport planning department on which Sabta is represented.

Once again, readiness to enter meaningful negotiation was eventually the key factor in defusing the crisis.

For its part, the SA Taxi Drivers' Union (Satdu) proposed that:

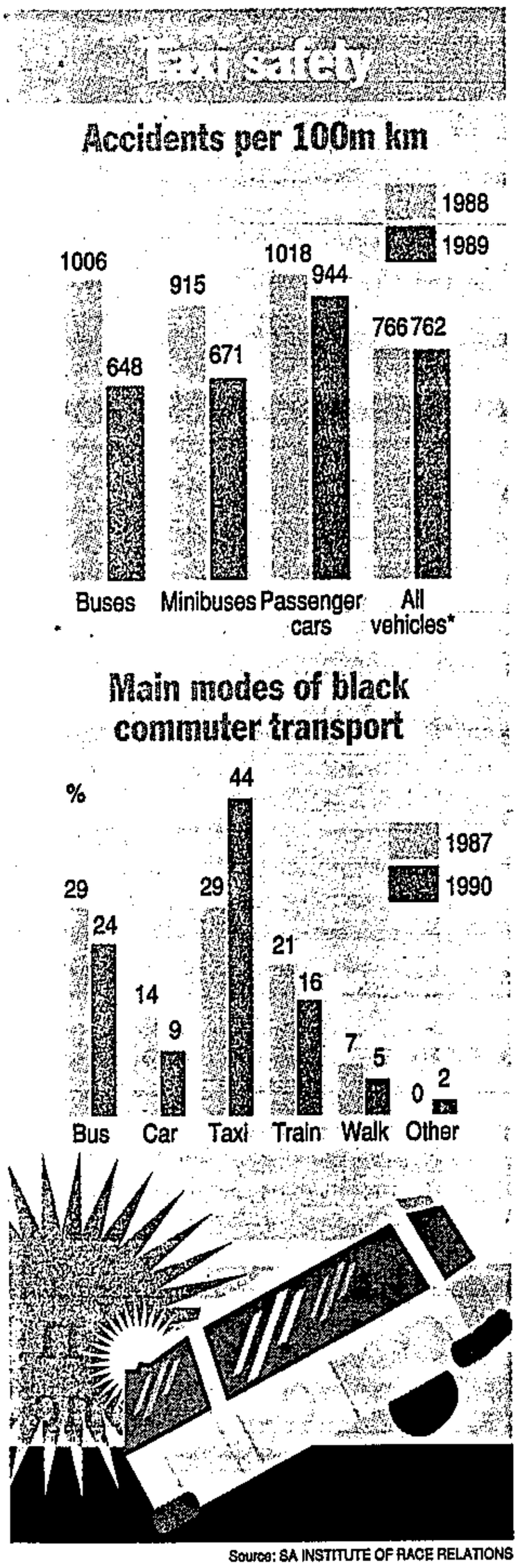
- ☐ Demarcation by the city council of loading bays in the city, until which time there would be a moratorium on ticketing taxis for stopping at random to drop off and pick up passengers;
- ☐ The setting up of a forum of drivers, taxi associations and the city council to devise an educational programme for greater safety;
- ☐ A formal labour relationship between the union and taxi owners; and
- ☐ An obligation on taxi owners to ensure taxi roadworthiness and legality of ownership.

The city council had, in the meantime, made public its plans for upgrading taxi ranking facilities. Traffic chief Mike Davis and the Satdu agreed to work towards a regime of "consultation and a good working relationship."

Also on the agenda was the question of the alleged issuing of false permits by certain officials of the Local Road Transportation Board, which has compounded problems of taxi over-supply. Symptomatic of the fierce competition was the slaying last Thursday of a taxi owner from the Ivory Park squatter camp, just hours after he had won a coveted long-distance contract.

Asked about the worst aspects of taxi-driving, one Sabta official replied: "I am not justifying it, but you must remember when they are on the road they are busy working."

That's all very well, but rules of the road are the kind that simply have to be obeyed if society is to function normally. This kind of moral relativism may be inevitable as long as the civil power does not enjoy full legitimacy — but it is also increasingly being discredited by the commonsense of the masses. ■



Source: SA INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

Star 12/2/93

Insurance man, police attacked

About 1 000 Soweto pupils went on the rampage yesterday morning, attacking an insurance firm employee and assaulting two policemen.

The youths attacked Allen Gallon (50) of the Domestic Industrial Assurance Loss Company in Diepkloof Zone 5.

Gallon escaped injury but his car was gutted.

Assistant Constable M T Dludla and an assistant lance-sergeant, with the surname Ngobeni, were assaulted. They had been escorting Gallon. — Crime Reporter.

FM 12/2/93 (278)

cally-related fatality figures) ... are random." The variations "suggest that the Reef violence is subject to control. It seems to be switched on at key moments."

The joint report says "the scale of the brutality ... is clear evidence that the violence erupts at points when it most weakens the ANC and its allies, and dies down dramatically when it would most harm the government of F W de Klerk."

The joint report uses a bar graph which "illustrates the linkage between violence and unfolding political events." Though only violence on the Reef is dealt with in the report, fatality trends in this violence are linked to national events.

There are a number of problems with the on-off switch theory of violence, however.

If one were to accept that people could be manipulated and misled into murderous actions on a massive scale, on a month-to-month basis, how would one explain the "switch off" part of the theory?

To assume that groups of people could simply be incited to violence at certain times and then just as simply persuaded to be peaceful at other times is to ignore the phenomena of counterattacks, cycles of violence, score-settling and other human factors inherent in the conflict.

This is not the only weakness in the on-off theory, nor is the choice of examples in the report consistent.

The graph uses as one example of the claimed linkage a rise in fatalities at the time of the Pretoria Minute, signed between government and the ANC in August 1990. The ANC/government D F Malan Accord of February 1991 — when there was a *decline* in fatalities — is not mentioned.

Case and the HRC show that Reef fatalities were turned up again — presumably to weaken the ANC — at the time of that organisation's consultative conference in December 1990. The relatively *low* number of fatalities during July 1991 — at the time of the ANC's 48th national conference — is not dealt with. Nor is this conference even mentioned.

The Patriotic Front conference of October 1991, which brought the ANC and 94 other organisations together in alliance against the government, saw a decline in Reef fatalities. This conference is not mentioned either, nor is the first national conference of the ANC Women's League, which was held in April 1991, also a month of declining Reef fatalities.

Thus we are not told why violence should have been turned on for the one conference and off for the others.

The Case/HRC report also tells us that "political campaigns initiated by the ANC, such as the call for a constituent assembly, are met with a massive upsurge of violence." The report's graph, however, shows the constituent assembly campaign as occurring in September 1990, a month of declining fatalities.

Further, the ANC/Cosatu/SACP alliance's national campaign against Vat in November 1991 happened at a time which saw relatively few fatalities on the Reef. This campaign is not mentioned in the report.

Case deputy director David Everatt says the "government-sponsored peace conference in June (1991), boycotted by the liberation movements but attended by Inkatha, saw a major diminution of violence." June 1991 did see a major drop in violence. But the conference was in May 1991 — a month which, according to Case's own figures, had the third highest incidence of fatalities during the period under review.

There is unfortunately no simple answer to the problem of violence; a problem which cannot be dealt with until its complexities are fully analysed and understood. Simplistic "good versus evil" theories do not help us in the quest for peace.

☐ *This analysis was contributed by Paul Pereira, a researcher at the SA Institute of Race Relations; it is an excerpt from an article which appears in the latest edition of* Race Relations News. ■

VIOLENCE FM 12/2/93

Rather more complicated

The long-standing "on-off" theory of violence, which holds that political violence is turned on and off to fit political agendas, has surfaced again. The SA Council of Churches was reported on January 20 as saying that violence in the country "is being switched on and off at will." (278)

The theory has been propagated assiduously by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (Case) and the Human Rights Commission (HRC) in a joint report of March 1992 and an earlier one on Reef violence. The theory purports to explain that the conflict in SA provides us with villains and heroes and pinpoints blame for the carnage that surrounds us.

On closer inspection, however, the theory falls apart.

Case argues that "it is difficult to believe that the sharp monthly variations (in politi- continued

Star 13/2/93

Violence-proof train on track

(278) (~~259~~)

JOE LOUW

THE train violence that plagued commuters in the PWV area last year may well be a thing of past thanks to a new R1,4 million, high-tech security train that made its maiden run between Johannesburg and Soweto yesterday.

Commuters on the first run gave high marks to the rail authorities for launching the new anti-violence train. Students, nurses, shoppers and other passengers were at first nonplussed at the large contingent of press photographers, journalists, officials, police and even United Nations peace monitors on aboard the "maiden voyage."

But they soon settled in, chatting to the visitors. Most of them expressed confidence in the safety features pointed out by officials.

The prototype train, consisting of 14 coaches, incorporates four basic security systems. By far the most impressive is the integrated closed-circuit monitoring system comprising a total of 56 cameras per train — four for each coach, viewing both inside and outside simultaneously.

An operator working from a sealed compartment views a quad-split screen — either all four from one coach, or two from an emergency coach and the other two from the normal sequence of surveying the whole train every two to three minutes.

Should an emergency occur, the operator has radio contact with station security and a simultaneous contact with the 24-hour Spoornet security command centre, also connected to the police. Cameras mounted within the coach activated by "panic buttons" conveniently located above the doors automatically interrupt normal surveillance, allowing the operator to evaluate the sitation and then take appropriate measures.

The windows and doors in the trains have been modified to make it impossible for anyone to be thrown off the trains or for the glass to be broken. Brian Carver, spokesman for the South African Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC), said the glass used was specially tested by the SA Bureau of Standards for toughness, and that throwing stones or bricks against it was futile.

"The polycarbonate panes are virtually unbreakable," he said. "They will withstand a force of up to two tons before they give."

Other safety features make it possible for people who might be under attack to flee from one coach to another, and flexible steel and rubber panels secure the areas between coaches.

Carver said all railway stations in the southern Transvaal would be secured with razor wire, and from next week the SARCC will be testing new metal-detection equipment at Johannesburg and Dube stations. The metal detectors will prevent firearms and other dangerous weapons from being brought on to stations.

"We are not stopping with this prototype," said Carver. "Every passenger's life is of concern to us. In April we will test another upgraded version of the present train."

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High-security train gets going in Tvl

278
13/2/93

JOHANNESBURG. — The first of South Africa's high-security trains was launched yesterday, complete with a video monitoring system and brick-proof windows, to run the gauntlet between here and Soweto.

The security refurbishments cost R1,4 million, and 20 or 30 more such trains are needed for the Witwatersrand's most dangerous routes, said South African Rail Commuter Corporation rolling stock chief Mr Brian Carver.

An estimated 286 people have died in train violence since January 1992. — Sapa

Man shot in ward

278
Sowetan
15/2/93.

Sowetan Correspondent and Sapa

A YOUNG Inkatha Freedom Party member was yesterday shot dead in his hospital bed, barely a day after he had survived an attack in which his colleague, local IFP Youth Brigade leader Andries Khoza, was murdered, police said.

Koos Seokolo (19) was killed yesterday in the Tshepong Hospital, near Klerksdorp, said western Transvaal police spokesman Lieutenant Koos Degenaar.

On Friday, Khoza (20) and Seokolo were walking home at 11pm through Tigane, near Hartebeesfontein, when four men opened fire on them with AK-47 automatic rifles.

Khoza, the local deputy secretary of the IFP Youth Brigade, was killed and Seokolo was injured in the upper right arm. Nineteen AK-47 cartridges were found on the street.

In hospital, Seokolo told police he could identify two men who he claimed were ANC members responsible for Khoza's assassination.

One of these men, ANC member Oupa Kraai, was shot dead by police yesterday afternoon, Degenaar said.

ANC regional chairman Solly Rasmeni alleged that Kraai was walking through the township with his girlfriend when police shot him for no reason.

Degenaar said Kraai had fled on seeing police and had been shot after ignoring warnings to halt.

Seokolo was killed at 2.30am yesterday, possibly by the same men, Degenaar said.

Four men wearing balaclavas entered the hospital grounds by cutting through a fence, and held up a night nurse.

While one of the men stayed with the nurse to keep her quiet, the other three went into Seokolo's ward and shot him four times - once in the left shoulder, once in the neck and twice in the head, Degenaar said. They escaped.

Yesterday afternoon, at about 2.40, detectives went into Tigane and found one of the two men Seokolo had identified as Khoza's killers.

Tried to run away

The man tried to run away, and after shouting warnings, police shot and wounded the suspect. An angry crowd chased police away.

The suspect died in his father's house, Degenaar said.

IFP spokesman Suzanne Vos confirmed Khoza was an IFP youth leader in the area.

She said about 300 IFP leaders had been murdered in the last four years.

Vos said the IFP would discuss the "systematic assassination" of its leaders at top level meetings with the Government this week.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said Seokolo's claim that two of Khoza's killers were ANC members was without much foundation. But she said Tigane had been the scene of ongoing political tension, and that an urgent ANC investigation was necessary to determine what led to the killings.

Victims buried

278

FIVE of the six victims of last weekend's attack on the Chris Hani squatter camp in Daveyton township were buried on Saturday.

More than 10 were left injured after a night of terror involving a string of attacks on different shacks in the East Rand settlement. About 400 mourners gathered in the local stadium where African National Congress members and church leaders pleaded with residents to maintain peace and calm in the township.

Security forces maintained a low profile throughout the proceedings. — *Sapa-Reuter and Sapa.*

Sowetan 15/2/93.

Political violence 'on decline in PWV'

LLOYD COUTTS

POLITICAL violence has declined markedly in the PWV area, particularly in Soweto, according to Human Rights Commission (HRC) research.

During January, not one unrest-related death was reported in the township, and the incidence of violence dropped to its lowest level in two and a half years.

However, the HRC warned that there appeared to be a shift in the focus of political violence from the PWV to Natal. More than half of the 176 people killed nationwide in January died in that province. The toll was considerably lower than last year's monthly average of 292.

Natal recorded 103 deaths, 59% of the month's total and slightly less than December's 111. Serious trouble spots were Durban and the south coast, while unrest on the north coast showed signs of abating.

A disturbing feature was the emergence in Natal of train attacks, which claimed 10 lives nationally.

An HRC spokesman said while agreements on hostels reached in the record of understanding between government and the ANC last year had not been adhered to, subsequent international and national focus on these trouble spots was a possible reason for the downturn in PWV violence.

Star 15/2/93

IFP member is shot dead in hospital bed

(278)

By Philip Zoio

A young Inkatha Freedom Party member was yesterday shot dead in his hospital bed, barely a day after he had survived an attack in which his colleague, local IFP Youth Brigade leader Andries Khoza, was murdered, police said.

Koos Seokolo (19) was killed in Tshepong Hospital, near Klerksdorp, said western Transvaal police spokesman Lieutenant Koos Degenaar.

His death was followed hours later by the fatal police shooting of ANC member Oupa Kraai, who was accused of being involved in the killings, Sapa reports.

On Friday, Khoza (20) and Seokolo were walking home through Tigane, near Hartebeesfontein, when four men opened fire with AK-47s. Khoza was killed and Seokolo was injured.

In hospital, Seokolo told police he could identify two ANC men as being among the gunmen. One was Kraai.

Seokolo was killed at 2.30 am yesterday, Degenaar said. Four hooded men entered the hospital grounds by cutting through a fence, and held up a nurse.

Three of them went into Seokolo's ward and shot him four times before escaping.

At about 2.40 pm yesterday, detectives went to Tigane and found Kraai. They said he tried to run away and was shot.

ANC regional chairman Solly Rasmeni denied that Kraai had run away from police, and said he was shot without warning while walking through the township with his girlfriend.

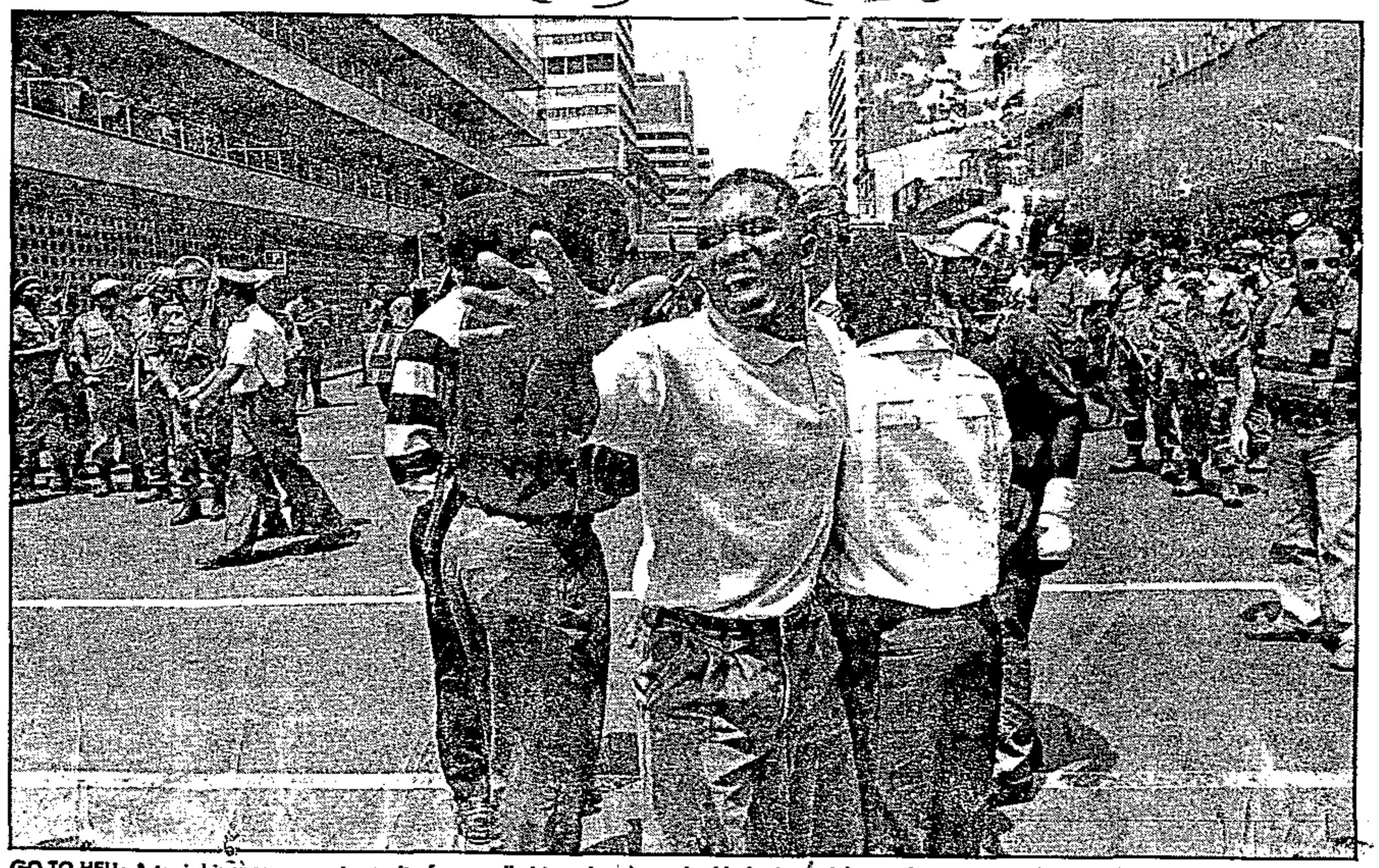
IFP spokesman Suzanne Vos said the IFP would discuss the "systematic assassination" of its leaders at meetings with the Government this week.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said Seokolo's claim that the killers were ANC members was unsubstantiated. She said Tigane had a history of intense conflict.

The ANC regarded the matter as extremely serious and would urgently investigate the allegations.

Anger ignites the tinder

(278)



GO TO HELL: A taxi driver screams at security forces called in to break up the blockades in Johannesburg. ● Photographs: STEVE HILTON-BARBER

THE first fire was not very big, but with the undergrowth dry as tinder it didn't need much to set everything ablaze.

The week-long minibus taxi troubles in Johannesburg had a low-key start when drivers gathered on Sunday afternoon at a Soweto taxi rank.

"There were more than 1 000 of us there," said one. "There were drivers from all the associations and from the South African Taxi Drivers' Union (Satdu), and together we took a decision to blockade."

Satdu national organiser Joel Sindane said his union had called the meeting, which was attended by about 700 people.

The union had warned last month that it would launch a mass campaign to push for subsidisation of the taxi industry.

However, the photocopies of 10 demands it had handed out made no mention of subsidies.

Minibus drivers who blockaded Pretoria on Wednesday last week, protesting about fines and a lack of facilities, inspired Soweto's drivers.

The speed with which the call for action spread the next morning was impressive.

"I had heard some rumblings about this on Sunday," said one driver.

"Then, as I was passing though Baragwanath on my way to the East Rand, I was stopped and told that all taxis must go to town and barricade the streets.

"The men were polite, although they were carrying sticks and metal rods. But I would have gone anyway because I am also tired of these fines."

An Eldorado Park driver said: "We were already working on Monday when guys came from all over and said 'we are taking on the traffic cops'.

"We joined them and things grew very fast."

A middle-aged Diepkloof driver said: "I was pulled up at a robot when another driver came along and told me what was happening.

"'Today is our mass action' was what he said. He didn't have to tell me what the problems are because I know for myself."

Johannesburg and Soweto felt the effects of the taxi drivers' strike for an entire week.

But while the paralysis of a city was a measure of the drivers' militance, it was not a measure of their ability to organise themselves.

Satdu, a new union, was conditionally affiliated to the Congress of South African Trade Unions only in December. Sindane's vagueness about signed-up membership suggested it was small.

Blockading the streets was easy.

Using the negotiations that followed to push home their demands — while staying in touch with feelings on the ground — proved more difficult.

On Tuesday, when action was meant to be suspended, drivers took decisions at street level. "They said we should take people to town between six and nine and then wait there for some news," one driver said. "When we didn't get a positive answer we decided to block the roads again."

On Wednesday, drivers were amused and elated by the police escort they were given from Baragwanath to the Central Methodist Church in Pritchard Street, where they gathered for a meeting. "For a day we were the presidents," said one.

But by Thursday afternoon they were irritable.

The morning's bargaining had led to some breakthroughs. Part of the fines imposed on vehicles blocking the roads were suspended and the rest paid by "a private benefactor". The three drivers in custody were to be brought to court that afternoon.

JOHN PERLMAN
Chief Reporter

That meant real talks about their grievances could go ahead on Monday. But every five minutes, the doors to the steamy church hall would swing open as 20 or more men stormed out. "Why must we wait until Monday for talks?" one asked. "What's wrong with tomorrow? We can't miss more days of work."

Unionist Piroshaw Camay, a key figure in the negotiations, cautioned: "Your cause is a just cause but if you act in an undisciplined manner you will render your leaders powerless. One act by one driver can jeopardise this whole process and that act can weaken your negotiators."

Had Camay cast his mind back, he would probably have recognised the situation.

The drivers are in something of a time warp, following a route that other black workers have been tramping since the 1973 strikes in Durban — grievances prompting an explosion of militance, followed by attempts to channel anger into continued organisation.

The drivers' estrangement from the new South African way was epitomised when it was announced that a "transport forum" would be set up to look into their grievances. "Forum", of course, is one of the new South Africa's favourite buzzwords — but it didn't seem to cut much ice with a bunch of men whose demands at one point included "cancellation of all old tickets from 1980 to 1993".

A number of transport forums already exist, but none includes taxi drivers.

When asked what they thought of the R172 million plan to upgrade the taxi rank on the corner of Bree and Sauer streets, drivers who used it every day said they had never heard of it.

While the Southern African Black Taxi Association (Sabta) has generally spoken for the industry, you couldn't find a driver this week who said it spoke for him.

"Sabta is an owners' thing," said one young Meadowlands driver.

At the first meeting with authorities on Monday, driver representatives asked owners "to excuse themselves". On Tuesday they said the owners should be represented through their organisations. Said a mediator: "I think this is because the grievances of the drivers have not been taken heed of in the forums that already exist. This is their frustration because they feel they have asked owners to do so."

The relationship between drivers and owners is mixed. One said: "The owners were all themselves young boys driving before becoming owners. They know the job and the problems."

F S Ndlovu, one of whose taxis was standing abandoned on the corner of West and Bree streets, said: "My drivers also get tickets, about 60 a month, mostly because we have no place to offload passengers. But this is not the way to solve this. We have to sit down and talk. (Johannesburg traffic chief) Mike Davis is a very nice man and we work well with him."

There is little likelihood that owners' organisations will start accommodating drivers and their interests.

That means the resolution of problems during the next year will depend heavily on whether drivers can build up a representative and disciplined organisation of their own.

Ducking rubber-bullet fire in the Sauer Street rank, a driver said: "If they keep shooting, there will be more problems. The taximen have a lot of guns."

By the end of the week the taxi drivers' organisation seemed to be gaining some coherence. Neutral mediators said drivers generally had sent the same delegates throughout the week. Julius Makhubela, a strongly built young man, was emerging as a leader.

Makhubela said their executive was made up of two drivers from each of the 12 associations plus three delegates from Cosatu.

Said a mediator: "A number of political organisations have entered the fray, which is not particularly helpful. They may start making promises and commitments that cannot be delivered. But if the principal parties are left to their own devices, I believe this thing can be resolved."

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

day, February 15 1993

3 die in Tvl township violence

(278)
CF 15/2/93

HARTBEESFONTEIN. — At least three people died — including a man who was assassinated in his hospital bed — in violence in the Western Transvaal township of Tigane, near here, at the weekend.

In the latest incident yesterday afternoon, ANC member Mr Oupa Kraai was shot dead by police.

ANC regional chairman Mr Solly Rasmeni alleged that Mr Kraai was walking through the township with his girlfriend when police shot him for no reason.

But Western Transvaal police said the man — who was a suspect in the shooting of IFP members on Friday — had fled on seeing police, and had been shot after ignoring warnings to halt.

A police spokesman said the killings began on Friday at 11pm when 19-year-old IFP member Mr Koos Seokolo and Mr Andries Khoza, the IFP youth league's vice-chairman, were shot at by four men.

Mr Khoza was killed and Mr Seokolo was wounded.

He was admitted to a nearby hospital, where a group of Balaclava-clad men entered his ward yesterday and shot Mr Seokolo dead.

Police said that at 3pm, various police officers were in Tigane searching for the two suspects identified by Mr Seokolo, when they spotted one of the wanted men, who immediately fled. Shots were fire after he ignored warnings to stop. The man was wounded and later died.

Meanwhile the Human Rights Commission (HRC) said unrest has declined markedly in the PWV area, particularly in Soweto.

During January, not one unrest-related death was reported in the township.

● A Soweto policeman was killed and another seriously injured in a handgrenade attack in Diepkloof on Friday. — Sapa

Taxis: Von Lieres under fire

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Had it not been for intervention by Witwatersrand Attorney-General Mr Klaus von Lieres and Law and Order Minister Mr Hernus Kriel in the recent taxi blockade here, the crisis could have been resolved within a day, say Johannesburg management committee members.

Addressing a tense city council meeting yesterday, management committee chairman Mr Ian Davidson and deputy Mr Paul Asherson said that by declaring a state of emergency Mr Kriel "left us powerless" when they were on the brink of reaching a solution during talks with taxi drivers.

Mr Davidson said: "When Mr Kriel declared Johannesburg an unrest area on that Tuesday, we became worried about the adverse implications it would have on us. What would our function be when control was given to police? Our authority was taken away."

Mr Davidson and Mr Asherson also objected to the way Mr Von Lieres had handled the first day of the crisis. Mr Von Lieres had opposed traffic chief Mr Mike Davis's decision to release taxis impounded and not hand the drivers over to the courts.

Mr Von Lieres said at the time that Mr Davis had treated the matter in a "very cavalier fashion" and his department's conduct had caused "great concern in the A-G's office." He questioned the authority by which Mr Davis had decided not to hand the drivers over to the courts.

Asked to comment on statements made by Mr Davidson and Mr Asherson, Mr Von Lieres responded: "They (the management committee) are entitled to their opinion. I don't agree with them. I've said what I had to say." He would not comment further.

Mr Davidson and Mr Asherson were responding to a string of attacks by Conservative Party city councillors Mr Jacques Theron and Mr Cecil Long, who claimed the management committee could not effectively deal with the crisis because they were "not at their offices when we called".

Mr Davidson replied that the management committee members were in their offices holding several meetings with taxi operators.

Mr Theron and Mr Long also accused the management committee of "creating lawlessness" in Johannesburg by agreeing that taxi drivers should not be stopped by traffic officers during peak hours.

"The decision not to stop taxi drivers and ask for permits during peak hours will create chaos, because pirate taxis will then be able to operate freely," charged Mr Theron.

This was "unfair to law-abiding road users", he said.

5 cleared of squatter camp dawn massacre

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ARG 17/2/93

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Five Kagiso hostel-dwellers were acquitted of 28 murders during an attack on the Swanieville squatter camp in 1991 — and the police were criticised for failing to bring hundreds of killers to justice.

Mr Justice C J Botha said in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday that he could not exclude the possibility that policemen had taken part in the early morning massacre on May 12.

He acquitted Vumisani Majola, 37, Joseph Mphiwa Khanyile, 51, Bakers Dlamini, 32, Mzanywa Flash Sithole 44 and Pheyi Mlango, 54, who had denied 28 murders as well as charges of public violence and illegal possession of firearms.

Earlier, co-accused Sizwe Majola, 21, and Bhekowakhe Moffat Mdlalose, 41, were discharged after the State closed its case.

The court was told that up to 1 000 men with pangas, firearms, kerries and spears murdered and injured residents of the West Rand squatter camp.

The police were alerted more than an hour after the attack. By then, the mob had started to leave Swanieville and they were escorted to the Kagiso hostel, where three of the accused were arrested.

The judge said police had not alerted their commander and the video unit for several hours. "If the video unit had been mobilised earlier to video the attackers, the State would have had a watertight case against hundreds of men — albeit only on a charge of public violence — instead of a doubtful case against only seven people," he said.

Judge raps police as Swanieville murder accused acquitted

A RAND Supreme Court judge yesterday acquitted five men of murdering 28 Swanieville squatters during a dawn attack and criticised police for failing to take action more promptly to identify the killers.

Swanieville was an unrest area at the time of the attack, on May 13 1991, and a curfew had been imposed.

Shortly after the attack, police Casspirs intercepted a group of about 1 000 hostel dwellers leaving Swanieville and escorted them back to the Kagiso hostel nearby.

The armed group, many of them wearing red headbands, had killed 28 people, injured 37 others and set fires to homes during the raid.

SUSAN RUSSELL

There were allegations at the time of collusion between police and the attackers.

Six Kagiso hostel residents and a seventh from Wattville hostel in Benoni were brought to trial. Two of them, Sizwe Majola and Bhekowakhe Mdlalose, were acquitted during the trial after Judge C J Botha found that the State had failed to make a case against them.

Acquitting the remaining five yesterday, Botha said it was a "scandal" that so few people were brought to trial.

He said if the first police on the scene had mobilised the video unit immediately when they had encountered the group of hostel residents, there would have been a strong case against hundreds of people, if only for public violence. Instead they had had only a doubtful case against the seven.

It was not strange, the judge added, that the actions of the police had led to criticism and speculation.

He was critical of the fact that the police had encountered the group making its way back to the hostel at 7am when it was already light, but had failed to summon their commanding officer or the video unit immediately.

The judge said the police could not be criticised for escorting the group back to the hostel to avoid further conflict.

However, although the various police vehicles in the area were in radio contact with their operations room, the commanding officer and the video unit were informed of the incident only at 9.30am.

Acquitting the five, Botha said the court could not convict Vumisani Majola, Joseph Khanyile, Bakers Dlamini and Mzanywa Flash Sithole on the basis of the evidence of the witnesses who had identified them. The State had also failed to make a case beyond reasonable doubt against the fifth accused, Pheyi Mlango.

Kriel slams council

■ Minister says Jo'burg management committee failed to address taxi crisis properly

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

Sowetan 17/2/93

THE Minister of Law and Order, Mr Hernus Kriel, has rebuked the Democratic Party-led Johannesburg Management Committee for failing adequately to address the root causes of the taxis crisis.

Kriel said it was "ridiculous" to blame the the ministry of police for prolonging the taxi violence by declaring Johannesburg an unrest area.

Accusing JMC chairman Mr Ian Davidson of "political posturing of the worst kind," Kriel said the situation in Johannesburg during the crisis required immediate and stringent action by the Government. "Declaring an unrest area in fact rescued Johannesburg — South Africa's economic hub — from being held to ransom for an indeterminate period by rebellious and violent taxi drivers," Kriel said yesterday. He pointed out that the city was declared an unrest area only after intensive negotiations had failed and that taxi drivers had rebelled against their own umbrella organisation. "These organisations had completely lost control over certain members and over the situation, (therefore) in view of the virtual anarchy in the city, the South African Police needed extra powers to not only halt the violence as soon as possible but to prevent re-occurence. "Declaring an unrest area was not intended to negate, undermine or replace negotiations to find a solution to the crisis, nor did it remove any powers or authority of local government.

"However, with violence the order of the day in the streets of the city, additional physical measures were necessary to first re-establish order," Kriel said in a statement.

Swanieville suspects freed

Sowetan 17/2/93

■ LOGBOOKS VANISH Judge says the police and state witnesses were unreliable:

By Tsale Makam

FIVE men charged with taking part in the Swanieville squatter camp massacre of 28 people on May 12 1991 were yesterday acquitted because of lack of evidence.

They were charged with 28 counts of murder, one of public violence and possession of firearms. Sixty-seven other people were injured in the attack.

Yesterday in the Rand Supreme Court Mr Justice CJ Botha criticised the police's handling of the massacre.

He said the attack took place at night but the police only arrived at the squatter camp about 7am the next day and only reported the matter to their superiors at 9am.

Police had earlier told the court that five Casspirs sent to the squatter camp on the West Rand had in fact ended up at Krugersdorp police station because the policemen had suffered stomach cramps.

They said that on arrival in Swanieville they had met a group of about 1 000 men carrying an assortment of weapons and wearing red armbands and doeks and moving from Swanieville towards the Madala Hostel. Police said they then escorted the group back to the hostel.

The judge said he rejected the evidence of the police and that of the State witnesses because they were unreliable.

He said it was surprising that most of the vital police evidence, such as logbooks and files, had disappeared mysteriously when they were needed during the investigation.

He said it could not be proved conclusively that the police had assisted the attackers as some witnesses had claimed.

It was possible that the police were present at Swanieville during the attack because at that time a curfew had been imposed on the area.

If the police had video-taped the men they had escorted to the hostel it would be easy to identify and arrest those responsible.

Out of 1 000 attackers the police had arrested only seven, two of whom were later set free.

Star 17/2/93

W Rand massacre: 5 acquitted

(278)

By Susan Smuts
and Brendan Templeton

Police came under sharp criticism from a Supreme Court judge yesterday when he acquitted five hostel dwellers of murder in the 1991 Swanieville massacre.

Twenty-eight people were massacred at dawn when about 1 000 armed Kagiso hostel dwellers descended on the West Rand squatter camp on May 12 1991.

Mr Justice C J Botha acquitted the five men on 28 counts of murder in the Rand Supreme Court.

He criticised the police for failing to make sure hundreds of the killers were brought to justice.

The judge said he could not exclude the possibility that policemen had taken part in the massacre.

The judge acquitted Vumisani Majola (37), Joseph Mphiwa Khanyile (51), Bakers Dlamini (32), Mzanywa Flash Sithole (44) and Pheyi Mlango (54) of 28 counts of murder, charges of public violence and illegal possession of a machine-gun, firearms and ammunition.

Earlier, co-accused Sizwe Majola (21) and Bhekowakhe Moffat Mdlalose (41) were discharged after the State closed its case.

The court heard that up to 1 000 men armed with pangas, firearms, kieries and spears had murdered and injured residents of the West Rand squatter camp. The attackers, identified as Inkatha Freedom Party supporters by their red headbands, had also burnt houses and damaged property.

Mr Justice Botha said police were alerted more than an hour after the attack. By this time, the marauders had started to leave Swanieville.

The SAP escorted the men to Kagiso hostel, where they conducted a search and arrested three of the accused.

The judge said that although the police escort had probably averted further conflict, he could not understand why the police had not made sure they could identify any of the men at a later stage.

● To Page 3

Star 17/2/93

Massacre: 5 acquitted

(278)

● From Page 1

The hostel was several kilometres away, the journey took a few hours, and daylight had already broken. The policemen had been in radio contact with the control room, yet they had waited until 9.30 am before alerting the commanding officer and the video unit.

"If the video unit had been mobilised earlier to video the attackers, the State would have had a watertight case against hundreds of men — albeit only on a charge of public violence," the judge said.

The State's case against all except Pheyi relied on unreliable witnesses.

Although the judge rejected argument from defence counsel As Burger that the police had fabricated evidence against the accused, he said it was not strange that the police actions had led to criticism and speculation. These included rumours that policemen had taken part in the attack.

Swanieville and neighbouring townships had been declared unrest areas shortly before the attack. The night before the massacre, only one Casspir patrolled the squatter camp while five were "uselessly" left in Krugersdorp because policemen had upset stomachs, the judge said.

● The ANC has demanded a proper inquiry into the massacre and the failure of the police to find any of the killers. ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said the judgment showed police were either incompetent or involved in the killings.

IFP spokesman Kim Hodgson said police needed to ensure they acted impartially. "But that is very difficult in a society in transition."

● SAP spokesman Captain Nina Barkhuizen said today police would not comment until they had studied the court records which would be available in about a week. The judgment contained serious allegations against police, she said.

She said an internal investigation had been conducted by Unrest and Violent Crime Unit chief General Ronnie van der Westhuizen who had since retired.

Star 17/2/93

Two die in attacks on Reef trains

Two people have been killed in train attacks on the East Rand, police reported. (278)

The body of an unidentified man, who had been stabbed and thrown off a moving train near Katlehong station, was found next to the railway line early yesterday. He may have been killed on Monday night.

At about 7 pm on Monday, police patrols discovered the body of a youth who had been stabbed and thrown off a train between Pilot and Kwesinie stations. Police suspect he was a member of a gang of robbers. — Crime Reporter.

5 men acquitted for 28 murders

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A Rand Supreme Court judge yesterday acquitted five men of murdering 28 Swanieville squatters during a dawn attack and criticised police for failing to take action more promptly to identify the killers.

Mr Justice C J Botha found the five not guilty of murdering 28 people during the attack on May 12 1991.

Shortly after the attack, police Casspirs intercepted a group of about 1 000 hostel dwellers leaving Swanieville and escorted them back to the Kagiso hostel nearby.

The armed group, many of whom were wearing red headbands, killed 28 people, injured 37 others and set fire to homes during the raid.

Following the attack there was speculation and allegations of collusion between the armed attackers and police.

Six Kagiso hostel residents and a seventh from Wattville hostel in Benoni were brought to trial.

Two of them were acquitted during the trial after Mr Justice Botha found that the state failed to make a case against them.

Acquitting the other five yesterday, the judge said it was a "scandal" that only five people were brought to trial.

He said if the first policemen on the scene had mobilised the video unit immediately on encountering the group of hostel residents, there would have been a strong case against hundreds of people, albeit only for public violence.

It was not strange, the judge added, that the actions of the police had led to criticism and speculation. 278

Acquitting the five, Mr justice Botha said the court could not convict Mr Vumisani Majola, Mr Joseph Khanyile, Mr Bakers Dlamini and Mr Mzanywa Flash Sithole on the basis of the evidence of the witnesses who had identified them. CT 17/2/93

The state also failed to make out a case beyond reasonable doubt against the fifth accused, Mr Pheyi Mlango, he said.

NEWS FEATURE *A jittery community can't forget the night when a murderous mob descended*

Fear of the hostel mob lives on ...

Sowetan 18/2/93.

■ HOSTEL HATRED *Swanieville is still haunted by horrors of the May 1991 massacre, reports* **Sonti Maseko:**

RESIDENTS OF SWANIEVILLE, Krugersdorp relate a tragic incident which they say happened last December.

A local hawker had gone to Krugersdorp to stock up on vegetables.

He came back running, terrified and screaming at the top of his lungs: "Here comes Inkatha, they are here, Inkatha is here!"

Men, women, young and old, and children, all fled the camp in different directions. It was broad daylight.

In the pandemonium a little girl, only eight, was drowned after she ran into a nearby swampy area. Her body was found two days later with the help of police divers.

No, the hawker was not drunk, the women *Sowetan* spoke to yesterday said. He is an "M-Z" (member of the Zion Christian Church, known for its strict rules against liquor).

Men in overalls

It transpired later, they said, that the man had seen a white man accompanied by a group of black men in red overalls. Actually, they were employed by a contractor working in the area.

The mere thought of another attack so terrified the man that he abandoned his vegetables in a cart and ran to warn the residents.

December was about 18 months after that fateful morning, on May 12, when 28 residents were massacred in their sleep, 67 others injured and maimed by hordes of men from the Kagiso Hostel. But the scars were still fresh.

The wounds reopened again on Tuesday when five men, accused of having participated in one of the country's monstrous incidents of violence, were acquitted on all charges.

Visiting Swanieville, one might be tempted to think that the scars are healing. On the face of it everything is normal, quiet.

However, survivors of the massacre were still shocked. They had heard it on the radio and were ultra-sensitive to questions by outsiders on the issue.

Mrs Monica Sefetsi lost two members of her family.

Mrs Monica Mashiya was a lucky survivor. She ran through a group of men who had just fired a shot, killing her brother. She managed to escape, but not before she was stabbed in the face.

An old woman, Jane Kguwe lost her son, who was a breadwinner. She was away at work when they killed him in his sleep.

"We shall never know sleep again," said some of the residents, vowing that they would send their children away in case their attackers returned one day.

We found a man who had survived and went to testify against the five.



Jane Kguwe

We asked for his reaction to the news.

He did not want to speak to reporters, he said angrily. What difference did it make?

The man was working furiously, cutting the grass outside his tiny yard, working so fast it seemed as if he did not want to have a moment to think.

Hit by a bullet

He dismissed us with a wave of his hand, which had been hit by a bullet on the night of the massacre.

"You, the Press, took our pictures and published our story. I went to the high court to testify. The Government contradicted me to my face, even though they had not been there, and told me the police were not present at the time when we were being killed.

"Tell me, how do you escort a murderer back into his house and afterwards take him out and accuse him of murder? Will he not say you are framing him?" the man asked.

The man's name may not be published due to a court order.

And so the Swanieville trial has passed. Five men suspected to have been among hundreds who killed and maimed, looted and plundered, were acquitted.

Mr Justice CJ Botha ruled that it could not be proved beyond doubt that police aided the attackers. However, Swanieville squatters all tell a different story.

"The police told us to go to sleep," one woman said. "They said: '*Julle moet nie skrik nie*'. They said they would watch over us.

"I saw a hippo go down the street at 5am and I felt safe. Then I heard it drive past again and then there were sirens and we were being attacked," the woman said, referring to police reinforcements sent from Pretoria to patrol the area on the night of the attack.

"I saw a hippo go down the street at 5am and I felt safe. Then I heard it drive past again and then there were sirens and we were being attacked"

(278)

The reinforcements, according to evidence in court, were not there at the time because they had all suffered from stomach cramps that night and had retreated to the Krugersdorp police station.

The police, however, said they had arrived at Swanieville at 7am on May 12 to be met by two groups of men leaving the squatter camp, which was smouldering behind them, carrying radios, televisions and other items.

Unable to arrest

They said they were unable to arrest the group as there were only five of them in one Hippo. However, it came up in evidence that the police video unit was not contacted until 9.30 that morning.

Whatever happened to the other elements of the case?

Evidence by witnesses who claimed to have seen some of the accused men was rejected as unreliable by the court.

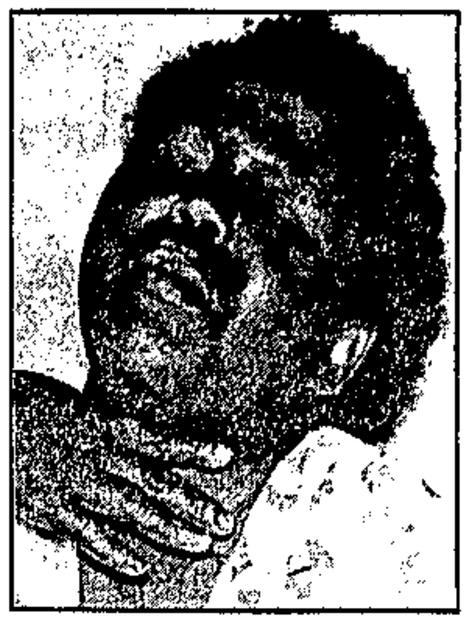
The statements made by some of the accused to the police were rejected as inadmissible in a trial-within-a-trial.

An application for the dismissal of the seven accused after the State had rested its case, acquitted a further five.

The weapons, an AK-47 rifle and a 9mm pistol, found by the police on three of the accused men were found to be irrelevant as they were never connected to any of the killings.

Although the police claimed to have confiscated a large number of weapons, assegais, pangas and kieries from the hostel, these were never linked to any of the murders although a large number of the people murdered were said to have been hacked and stabbed.

Another piece of shoddy investigation by the police, the judge concluded on Tuesday.



Monica Mashiya



Monica Sefetsi

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Outrage over Swanieville

RAY HARTLEY

LAW and Order Minister Hernus Kriel had to act decisively against officers whose negligence in investigating the 1991 Swanieville massacre had led to the acquittal of those accused of murder in the case, the ANC said yesterday.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said police would suffer "a further loss of credibility" unless action was taken.

He said criticism of police reaction to the massacre by Judge C J Botha, who said it was a "scandal" that so few were brought to trial for the killings, provided more evidence that police should "urgently" be placed under multiparty control.

"There is a strong likelihood that the police were involved in Swanieville and then there was a cover-up," he said. There should be an independent inquiry into the police response to the massacre, in which 28 Swanieville squatters were killed, and the Goldstone commission should move quickly to investigate the SAP and SADF.

Niehaus said the ANC was angry that the murderers had not been brought to book despite the fact that there was "much evidence" as to their identities.

Police said the judgment would be studied to decide what steps would be taken to avoid recurrences "of this nature", Sapa reports.

Police pointed out that the Swanieville massacre happened before the Boipatong killings and steps had subsequently been taken to improve policing, including:

- ☐ Contingency planning covering a wide range of unrest-related scenarios;
- ☐ A review of management structures of the internal stability division; and
- ☐ The deployment of an additional 900 policemen in the area.

But the police said it would require the wholehearted support of the community and the total involvement of all political leaders to stamp out the violence.

● Comment: Page 4

Trio guilty of horrifying murder

STAR 18/2/93,

278

By Anna Louw
East Rand Bureau

Three former security guards of Fidelity Guards were convicted yesterday in the Delmas Circuit Court of the grisly murder of a colleague.

The colleague was tortured, hung upside down from a tree and his genitals were shocked with an electric apparatus before he was shot twice and burnt.

Mr Justice F C L Roos and two assessors found Willem Oosthuizen (26), Johan van Eyk (37) — son of a retired police general — and Hendrik Gerber (43) guilty of murdering Samuel Kganakga.

Kganakga was questioned by the accused on the day of his death on May 21 1991 in connection with the theft of R60 000 from Fidelity.

His charred body, with two bullet wounds and one hand chopped off, was found three days later near a mine dump on the East Rand.

The judge said the court had been impressed by the State's two chief witnesses, Jack Nguana and Julius Khoza, two guards who were present during the killing.

He said it was in the interest of Gerber and Oosthuizen to blame each other, which they had done because they did not like each other.

This was reflected in an incident a month after Kganakga's death when Gerber had shot Oosthuizen in the shoulder at the Fidelity Guards offices and left him for dead.

The judge dismissed the evidence of Gerber and Oosthuizen as false.

He said they had wanted to keep the interrogation of Kganakga out of the public eye at all costs. That was why they had taken him into the bushes.

The three accused had gone with the intention to torture Kganakga and had taken with them an electric apparatus and a bag to put over his head.

Van Eyk's refusal to testify had created a negative impression, and the three had had a common purpose in the slaying of Kganakga as well as in concealing the truth.

Argument in mitigation will be led today.

NEWS

SAP to examine judge's criticism

STAR 18/2/93 (278)

Crime Reporter

Police would hold a top-level examination of a Rand Supreme Court judge's criticism of the police investigation into the 1991 Swanieville massacre, the SAP said yesterday.

They had already implemented measures resulting in a great improvement in their response to outbreaks of violence, said an SAP statement.

It added that the SAP had "taken note" of Tuesday's judgment in which Mr Justice C J Botha acquitted five men on charges of murdering 28 residents of the West Rand squatter camp.

The judge criticised police for failing to bring the culprits to justice.

Police said measures taken — which included increased police presence in trouble spots — had led to a "vast improvement in the police's reaction to subsequent massacres and other flare-ups in violence".

The steps followed recommendations made in July by British police expert Dr Peter Waddington, who criticised police over their investigation of the Boipatong massacre in which more than 40 people were killed in June.

According to the statement, some of the measures implemented included:

- Contingency planning covering a wide range of unrest-related scenarios.
- A review of the management structure of the Internal Stability Division (ISD) in the Witwatersrand and Vaal Triangle.
- The permanent transfer of an extra 900 ISD members to the Witwatersrand.

Fear lurks at scene of Swanieville slaughter

STAR 19/2/93. 278

By Peter Davies

A long, neat row of freshly dug graves wait to be filled in Kagiso cemetery, just 2 km across the veld from Swanieville squatter camp, where 28 people were brutally slashed and burnt to death nearly two years ago.

Those graves may not stand empty for long. On Tuesday a Supreme Court judge acquitted five Kagiso hostel dwellers of taking part in the May 12 1991 massacre owing to lack of evidence.

The judge sharply criticised the police for failing to make sure hundreds of the killers were brought to justice.

Swanieville residents fear the result of the case may unleash another vicious bout of bloodletting.

The residents are loath to discuss the events of 21 months ago, when hundreds of heavily armed Kagiso hostel dwellers hacked, slit and shot their way through the West Rand squatter camp, murdering anyone they chanced upon.

The attackers, identified as Inkatha Freedom Party members by their red headbands, also left razed shacks and gutted cars in their wake. Squatter camp allegations that police Casspirs escorted the murderous mob were never proved.

Swanieville residents are angry. Some believe attackers will wreak mayhem again.

On that crisp Sunday morning in May 1991, Winifred Mfiko awoke at 5.30 am. Rumours had spread that Inkatha hostel dwellers were planning an attack some time that weekend. As a precaution, she had left her 10-year-old son with a colleague at the nearby Ceamona Cheese Factory.

Later, as she was hanging up her washing, she saw a police Casspir moving down the dusty road, heard a car hooter and then the crackle of gunfire.

She woke her husband David,

● To Page 3

Fear lurks at Swanieville

278

STAR 19/2/93.

● From Page 1

then joined terrified squatters running blindly towards neighbouring Azaadville.

On returning to the smouldering camp that Sunday afternoon, a neighbour told her that David had been hacked and bludgeoned to death.

Titus Nong married the widow last year. He said the community was angry but not surprised at the judge's ruling.

"Police just went to that hostel and arrested people at random. They knew all along that they would not be prosecuted.

"Inkatha will return here before the end of May. Swanieville has no Zulus — the people here don't want them. So we are seen as an ANC stronghold even if we are not active politically. There is going to be trouble here again."

Swanieville's only white resident, Louis Oosthuisen, who left his wife and three children in Burgershoop six years ago, also thinks another attack is possible.

"I don't worry as a person, but I worry for the people around me. I will help defend them if I have to," says the tractor driver (37).

On the surface Swanieville looks peaceful. Typical township streets are home to lazy dogs, honking geese, and chickens.

But the memories of May 12 1991 lurk just beneath the surface. Residents are too scared to have their photos taken. "To advertise yourself is to sign your death warrant," says Nong.

Squatter fears of another massacre

ARGUS 10/2/93

PETER DAVIES
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A long, neat row of freshly dug graves wait to be filled in Kagiso cemetery, just 2km across the veld from Swanieville squatter camp, where 28 people were slashed and burnt to death nearly two years ago.

Those graves may not stand empty for long. On Tuesday a Supreme Court judge acquitted five Kagiso hostel dwellers of taking part in the massacre, on May 12, 1991, for lack of evidence.

The judge sharply criticised the police.

Swanieville residents fear the result of the case may unleash more bloodletting.

The residents are loath to discuss the events of 21 months ago, when hundreds of heavily armed Kagiso hostel dwellers hacked and shot their way through the West Rand squatter camp, murdering anyone they found.

The attackers, identified as Inkatha members, also left razed shacks and gutted cars in their wake. Squatter camp allegations that police casspirs escorted the murderous mob were never proved.

Swanieville residents are angry. Some believe attackers will wreak mayhem once more.

On that morning in May, 1991, Winifred Mfiko awoke at 5.30am. Rumours had spread that Inkatha hostel dwellers were planning an attack.

Later she saw a police Casspir moving down her dusty road, heard a car hooter and then heard gunfire.

She joined others who ran blindly toward neighbouring Azaadville.

On her return she found her husband David had been murdered.

Titus Nong married the widow last year. He said the community were angry but not surprised at the judge's ruling.

"Police just went to that hostel and arrested people at random.

"Inkatha will return here before the end of May. Swanieville has no Zulus — the people here don't want them. So we are seen as an ANC stronghold even if we are not active politically. There is going to be trouble here again."

How hospital assassins tracked down their prey

S/Times 21/2/93. (278)

By JAMES BRITTAIN

WHEN Johannes Seokolo was wheeled into ward eight of Klerksdorp's Tshepong Hospital in the dim light of Monday morning, he had no way of knowing his brother had been assassinated as he lay in another ward further down the passage.

Badly bruised about the head, Seokolo groaned and soon fell asleep.

In the intensive care unit, Inkatha Freedom Party member Koos Seokolo was already clinically dead after being shot four times 30 minutes before by four masked gunmen.

He died just 24 hours after being shot in the arm in another attack in nearby Tigane.

According to hospital staff — who asked not to be named for fear of reprisals — the raiders who killed Seokolo were cool, highly professional killers.

The four assassins stole into the grounds by cutting a hole in the perimeter fence.

Faces covered with stockings, the men crept across the wide expanse of grass that lay between the fence and the wards.

Moving along the passageway, they slipped into the room where 24 injured men lay asleep.

Without speaking a word, communicating only in sign language and by means of gestures, the killers forced the duty nurses into their bay at gunpoint.

In the darkness they moved methodically down the rows of sleeping forms, stopping at each bed to shine a light on the medical files, searching for their target.

They found him in the last bed next to the window.

Four muffled shots and their victim died.

Either gripped with fear or still asleep, the other patients in the ward lay motionless and silent while the killers slipped away into the night as swiftly as they had come, their grisly task accomplished.

Fear

In the aftermath of the raid this week, staff at the Jouberton township hospital were still shocked by the killing.

One said: "We cannot go on working under these conditions.

"The fence is not patrolled and we fear recrimination."

Outside, in the community, a fierce political row has erupted following the assassination.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Inkatha Freedom Party claimed Seokolo's killers were ANC members, condemning the murder as part of a campaign of "systematic assassination" of its leaders.

Tipoff

Police believe Seokolo was killed because he had identified one of the gunmen in Saturday's attack as ANC member Oupa Kraii.

Police said they shot Kraii dead on Sunday afternoon in Tigane following Seokolo's tipoff.

The ANC has slammed the police killing and the IFP allegations.

ANC spokesman for the Western Transvaal Solly Rasmeni denied Kraii's involvement in either attack and said he had been the victim of a "brutal murder" by the police.

News in brief

Bargains galore here

DO YOU want a bargain — anything from a car, house, gearbox, fridge or furniture?

All these things you can find in your copy of *Sowetan* every day in the paper's Classified section. There are many more services offered in our Classifieds, such as education centres, driving schools, where to apply for jobs and our column on penpals.

Briefly in court again

A MAN charged with the abduction of a 10-year-old Yeoville, Johannesburg, girl appeared briefly in the Johannesburg Regional Court yesterday.

Mr Bhonoto Mpungose (38), of Bellevue, Johannesburg, was not asked to plead. The case was postponed to April 5.

Mpgungose is on bail of R1 000.

Tribute in Atteridgeville

THE SA Defence Force at the weekend paid tribute in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, to the courage of 823 men who died when the SS Mendi sank in the Atlantic Ocean in 1917.

The men were travelling from the English port of Plymouth to the French port of Le Havre when the SS Mendi was hit by another ship, the SS Darro, on February 21 1917 during a night of bad weather. A total of 805 privates, 17 non-commissioned officers and five officers drowned or froze to death in one of the country's worst military disasters. The men, all from the Native Labour Corps, were seconded for duty in France when the disaster occurred.

Sowetan 23/2/93

Sadtu goes global

THE SA Democratic Teachers' Union has been accepted as an affiliate of the new Education International and will form part of the international union's family of 30 million teachers.

The EI was formed at a conference in Stockholm, Sweden, on January 26 after two former international teacher unions dissolved and merged into a new international body.

Sowetan 23/2/93

Taxi rank torched

BETWEEN 200 and 300 youths torched a taxi and a taxi office and pulled down 16 parking shelters at a taxi rank in Katlehong after a meeting on Sunday afternoon, East Rand police said yesterday. About R50 000 damage was caused and police are investigating a charge of property damage.

Sowetan 23/2/93

Clothiers to retrench

CAPE clothing manufacturer Rex Trueform is to retrench at least 570 workers next month, citing the continued severe recession as the reason.

In a letter to staff, the company said there had been a further fall-off in orders for garments manufactured in many departments.

Last year hundreds of Rex Trueform workers were retrenched when its Wynberg and Atlantis plants closed.

Policeman under fire

SHOTS were fired at a policeman of the Internal Stability Unit in Ratanda near Heidelberg at the weekend, East Rand police said yesterday. Sowetan

He was uninjured. 23/2/93.

They said two men approached Sergeant R de Jager while he and colleagues were looking for a man in the township. One of the men pulled out a firearm and shot at De Jager before they fled. — *Sowetan Reporters and Sapa.*

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NEWS Mother's agony ove

White pair on rampage shoot 2 in random raid

Sowetan 23/2/93

By Alinah Dube

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A MAN and a 13-year-old girl were seriously wounded in separate incidents on Sunday after rampanging white men shot randomly at black pedestrians at Hartbeespoortdam, near Pretoria.

The two, Mr Thomas Mathonsi (32) and the girl, who cannot be named because she is a minor, were taken to the HF Verwoerd Hospital in a serious condition.

Northern Transvaal police spokesman Major Andrew Lesch said Mathonsi was shot by one of two white men in a car. He was hit in the left shoulder.

A further 8km away the same men allegedly fired shots at another pedestrian. In this instance the 13-year-old black girl from Broederstroom was hit in the neck.

Lesch said a case of attempted murder was being investigated and people with information that could assist in the arrest and conviction of the suspects should contact the police by phoning 080-11-1213.

In another incident an East Rand man, Mr Jerry Mabusa, was robbed of a truck valued at R350 000. The registration number of the stolen vehicle is NRJ64 LT.

Train attacks curbed, say police

BIDAY 24/12/93.

278

POLICE were turning the tide in the battle against train violence with growing co-operation from commuters and improved police strategies playing a major role, police spokesman Col David Bruce said yesterday.

Bruce said yesterday that 35 people had been arrested in connection with 82 incidents of train violence since December as a result of intensified police efforts.

The unification of the command structures of Soweto and Johannesburg, random train searches and "high visibility policing" had contributed to the drop in killings, he said.

Police had recorded a dramatic reduction in the number of violent incidents involving commuters since December, he said.

While a monthly total of 25 or more deaths had been recorded for August-November, nine commuters had died in December, 12 in January and five in February.

He said 4 296 dangerous weapons had been recovered on trains by September. But only 36 dangerous weapons had been recovered between September and January. Eleven of those arrested for train violence were hostel dwellers, he added.

RAY HARTLEY

Train killers planned their attacks carefully and targeted areas where there was a low police profile, he said. Many attacks occured in the vicinity of hostels and this often lead to retaliatory attacks on trains.

More Zulu speakers had been killed in train violence than any other group, but the majority of those arrested had also been Zulu speakers.

Bruce feared that the high number of arrests would not necessarily lead to convictions because additional witnesses were still needed to identify and testify against train killers.

He said relations between police and commuters had improved but a lack of involvement in the investigation of cases was still a problem.

Our Durban correspondent reports at least 107 people died in political violence in Natal during January — 36 in the greater Durban area.

A Human Rights Commission report said the two worst affected regions were the Durban functional region, with 36 deaths, and the South Coast, with 31.

Most deaths in the Durban area took place at Inanda where conflict arose among factions within the ANC over self-defence units.

The Natal Midlands recorded 28 deaths, with Richmond and Imbali the two worst affected areas.

The North Coast recorded 12 deaths, the majority in the Esikhawini area.

The report also noted with growing concern the increasing number of attacks on commuters in Natal. At least 17 people were killed and five injured in eight such incidents.

Sapa reports a man burned to death after a mob wearing army uniforms attacked a house at Eaukhnyeni Reserve north of Durban yesterday, police said.

And at KwaMashu two off-duty policemen were killed by gunmen.

Inkatha warned yesterday that peace on the South Coast had been seriously threatened by the murder of an Inkatha organiser in Ezingolweni, near Port Shepstone.

On the East Rand, police said three people were found dead in townships since Monday.

Police are also looking for two whites who shot and wounded three black pedestrians, one of them a 13-year-old girl, from a moving car west of Pretoria at the weekend.

Warrant of arrest out for murder suspects

■ ANC men allegedly stabbed and set a member of the PAC alight in West Rand township of Munsieville:

Sowetan 24/2/93

By Tsale Makam (278)

A WARRANT for the arrest of two ANC members who failed to appear in the Rand Supreme Court in connection with the murder of a PAC man was issued yesterday.

The accused are Mr Andries Monyai (30) and Mr Joseph Malaza (20).

Their co-accused, Mr Washington Thage (21) was present in court.

The men, all of Munsieville, Randfontein, are on bail and have not yet been asked to plead.

The State alleges the three and five other men went to Ramphomane Mongwalwa's house on November 15 1991. They did not find him but later met him in the street and stabbed him.

Schools empty

Sowetan 24/2/93

■ MASS MEETING Soweto teachers to discuss the retrenchments of colleagues:

By Sonti Maseko

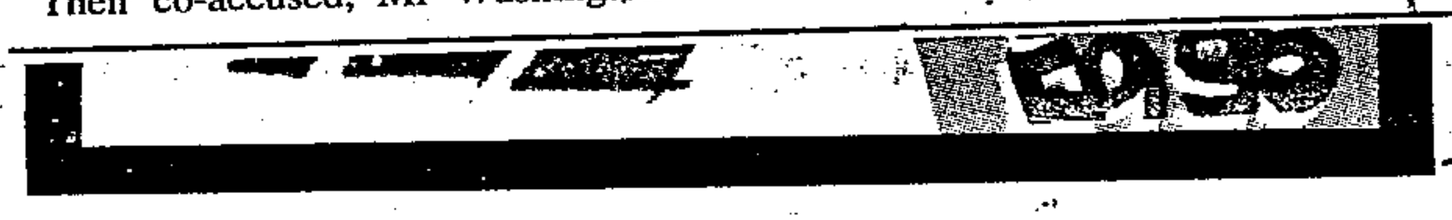
SOWETO PUPILS CONTINUED their go-slow yesterday despite a decision by the Congress of South African Students that the protest action be halted.

At the same time, thousands of teachers attended a mass meeting called by the South African Democratic Teachers Union to discuss alleged retrenchments of their colleagues.

The meeting, held at Regina Mundi Church in Rockville, Soweto, followed a picket at the Johannesburg offices of the Department of Education and Training by teachers from the Jabulani, Zola and Dobsonville circuit against the alleged retrenchments of 17 teachers.

About 170 teachers staged a sit-in at the offices after a DET official refused to meet them, a spokesman for the Soweto branch of Sadtu, Mr Oupa Mpetha, said.

Mpetha said about 30 teachers had been served with retrenchment letters.



MALE FEMALE

work (much for luck) for their ailing business.

He said he had gone to the Naudes only to mix the muti for them and when he left they were still alive.

Vehicles stoned amid Soweto class disruptions

CT 24/11.93 (278)

JOHANNESBURG. — Several vehicles, including police cars, were stoned in Soweto yesterday amid the disruption of classes here when pupils chose to leave school after 11am.

More than 10 lorries were hijacked and set alight and several private cars damaged since early last week when Soweto pupils went on the rampage.

There was a heavy police presence yesterday in the township and riot policemen patrolled near the troubled schools on foot.

The three-hour school day followed a call last week by the Soweto branch of the Congress of South African Students for a "go-slow" in protest against the payment of examination registration fees. But the branch executive denied calling the strike.

Cosas president Mr Moses Maseko yesterday reaffirmed the congress' opposition to students paying examination fees and said Cosas did not see the need for pupils to pay for education while money paid in taxes was being misspent by the government.

He said Cosas was concerned by the violence in schools "as a result of the criminal actions of misguided elements who are trying to misdirect our struggle".

The Inkatha Students' Organisation yesterday condemned the continued disruptions. — Sapa

ANC organiser tells of revenge murder

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SUSAN RUSSELL

B\nm 25/2/93

A MUNSIEVILLE ANC Youth League organiser admitted, in a statement submitted to the Rand Supreme Court yesterday, taking part in the revenge murder of a PAC member.

Washington Senti Thage, 22, was convicted of murder by Judge M J Stegmann after pleading guilty to killing PAC member Abinaar Ramphomane Mongwalwa on November 15 1991.

Thage, who described himself as the "pioneer organiser of the ANC's Youth League branch", admitted he and other ANC members had killed Mongwalwa.

Mongwalwa had been one of a group of PAC members expelled from the township after periodic clashes between the two groups in 1990/91, he said.

Hearing that PAC members were returning to the township on November 14/15 1991, he and other ANC comrades had armed themselves with knives. "The expellees were seen roaring around the township as if they had been given permission to return," Thage said. "This was why we attacked the PAC and the deceased in particular. A further factor was the desire to avenge the killing of our comrade Joseph Koole by the PAC."

Thage said comrades reporting to him as a community leader believed it was intolerable that PAC members should roam the township in defiance of the ban on them. "I said to them: 'Comrades, you know these guys have killed our comrade, bombed our houses and now they come into the township without permission — let's go and attack them'."

Thage's group of about 23 people attacked Mongwalwa after his two friends had entered a nearby house. Thage said he stabbed Mongwalwa once.

"I ran away because the deceased's friends had returned and were shooting at us. When I obtained cover I stopped, turned around and noticed the deceased's friends were where he had, by that stage, fallen down. We then launched a second attack. During this attack we made use of a gun which one of our comrades had obtained from the deceased after he had fallen."

Mongwalwa's body was later doused with petrol and burned.

The trial was adjourned to allow the defence to prepare evidence in mitigation.

No deal to write off debts

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has dismissed reports claiming that it has agreed to write off the R900 million debt owed by the Greater Soweto councils. Sowetan 25/2/93

TPA's MEC for Local Government Mr Burger Lategan said no such agreement had been reached between the parties in the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

"Negotiations are currently concentrating on proposals for the ending of the boycott and the resumption of payments at satisfactory levels," he said.

Telkom suspends services

TELKOM yesterday suspended its services in Soweto and withdrew its workers after two of their vehicles were hijacked by striking pupils.

The decision to suspend telephone repairs and installations was taken after at least 12 Telkom vehicles were attacked since the trouble started two weeks ago. Sowetan 25/2/93

A Telkom spokesman said the suspension was indefinite and could last for as long as the pupils' strike continued.

"The last thing we can afford is to see our men's lives endangered," a spokesman said.

Meyer to address IFP

MINISTER of Constitutional Development Mr Roelf Meyer will explain the Government's view of the road ahead when he addresses the Inkatha Freedom Party central committee meeting on Sunday.

Dr Tertius Delport, Minister of Local Government, will also address the committee.

This follows a meeting between the Government and the IFP in Richards Bay last weekend.

IFP chairman Dr Frank Mdlalose said at the time there were "certain things they put to us which we did not understand, so they will put them before the central committee".

Sowetan 25/2/93

Eskom owed R600 million

BLACK councils owe Eskom more than R600 million while rent and service charges boycotts have led to debts totalling R2 billion.

Responding to a question in Parliament yesterday, Minister of Local Government Dr Terius Delport said 57 black local authorities had "fully or partially resumed" services despite outstanding rental and service charges.

Nineteen of them, all in the Transvaal, still owed Eskom huge amounts of money, Delport said.

Sowetan 25/2/93

Police arrest rioting Soshanguve pupils

STAR 25/2/93

By Philip Zoi[illegible] 78

Police yesterday arrested three pupils from a school in Soshanguve outside Pretoria during rioting in which two teachers at the school were assaulted and stoned.

Pretoria police spokesman Major Andrew Lesch said the pupils reacted angrily after the principal of Letabong Secondary School had expelled five pupils.

Police were told at about 10.25 am that pupils were throwing stones at vehicles passing the school.

An angry crowd of pupils then assaulted and stoned two teachers who were admitted to a local clinic with minor injuries, Lesch said.

Another teacher then spoke to the pupils, who afterwards left the school grounds.

But at about 10.50 am a number of pupils returned to the school and began packing stones at the front entrance, Lesch said.

Department of Education and Training regional chief director Job Schoeman said the barricade was aimed at preventing a DET inspector, who had been investigating the problems, from leaving the school grounds.

Lesch said police were again called to the scene. The pupils threw stones at policemen arriving at the school. One of the SAP vehicles was damaged and three pupils were arrested before order was restored, he said.

Schoeman said the school had been tense since Friday, when teachers decided to take steps to combat poor discipline.

The rioting had resulted from a recommendation made by teachers to the principal that several pupils be expelled, Schoeman said.

Pupils at the school blamed matriculants who had failed their final exams last year for the poor discipline.

Class boycott over exam fees

CT 25/2/93

By RAMOTENA MABOTE

TOWNSHIP pupils have embarked on a class boycott in defiance of ANC, PAC and Azapo calls for them to go back to school this year.

Classrooms were deserted yesterday morning when the pupils began a campaign against examination fees.

The class-boycott call was made by the Congress of South African Students (Cosas), the Pan Africanist Students' Organisation (Paso) and the Azanian Students' Movement (Azasm).

An Azasm spokesman said the purpose of the boycott was to draw the attention of "liberation" and community organisations to pupils' problems.

Last week national spokesmen for Cosas and Azasm denounced a similiar action in Soweto.

Speaking on a CCV newsline programme on Monday evening, they said more consultation was needed and that any action taken should not disrupt schools.

Mr Monde Tulwana, a teacher at ID Mkhize and a former national president of the National Education Crisis Committee, said the pupils' campaign made a "mockery" of the existing Parents', Teachers' and Students' Associations (PTSAs).

He said that although the issue of exam fees was serious and needed to be addressed, teachers could not be part of unnecessary and unwanted action.

"Our position is clear. Teachers and parents must meet soon and come out clearly on this matter, while pupils and teachers must go back to class to learn and teach, respectively," he said.

The PAC's regional secretary, Mr Batembu Lugulwana, said yesterday that his organisation was not against students taking action against the injustices of the Department of Education and Training (DET), but strategies had to be decided after extensive consultation.

The ANC's Mr Tony Yengeni, said that the disruption of classes was not consistent with the call by the ANC for pupils to go back to class this year.

He said the ANC would neither condemn nor support any action about which it did not have full knowledge, and called for an urgent meeting to discuss the matter.

President of the SA Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu), Mr Shepherd Mdladlana, said Sadtu would discuss the matter with all concerned organisations this weekend, before making a statement.

The pupils plan to march to DET offices today.

A DET spokesman said the department was not informed of the disrupted classes or the planned march.

Mass action on education crisis

JOHANNESBURG. — Mass action aimed at ending the financial crisis affecting students and calling for the disbanding of the Independent Development Trust is to hit tertiary education country-wide on March 8.

At a press conference at Wits University yesterday, South African Students' Congress (Sasco) information and publicity secretary, Mr Mogomotsi Mogodiri, called for the disbanding of the IDT because of dissatisfaction with its "unilateral" approach in giving students financial assistance.

Sasco's Southern Transvaal regional chairman, Mr Peniel Mashele, said this was in spite of the trust having agreed to consultation on funding.

Sasco said mass action would take the form of sit-ins, marches, demonstrations, and picket protests.

According to Sasco's figures, the University of the North (Turfloop) had outstanding student fees of R18 million in 1992, and only 3 000 students are registered there this year, compared with 12 000 last year.

At Fort Hare, which had an R11 million deficit in 1992, only 2 500 students registered, against 6 000 last year.

Mr Mashele said the IDT should fund students in arrears, to enable them to register this year. — Sapa

Residents to sue Kriel after taxi violence

(278)

STAR 25/2/93

By Charmeela Bhagowat
Crime Reporter

Eldorado Park residents, allegedly teargassed and shot at by police at the height of the taxi violence early this month, intend suing Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel for damages, a lawyer representing the residents said yesterday.

The attorney, Magesh Moodliar, said documents were being prepared and would be served on the Minister soon.

Randall Sequera (20) was killed in the township on February 3 — two days after taxi violence erupted in central Johannesburg — during violent clashes between Eldorado Park residents, taxi drivers and police.

Witnesses claimed police shot Sequera while he and other residents were fleeing from police fire in "Old Eldorado Park".

Wound

Police claimed they found Sequera's body with a gunshot wound about three hours after dispersing a crowd with teargas and birdshot. They denied shooting him.

Moodliar said 14 residents had instructed him to institute civil claims against Kriel for damages resulting from "wrongful and unlawful" assault on them that night.

Sequera's mother was suing for loss of financial support.

Moodliar said all his clients were "innocent bystanders" and were not taxi owners or drivers.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Captain Craig Kotze said if the residents had laid formal charges of assault against the police, the charges would be investigated.

NEWS Makwetu to address rally ● 'Nation tired of being a tool' say hostel inmates

24 hostels sign declaration to live in peace

Sowetan 26/2/93

278

■ Initiative was launched during a prayer meeting last month:

By Mzimasi Ngudle

INMATES from 24 Johannesburg hostels have signed a declaration of intent for peace and resolved to initiate dialogue with other hostel residents.

This was announced at a Press conference yesterday by the peace facilitator, the Reverend Mvume Dandala, who had been invited by hostel residents to assist with the initiative.

Dandala said the hostels agreed on a programme of action that would comprise codes of conduct "to deal with potential conflict among hostel residents timeously". He said the initiative was formally launched during a prayer service in January when representatives from 24 hostels showed their commitment to a peace process initiated by Jeppe hostel inmates.

Mr Jacob Dlomo, who represented Jeppe hostel residents, said the "nation is tired of being tools to perpetuate division and mistrust".

In his reply, Mr German Mlatsheni, a Selby hostel inmate, said the most significant factor was that Jeppe hostel dwellers were not coming to Selby for forgiveness.

"They are rather saying it is impossible to find an alternative to the kind of life we were subjected to. We started the initiative by inviting hostels that wanted to walk the path of peace to join in with us," Dandala said.

"The genius of the effort is that it has not been initiated by any organisation, whether religious, political or otherwise. It is the residents themselves who have done it."

Star Fri

Fuming Fochville seeks tough action

STAR 26/2/93.

By Peter Davies (278)

The tension in the small western Transvaal town of Fochville is thick and ready to ignite. Instead of mining gold or farming mealies, the community has been obliged to initiate a "knobkerrie commando" to prevent further additions to the roll-call of terror that has left 26 people murdered or seriously injured over the past year.

Many admit that even such commandos are both helpless and powerless in the face of AK-47 fire.

Yesterday angry, nervous farmers held a meeting with police officials and Conservative Party Losberg MP Fanie Jacobs to thrash out solutions to what the community sees as lax security in the area.

Many farmers arrived with .22 pistols sticking out from their belts.

With Jacobs chairing proceedings before going into a private huddle with police, Foch ville "dominee" Danie van Zyl opened the question-and-answer session. He said that previously mooted ideas of providing isolated farms with fencing and two-way radios would just be "buying time" unless the State immediately reintroduced the death penalty.

Women raped

One farmer believed the attacks — mostly on elderly farmers — would stop only once the nearby township was "flattened".

The latest Fochville assault occurred on Sunday night at a farm in Frisgewaad, near the town. Three men broke in and brutally battered the owner and his brother-in-law. The farmer's wife and 14-year-old daughter were raped and sodomised. All are still in hospital.

A neighbour said the attackers waited inside the farm for their victims to return home.

Though the attackers scrawled Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla) slogans on one of the farmhouse walls, police believe there is nothing to suggest the work was that of anyone other than common criminals. (Apla, the Pan Africanist Congress's military arm, has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on whites in the eastern Cape and Free State in recent months.)

Before yesterday's meeting, Richard van der Westhuizen, who grew up as a farmer's son before turning to engineering, said: "All the elements are against us. The drought — now these attacks. If you were to write a book called 'Black Progress in Africa', the pages would be blank."

During the meeting, Jacobs endorsed a suggestion to set up road blockades at the edge of the town. He also supported suggestions of a "clean-up operation" but would not expand on what this meant.

Star Fr

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New hope as Reef violence abates

W/Mail 26/2 - 4/3/93 (278)

A marked drop in large-scale violence in the Transvaal is being attributed to, among other things, the success of dispute resolution committees which have even hostel dwellers working together for peace. By **ALEX DODD**



Life in the hostels ... After years of violence residents want to lead a normal life **Photos: KEVIN CARTER**

VIOLENCE that has wracked hostels, trains and townships in the Transvaal over the past two years is showing hopeful signs of abating. Soweto has experienced no incidents of political conflict this year and there has not been a single train attack on the Reef this month.

Most commentators believe the marked drop in massacres and major outbreaks of township conflict is the combined result of President FW de Klerk's crackdown late last year on "third force" elements in the military and determined efforts to make the National Peace Accord work.

African National Congress spokesmen Vusi Gunene said: "There was not one politically related incident in Soweto for the whole of January which is a first in about two and a half years."

Figures from the Human Rights Commission (HRC) show that during the five months between April and October last year there were 125 incidents of violence involving PWV hostels and their surrounding communities in which 204 people were killed.

For the same period, from the beginning of October last year to now, there have been 45 incidents and 33 deaths. HRC director Safoora Sadek noted, however, that December and January were traditionally quiet months and this had to be taken into account.

Independent monitors, police officers and ANC officials agree that the sharp drop in large-scale violence is attributable to the success of the National Peace Accord and the ground work of dispute resolution committees in the townships of the PWV.

Mark Orkin, director of the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (Case), said the crackdown on covert operations in the military had clearly helped to stem the spiral of violence — but he stressed that low-intensity conflict was still taking place in the townships.

"An important prior factor was De Klerk's assault on the generals which has enabled these more detailed arrangements to stick. They are no longer being sabotaged by CCB-like forces and their platoons which do not appear to enjoy such evident state support any more," said Orkin.

"The cabinet faction which prefers dealing with the ANC, as opposed to fostering unrest through its surrogates, has won out. The strategy of elements within the state to concoct an alliance that could defeat the ANC and its allies has slowed down, while on the other hand there is still a reliance on low-level violence to hobble the ANC's electioneering."

A series of press exposés last year indicated that elements in the Department of Military Intelligence had been actively collaborating with Inkatha officials to supply training and weapons to Zulu fighters in Transvaal hostels.

These reports were confirmed by senior Inkatha official Bruce Anderson after he had been deported from South Africa last year for his involvement in running illicit supplies of weapons from Mozambique into South Africa. Anderson made a statement implicating senior military and Inkatha officials in joint operations to destabilise Transvaal townships.

Anderson's claims have been rejected by Inkatha and the South African Defence Force.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Momoepa agreed that revelations and increased monitoring of "third force" activities had created an atmosphere conducive to dispute resolution. "The clampdown in Pretoria where documents were retrieved by the Goldstone Commission strengthened the hand of General Pierre Steyn which was the beginning of the end of the military's alleged role in third force activities."

Case deputy director David Everatt was more cautious. "The large scale Boipatongs and Swanievilles are hopefully over, but one or two people are still being knocked off every week. The low-intensity conflict is still with us. The state's strategy to continue destabilising black civil and political life is still there," he said.



Hostel dwellers hope they are now free to get on with day to day living

"If there is no increase in putting people behing bars, then nothing is changing. We're not yet into double figures of the number of perpetrators convicted, yet thousands have been killed. Goldstone still doesn't have the judicial power to put people behind bars."

Meanwhile, hostel dwellers on the Reef have been involved in a series of "grassroots" initiatives to bring an end to the violence.

At a preliminary meeting of the Johannesburg Hostel Residents' Peace Initiative the men were reluctant to make an issue of their political affiliations, although both ANC and Inkatha supporters were present. "The main thing is that we are all people of the same land. We do not want to talk about affiliations. At the end of the day, we all have relatives from all the groups," said Jacob Dhlomo, an induna from Jeppe hostel.

The initiative was started by the residents themselves, who have grown sick and tired of the violence that has dogged their lives. Says German Mlatsheni, leader of the Selby Peace Committee: "Anything that develops in the future must be built from an understanding that all hostel residents are committed to peace."

Currently there are about 30 hostels involved in the initiative and these include Denver, Mzimhlope, City Deep, Kelvin, Orlando Power Station, Dube, Antea and Van Beck.

This is not the only hostel peace initiative afoot in the PWV. South African Police spokesman Eugene Opperman attributed the dramatic drop in violence to the successful efforts of "leaders on the ground. Some of these dispute resolution committees are doing an excellent job," he said.

Peace Action spokesman Venitia Govender reiterated: "Over the last few months the Transvaal Hostel Residents Association (THRA) has been actively working in liaison with the hostel residents and the surrounding communities in a bid to end the violence."

This is in tandem with an agreement reached late last year between the ANC and the THRA focusing on issues of violence, upgrading of hostels and integration of hostel dwellers with the wider community.

Inkatha representative Suzanne Vos and several hostel indunas agreed that the drop in violence was not attributable to the entrenchment of resolutions forged at last September's Record of Understanding agreement between the government and the ANC.

Asked whether relative peace had come about as a result of the fencing of hostels, confiscation of traditional weapons or more frequent police raids, the response was unanimous: "What fences? What raids?"

Said Vos: "Target attacks on hostels have declined ... The ANC have tactically deployed their guns and ammunition, their trained Umkhonto assassins, to Natal."

Lloyd Vogelman, director of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, said it appeared that "the intensity of the violence between the ANC and Inkatha has moved to Natal as a result of Inkatha having given up on some of its national political ambitions and having relocated to Natal where it has a stronger constituency".

ANC: Two dead in pre-dawn raid

CT 27/2/98 (278)

JOHANNESBURG. — The PWV region of the ANC claimed last night that two of its members were shot dead by "alleged members of the security forces" in a pre-dawn raid on a house in Sebokeng's zone seven.

The ANC said the two men, Mr James Mthombeni, a trained uMkhonto weSizwe member, and Mr Sizwe Mkhwanazi, were murdered in their beds in the Vaal Triangle township.

A third man, Mr Mkhulu Tsabalala, was injured in the shooting and taken to the Vereeniging hospital, the ANC said.

Police said that besides the two men killed, two policemen were injured when police swooped on a house in Sebokeng about 1am yesterday morning.

A police spokesman said detectives from Vereeniging and the Internal Stability Unit raided a house in Sebokeng in a pre-dawn blitz yesterday after receiving information linking the occupants to a murder of a police assistant and illegal possession of firearms.

A 21-year-old man was arrested.

● A police patrol dispersed youths who had torched a shack in an East Rand squatter camp yesterday morning and saved a woman from being thrown into the fire.

Police fired warning shots. — Sapa

C Times 28/12/93

Violence-weary hostel inmates unite for peace

By THEMBA KHUMALO 278

TIRED of the violence that has dogged their lives, a group of concerned Johannesburg hostel dwellers has started a grassroots initiative to make peace.

Middle-aged, soft spoken Magazine Dhlomo, an induna from Jeppe Hostel, this week told the story of his efforts to end violence.

Dhlomo was addressing journalists and about 100 representatives from different hostels on the Reef, at a meeting facilitated by Reverend Mvume Dandala at the Methodist Church, under the auspices of the Hostel Residents Peace Initiative.

Sharing the platform was German Mlatsheni, who represented the Xhosa-dominated Selby hostel.

Twenty-two men's hostels have committed themselves to peace under this organisation that cuts across party politics. Members are affiliated to the ANC and Inkatha.

Dhlomo, who confessed having participated in violence in the past, said the hostels for peace idea germinated in August last year after he was approached by eight hostel inmates who asked him to do something to end the train and township violence.

The following month a Xhosa chief came to the hostel and exhorted the group to work towards bringing an end to black-on-black violence.

Dhlomo said: "We then wrote a letter to our counterparts at Selby hostel and I decided to deliver it personally, rather than post it. My colleagues were vehemently opposed to my going there and said I would be killed."

Predictably, the men at Selby were hostile and did threaten to kill him. But common-sense prevailed.

"I told them I did not come to apologise for our involvement in violence but to request a meeting that we could end the bloodletting.

"They were divided among those who wanted to lynch me and those who gave me a hearing," Dhlomo said.

After some persuasion the hostel dwellers were finally convinced that his mission was innocent and they discussed the matter.

They then agreed to meet under the trees of the Johannesburg Library gardens and again in November under a highway in the city.

Their meeting was attended by UN observers, Dhlomo said.

On December 12, after agreeing on several issues concerning the causes of violence, they held a church service at the Methodist Church. This was after they were refused the use of the hall and Dandala invited them to his church, Dhlomo said.

He said the service was followed by two others – one on December 19 at Jeppe Hostel and another at Selby earlier this month.

Said Dhlomo: "We were humbled by Rev Dandala's offer to offer us the use of his church. Many of us were setting foot in a church for the first time."

At the end of this week's meeting, the representatives from 14 hostels, among them Alexandra, Mai Mai, Jeppe, Selby, Nancefield, Denver and Diepkloof, shook hands as one group – people yearning for peace.

They left the gathering chatting animatedly and glowing with pride. They had suceeded where politicians had failed.

DO YOUR JOB

White attacks: Police doddering draws fire

By ELIAS MALULEKE

TODAY 11-month-old Boipelo More lies fighting for her life in hospital with suspected brain damage. Three white boys, alleged to be responsible for stoning the tot, are unable to face charges because they are "sitting for exams".

So say the cops.

Also, four black pedestrians are in hospital with a gruesome assortment of gunshot wounds – courtesy of cowardly white gunmen who took potshots at them from a moving car – seemingly just for fun . . .

There has been only one arrest. Will there be more?

Black leaders this week expressed deep doubt on this question when they slammed the sharp escalation of racist attacks by whites on blacks and demanded that the police get on with the job of apprehending the culprits.

ANC spokesman Dr Pallo Jordan said the trend placed all South Africans at risk.

He said: "Such racist activity is in direct contradiction to the process of transition to democracy and the spirit of reconciliation we are trying to bring about."

A caller to City Press claiming to represent the PAC military wing, Apla, claimed that when whites were attacked by blacks, outrage in the white-owned media was sure to follow. Yet when blacks were on the receiving end this was seen to be barely newsworthy.

He threatened more attacks on whites.

Several people interviewed randomly in Jo'burg's streets believed the attacks were the work of white racists bent on obstructing peace.

■ In one attack on February 17, four white youths riding on the back of a bakkie in Swartruggens in the western Transvaal stoned black pedestrians, hitting 11-month-old baby More on the head.

Boipelo was on her mother's back. She went into a coma and is being fed through a drip. Doctors at Leratong Hospital in Krugersdorp have said she is brain damaged.

Police were given a statement including the registration number of the youths' vehicle. That was minutes after the incident.

Outcry

Police arrested only one youth.

He was brought before a magistrate on Tuesday – six days later – following an outcry.

Swartruggens' Sgt Attie Breedt said the three youths could not be arrested as they were "sitting for exams".

A church leader who asked to remain anonymous said this tardiness was in sharp contrast to police in London who diligently arrested two 10-year-old boys suspected of murdering a two-year-old child last week.

"The same episode was displayed prominently on television, radio and in the press. When will our police learn that they are burning their own fingers with this type of attitude towards black victims?" he asked.

■ On Sunday two whites in a car travelling near Hartebeespoort Dam opened fire on black pedestrians, wounding Thomas Mathonsi, 32, and Maria Makoto, 13.

The victims were admitted to the HF Verwoerd Hospital in a serious condition. Mathonsi was hit in the shoulder and Makoto in the neck. They survived.

■ Fanie Mlambo, 10, a Std 2 pupil in Daveyton, had to have his left leg amputated at the Boksburg/Benoni Hospital last Saturday.

The limb was shattered by a bullet fired by two white men driving in the Etwatwa squatter camp in Daveyton at 6 pm.

Mlambo's friend, Solly Mailula, 13, was shot in the back.

The youths were on their way to a sports field.

Despite his wound, Mailula managed to get help. He also picked up a spent cartridge which was handed over to the cops.

The ANC's Jordan demanded that those committing 'racist atrocities" be brought to book now.

"As both government and democratic forces begin the process of fostering political tolerance among differing political trends, activities of this nature should be unequivocally condemned."

Jordan said the police response – that white youths accused of stoning little Boipelo could not face charges because they were "sitting exams" was "absolutely unacceptable".

"This is a case of gross irresponsibility on the part of the police, reinforcing perceptions that attacks against black civilians are not regarded as a criminal offence, but merely as minor misdemeanours."

CTPress 28/2/93

Four die in Vaal shootouts

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TWO alleged ANC members died in a shootout with the police in a house in Sebokeng on Friday morning.

A third man was wounded and arrested.

Vereeniging police spokesman Maj Piet van Deventer said the shootout took place when police raided a house following the murder of a policeman. Police later seized an AK-47 and two pistols.

In Bophelong two people, a youth and a woman, were shot dead by the police at Chris Hani squatter camp on Tuesday night, violence-monitoring group Peace Action alleged. They said Johanna Phume was killed by a stray bullet.

Van Deventer said the youth was killed by the police when he attacked them with a spade following his arrest for murder. He added police heard that a woman had been struck by a stray bullet, but their subsequent investigations drew a blank.

'TPA bullies are blowing our fuses'

CIPress 28/2/93

(278)

By THEMBA KHUMALO

TENSION is mounting between the police, residents and the township administrator of Phola, at Ogies in the eastern Transvaal, where three boys and a woman were shot between June and August last year.

Phola Civic Association official Thomas Sindana said the residents were up in arms about "police reluctance" to bring to book the white TPA employee who is alleged to have gone on a shooting rampage since coming to work in the township.

The employee, Sindana said, allegedly shot and wounded 11-year-old Leonard Ngidi in the leg while the boy was riding a bicycle at Phola. The man was not arrested or suspended despite a public outcry.

Later that month he fired a teargas canister at Mirriam Sando, 28, a mother of four, when she tried to stop him from cutting electricity wires in her house, Sindana alleged.

Sando's hand was injured when she tried to stop the canister from striking her face. She said her finger movements had been impaired.

However, eastern Transvaal police spokesman Lt-Col J Pienaar said the suspect would appear in the Witbank Regional Court on March 16 to face a charge of attempted murder. He would not say with which shooting he is charged.

Pienaar said the Transvaal Attorney-General had declined to prosecute for the June 16 shootings when police fired on protestors marching to the administrator's office.

Twelve-year-old Selby Masilela was hit by shotgun pellets while on a shopping errand and Anne Sejosengoe, 42, was hit in the nose by a stray bullet.

Sejosengoe said: "I was sitting on a couch in my shack when suddenly something slammed into my nose. The next thing I felt excruciating pain and I got dizzy."

Another victim of the allegedly trigger-happy TPA employee was Thokozani Botoboto Shongwe, 16, who was shot in the neck. He spent three months in hospital following surgery. His throat bears a huge, angry weal where the bullet punched through.

Civic association secretary Lucky Letwaba said the trouble started last year when township administrator J Stoltz introduced electricity metering boxes in homes.

When the residents realised that the new system was costly they rejected it and, in defiance, connected their own wires to those in the streets. Stoltz then sent in an armed and hostile white electrician to cut the people's wires.

The technician fired on anyone who challenged his actions.

Sindana accused Stoltz of breaking an agreement he struck up with them to declare a moratorium on the cutting of residents' wires.

Sindana said: "When we confronted him about his sudden turn-about Stoltz dismissed us with contempt, saying that he didn't take orders from us but from his TPA bosses."

He said residents no longer wanted Stoltz in the township. Residents believed Stolz was more interested in running his farm than looking after their interests.

Stoltz said there was more to the allegations against him than met the eye. He said: "I can't speak about them on the phone unless you make some time to come to my office. But basically I deny all the allegations by the civic."

Citizen 28/2/93

Gunman shoots 4 at funeral

(278)

By DAN DHLAMINI

FOUR people were wounded yesterday afternoon in front of UN observers when a gunman wearing an Inkatha T-shirt and a red headband opened fire on bystanders during the funeral procession of two slain Inkatha members in Tigane in the western Transvaal.

Cecil Kraai, Lebogang Masie, Kedilati Kraai and Nobantu Jwili were admitted to the Tshepong Hospital in a serious condition.

Eyewitnesses said the victims were standing in a yard in a group when they were attacked. It is alleged the gunman first warned them to move into the house and when he was ignored, he fired – hitting the four – and then rejoined the procession.

Red Cross fieldworker David Lebothe said two of the victims he took to the hospital were in a serious condition.

The shooting incident occurred during the procession to the graveyard minutes after a funeral service was held at the NG Kerk for Inkatha Youth Brigade assistant secretary Andries Khoza and Koos Seokolo.

Both Khoza and Seokolo died in a hail of bullets last week and Inkatha placed the blame on "forces of darkness who hate democracy and federalism".

Yesterday as the two hearses with a handful of mourners entered the NG Kerk, a group of youths (who were not part of the mourners) reportedly started ululating and some could be clearly heard saying "dogs have died".

Police are investigating.

Archbishop held in AK-47 swoop

C1 Press 28/2/93

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

ARCHBISHOP Mbhekiseni Khumalo of the Light of God Church in Zion, also alleged to be the leader of the notorious Inkatha-linked Khumalo gang, has been arrested in connection with possession of two AK-47 assault rifles.

He is out on R2 000 bail following his court appearance this week in Alberton. He faces charges of illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

Police spokesman Capt Ida van Zweel confirmed the arrest.

Arrested with Khumalo on the same charges was his son, Mzwakhe, who was recently discharged from Hillbrow Hospital after he survived an ambush two weeks ago.

Khumalo's younger brother, Mphikeleli, an alleged warlord, was also arrested last week with another gang member, Peter Sibeko, in connection with arson.

Another of Khumalo's sons, Jabulane, has also been arrested.

Since last week, police have cracked down heavily on the notorious gang which has been accused of atrocities and terror in the strife-torn East Rand township of Thokoza.

For months now, the township has been a battleground between gang members and residents.

On Friday morning several weapons were allegedly seized from a house near the Khumalos. A youth is being sought by police.

(148)

Van Zweel said five alleged gang members were arrested last week in connection with the murder of five people and injuring of 10 others on January 22. The five were still in custody, she said.

(278)

However, the killers of five youths who were gunned down on New Year's day are still free.

This killing sparked anger among a 100-strong group of local women who marched to the police station to protest against the gang's reign of terror.

The arrests of the Khumalos has sparked another menace.

Several men wearing Inkatha T-shirts were allegedly seen in the township collecting R20 a house in an attempt to raise bail money for the suspects.

The killers of Khumalo's wife, gunned down about a month ago, have also not been arrested.

Star 1/31/93

Three dead in Xhosa fighting

Fighting betweeen residents of Mandela Park and Holomisa Park on the East Rand last night left three dead and one seriously injured, said Witwatersrand police spokesman Colonel Dave Bruce.

"Fighting started at about 7 pm, and at this stage the reason for the violence is not clear. There are no political motives as both groups are Xhosa ethnic groups," said Bruce. — Sapa.

MK cadre gunned down in police raid

Sowetan 1/3/93

278

By Sonti Maseko

■ AK-47, pistols and grenade found after shootout in Sebokeng:

AN Umkhonto we Sizwe cadre and another man were killed during a police raid on a house in Sebokeng on Friday.

The police said yesterday the men died in a shootout while they were investigating the murder of a policeman. An AK-47 rifle, two pistols, a shotgun and a hand grenade were later found. A third man was injured in the shooting and arrested.

However, this account has been disputed by the family of James Mthombeni (19), the MK member in whose home the two were killed. The family, backed by the ANC, said yesterday the police cold-bloodedly murdered their son and his friend, Sizwe Mkhwanazi. Mkhulu Tshabalala was injured.

Another man living nearby, Mr Lucas Letsoenyo, was also raided by the police who demanded from him to produce a firearm. He claimed he was trampled on and hit with the back of a gun by the police.

Mthombeni's mother, Mrs Maria Mthnombeni, told *Sowetan* she returned from work early on Friday and found police in her yard.

She claims she was put in a police vehicle, assaulted and told she should speak the truth. The police drove with her to Houtkop Police Station, where she was told: "Your dog is dead" and asked to identify her son.

She claims she was later driven to Flora Gardens Police Station where she was again assaulted by a black policeman called "Shaka", who slapped her on the face and punched her.

"Shaka said to me: 'Your dog is dead and the ANC will do nothing for you, but if I died the Government would pay millions to my mother and father'," she said. Mthombeni and Letsoenyo have laid charges of assault against the police.

Star 1/3/93

Bystander shot dead at funeral

A woman was killed and three people were hurt in Tigane, near Hartbeesfontein in the western Transvaal, when shots were fired from an IFP funeral procession at bystanders on Saturday.

Police said the injured, two men and a woman, were taken to Tsepong Hospital in Klerksdorp. The injured woman was an ANC supporter.

The spokesman said about 100 mourners were walking from a church to a graveyard in the township at 3 pm when the shots were fired.

The funeral was for two IFP Youth League members. Andries Khoza died and Koos Seokolo was injured in an attack by gunmen on February 12. Two days later Seokolo was gunned down in his hospital bed.

Star 2/8/93

Security drive as rail deaths rise

By Bronwyn Wilkinson
Crime Reporter

(278)

In the wake of another fatal train attack on the West Rand yesterday, and a shooting at Merafe station in Soweto on Sunday, the South African Rail Commuter Corporation has announced plans to spend about R2,6 million testing new security systems at the Johannesburg and Dube stations.

SARCC spokesman Connie Nkosi said the systems, which would aim at controlling access to trains and stations, would be tested at the two stations later this month.

An SARCC statement said the corporation believed the only way to break the vicious cycle of violence which had taken its toll on train commuters was to improve access control.

Yesterday the bodies of two men, who had been thrown out of a moving train, were found next to the railway line between Lenasia and Midway stations.

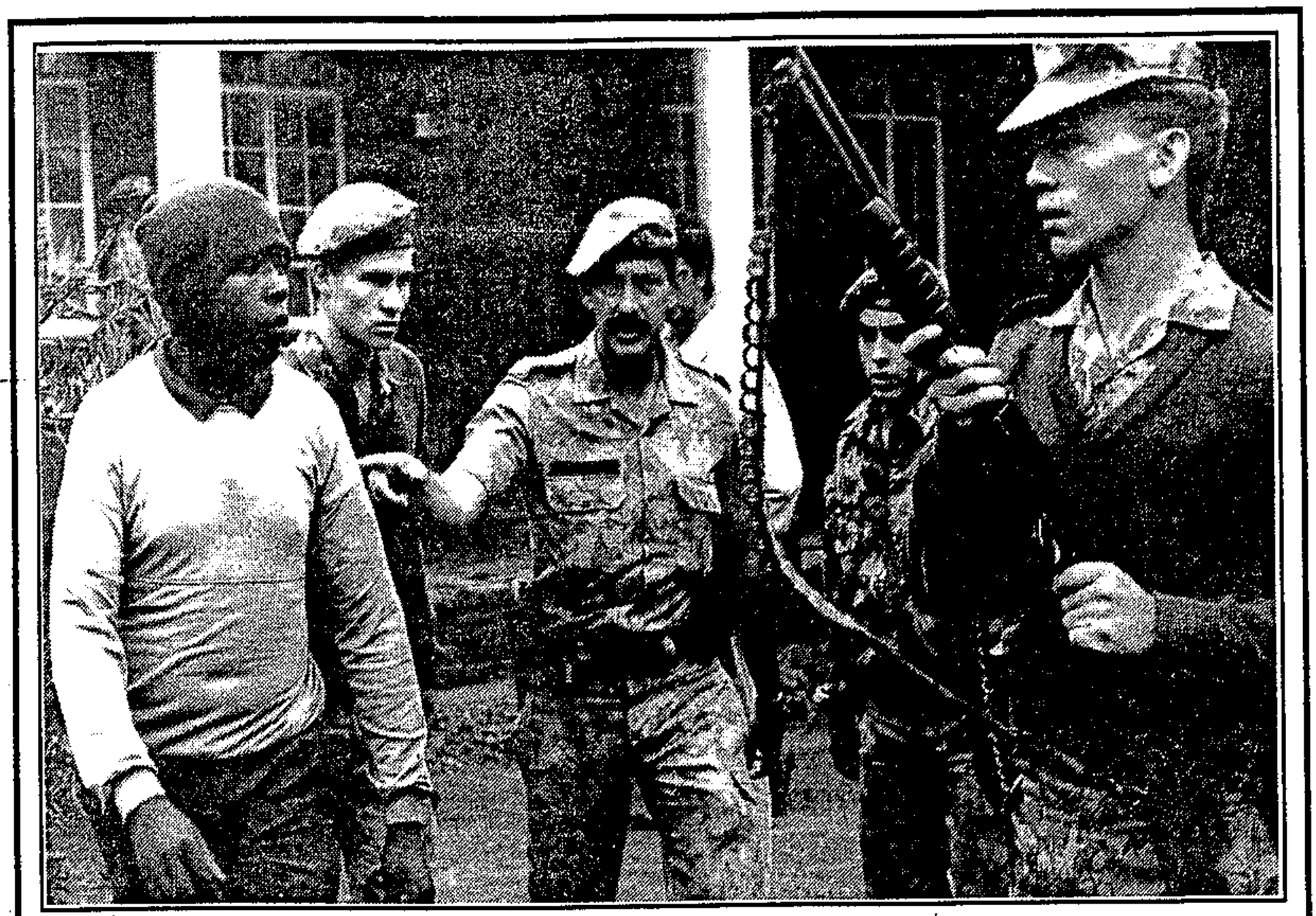
And on Sunday, two railway guards were shot and wounded in an attack at Merafe station. The guards believed they managed to wound one of their attackers when they fired back.

The access-control systems to be tested include hand-held metal detectors operated by security guards, screening arches at stations, four types of lockable turnstiles, security booths and special search areas.

Nkosi explained that although the machinery involved was not new, the configurations of the systems would be tested to determine which was the most effective, without slowing down commuter movement or endangering commuters in the event of a rush or stampede.

● Police have asked anyone who witnesses a train attack to call the toll-free number 080-111-0141.

ters leaves four dead • Mob attacks sound engineers



Members of the Internal Stability Unit escort a student to the Protea police station cells in Soweto after Diepkloof students demonstrated and disrupted proceedings in a number of courtrooms. The students were demanding the release of colleagues arrested last week. Four students were arrested yesterday and the rest were escorted out of the Protea Magistrate Court premises. PIC: MBUZENI ZULU

Four squatters die in faction fighting

Sowetan 2/3/93

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By Isaac Moledi

■ **GUNSHOT WOUNDS** Shacks set alight in feud between squatters camps:

FOUR PEOPLE WERE SHOT AND hacked to death, five others seriously injured and several shacks set alight when a fight broke out between factions at two squatter camps on the East Rand on Sunday night.

Police confirmed yesterday that three people were shot and hacked to death on Sunday night and the body of another man was found yesterday morning.

Hundreds of people fled their shacks at about 7.30pm on Sunday as a faction, believed to have come from the Mandela squatter camp, attacked residents of the Holomisa camp near Katlehong.

Residents of Holomisa said the fight may have been caused by elections which were scheduled for Sunday to oust the old residents' committee.

Representatives of the Mandela camp, who dominate the committee, were said to be refusing to quit their posts.

Residents of the Holomisa camp said yesterday the death toll could be higher because many residents who fled the area during the attack could not be traced.

A number of shacks were vacant when *Sowetan* visited the Holomisa camp at around 10am yesterday.

Two men killed on East Rand

JOHANNESBURG. — Police yesterday found the bodies of two men murdered in separate incidents in Katlehong, East Rand.

Police said Mr Sokolawana Daweti, 46, of the Beirut squatter camp, had been hacked and stabbed to death.

Mr Gabriel Masuka was shot and killed at his Katlehong home by three men with AK-47s on Monday night.

Police said a woman, Ms Katrien Kelly, was wounded in the leg in the shooting.

● Police have confirmed the death of IFP member Mr Mobongeleni Zulu, shot at his home in Muzawula, near Empangeni, on Sunday morning. — Sapa

Star 3/93

Murder charges dropped

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Four leading members of the Tokoza Civic Association are considering suing the authorities after the dropping of charges brought against them for the murder of one-time Phola Park leader Prince Mhlambi and four other young people in October.

Abraham Motaung, Philemon Mapatje, Gideon Letlolo and Jeremiah Motsieloa felt they had strong grounds to sue for unlawful arrest and malicious prosecution, civic association secretary Louis Sibeko said this week.

"We knew from the outset their prosecution was just a form of harassment. We are not surprised they have been cleared."

The prosecution of two others accused in the Mhlambi case, Paul Mokoena and Joshua "Yster" Mchunu, will continue.

They remain in custody and will appear in court in Alberton on March 25, when a date will be fixed for their trial in the Rand Supreme Court.

Star 3/3/93

Commuter tells trial of train killing

By Susan Smuts

A man burst into a train coach and fired on commuters before three other men — armed with a kerrie, a hammer and a tomahawk — attacked passengers and threw them from the train, a witness told the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Alfos Lekhuwane told Mr Justice J Els he saw Albert Dlamini walk into a coach on the Katlehong-Germiston train on October 9 1991 and fire a shot at a man reading a newspaper. He said Dlamini walked through the coach while commuters ran to the back of the compartment and tried to hide under seats.

Dlamini (30) of Katlehong has pleaded not guilty to murdering three commuters, attempting to murder nine others, and to the illegal possession of arms and ammunition. The State alleges he was part of a gang which injured and killed passengers.

Lekhuwane said Dlamini had shot him in the leg. Three other men entered the coach and started to assault passengers. He did not mind being beaten as this was "better than dying". He said he saw Dlamini throw one man out of the train.

When Lekhuwane was asked to point Dlamini out to the court, he identified a man sitting in the public gallery, not Dlamini, who was seated in the accused bench. Lekhuwane explained he had earlier seen Dlamini in the public gallery talking to the man.

The hearing continues.

Taxi gunmen shoot up petrol station

278
Sowetan 4/3/93.

A PETROL station attendant was shot and killed and a minibus taxi driver was wounded in Johannesburg last night when the occupants of another minibus taxi sprayed a service station with bullets.

At 8.15pm, a red Toyota minibus drove past a Trek garage in Fourth Street, Wynberg, a wealthy white suburb to the north of the city and near Alexandra township.

The occupants of the minibus opened fire on the garage - where a number of minibuses were parked - killing the attend-

■ One dead in night raid near Alexandra:

ant and wounding the taxi driver in the left leg, said SAP liaison officer Col Dave Bruce.

Several minibus taxis were damaged in the shooting, and police later found AK47, 9mm and Makarov cartridges on the scene.

Col Bruce said the names of the dead and the injured men were not yet known. A case of murder and another of attempted murder are being investigated. - *Sapa.*

Train death accused was a hired gun, says witness

SUSAN RUSSELL

A MAN charged with the murder of three train commuters told another suspect after their arrest that he had been given money and firearms prior to the attack on a Katlehong-Germiston train, a witness told the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

The witness, Simon Komane, said the accused, Albert Dlamini, had not told him who had paid the money.

Dlamini has pleaded not guilty to murdering three commuters and attempting to murder nine others on October 9 1991.

It is alleged he was part of a gang that opened fired on commuters and attacked them with knobkerries. The court heard that Komane, injured in the attack, was initially arrested as a suspect, but later freed after an identity parade.

Komane, who described himself as a Xhosa and an ANC member, said Dlamini and he had discussed the attack while they were both being held at Modderbee prison.

Dlamini had told him they would have to get themselves lawyers, that when they got out of prison they had to go and collect R90 000 in cash, and that he (Dlamini) had been given arms.

Komane said Dlamini had not told him why he was to be paid the money or who had paid him before.

He had asked Dlamini why he had attacked commuters.

"He said that was the work they had been given to do," Komane told the court.

Describing the attack, Komane said he was standing in the second last coach, reading his newspaper when he was approached by four men, three of them armed with knobkerries and the fourth with a firearm.

He had heard them say: "Here is the man we are looking for."

"I asked them what I had done. Before I could get an answer, I was hit on my head with a knobkerrie," Komane said.

"I fell. While I was lying on the floor I heard shooting," he said.

There had been more than one shot, but he could not say how many, Komane told the court.

He was later hospitalised for his injuries and arrested.

The trial continues before Judge J Els and two assessors today.

Ogilvy & Mather Direct 4076/REV

Hostel linked to killings

JOHANNESBURG. — A man charged with attacking train commuters in 1991 received guns and money from a migrant workers' hostel, a witness told the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Mr Alfred Dlamini, 30, of Katlehong, has pleaded not guilty to murdering three commuters, attempting to murder nine others and illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Two witnesses asked to identify their assailant, pointed to a man in the public gallery and not to Mr Dlamini.

Another witness, Mr Simon Komane, said he had been injured in the attack and taken to hospital.

On suspicion of having taken part in the violence, he was taken to Modderbee Prison where he shared a cell with Mr Dlamini. He was later released. (278) CT 4/3/93

While in prison, Mr Dlamini told him they would have to get lawyers because "we have been caught".

"He said they had been given money and guns from the Kwesine Hostel."

Mr Dlamini told him he attacked the commuters because "it was the work they were given to do".

The trial continues. — Sapa

Accused 'paid to kill train commuters'

STAR 4/3/93

By Susan Smuts

A man charged with attacking train commuters in 1991 said he had received guns and money to do his "work" from an East Rand hostel, a witness told the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Alfred Dlamini (30) of Katlehong has pleaded not guilty to murdering three commuters, attempting to murder nine, and illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition. He was allegedly one of a group which attacked commuters on a train to Germiston in October 1991.

Witness Simon Komane told Mr Justice J Els he was an ANC supporter. He had been injured in the attack and taken to hospital. On suspicion of having taken part in the violence, he was taken to Modderbee prison where he was put in a cell with Dlamini.

Dlamini told him they would have to get lawyers because "we have been caught".

"He said that when we leave the prison we must go and collect money. He said he had to collect R90 000. He said they had been given money and guns from the Kwesine hostel."

Komane said Dlamini told him he had attacked commuters because "it was the work they were given to do".

The hearing continues.

NEWS We've had enough — sound men ● Drug squad hunts escaped smuggler

Court move to oust squatters rejected

Sowetan 5/3/93.

By Josias Charle

THE Pretoria Supreme Court has rejected an application for leave to appeal against an earlier decision to allow Zevenfontein squatters to settle on a piece of land in Diepsloot.

The appeal bid was brought by the Diepsloot Residents and Landowners' Association which is opposed to Zevenfontein squatters being resettled on a site in Diepsloot.

Mr Justice McCreath dismissed the application for an appeal by the white landowners with costs yesterday. In December last year he also rejected the landowners' initial application.

The action started last year with an application for an interdict restraining the Transvaal Provincial Administration from resettling the squatters on the proposed site.

■ **Development will begin at Diepsloot soon:**

In terms of the latest decision the TPA will now go ahead with plans to resettle the Zevenfontein community at Diepsloot.

In a statement released yesterday Transvaal MEC Mr John Mavuso said: "The Zevenfontein community had lived in a state of uncertainty regarding their future and under unacceptable conditions with only the most rudimentary of services."

He said in terms of yesterday's judgment, the TPA would now set the physical development of the site in Diepsloot in motion.

Music festivals face sound boycott

By Kenosi Modisane

■ **WILD MEN** Sound hire firms fed up with rioting fans and danger to lives:

SOUND hire companies have threatened a blackout on music festivals after last weekend's riots that caused more than R620 000 in damaged equipment at three shows.

Four major sound and lighting companies — Sound Hire Unlimited, Admusic, PA Sound Hire and Mega Music — warned yesterday they would withdraw their services from live shows.

The threat to black out festivals follows last week's incidents when pop singer Brenda Fassie was billed to appear at four music festivals and failed to honour one at the Malamule Stadium in Gazankulu. She was also blamed for the chaos at the KaNyamazana Stadium in Nelspruit, allegedly pulling singer Rebecca Malope's band off the stage because she was in a hurry to honour another engagement.

Two engineers were seriously injured and equipment damaged in the rioting.

Mr Derek Woolridge of Mega Music said: "We see this as the beginning of the end for music festivals. What happened at the weekend shows greed, selfishness and disrespect for the paying public and safety of the engineers."

Cocaine drama at airport

■ **Nigerian citizen has operation after swallowing drugs:**

Sowetan Correspondent

A Nigerian citizen swallowed half a kilogram of cocaine packed in balloons at Jan Smuts Airport yesterday to try and escape arrest from police monitoring an incoming flight from South America.

Detectives rushed him to Hydromed Clinic where an emergency operation was performed to get the drugs - worth R150 000 - out of his stomach.

But police were less successful when a Surinamese drug smuggler on the same flight, carrying cocaine worth R510 000, escaped after he had been arrested. The man broke free and fled into the parking area where he disappeared. Police confiscated the drugs.

Alleged killer did not confess

Sowetan 5/3/93

By Tsale Makam

■ **Sequel to attack on train commuters:**

MR Albert Dlamini who is accused of leading an attack on train commuters in the East Rand on October 9 1991, did not make a statement to a magistrate, the Rand Supreme Court heard yesterday.

Major J Kritse, who took the statement, said as far as he was concerned it was not a confession and that was why he did not take Dlamini to a magistrate to make a sworn statement.

Dlamini (30) is facing three charges of murder charges and nine of attempted murder. He has pleaded not guilty and is on a R2 000 bail.

Mr Ernest Hutchinson, for Dlamini, told the court that his client did not speak "a word of Afrikaans or English".

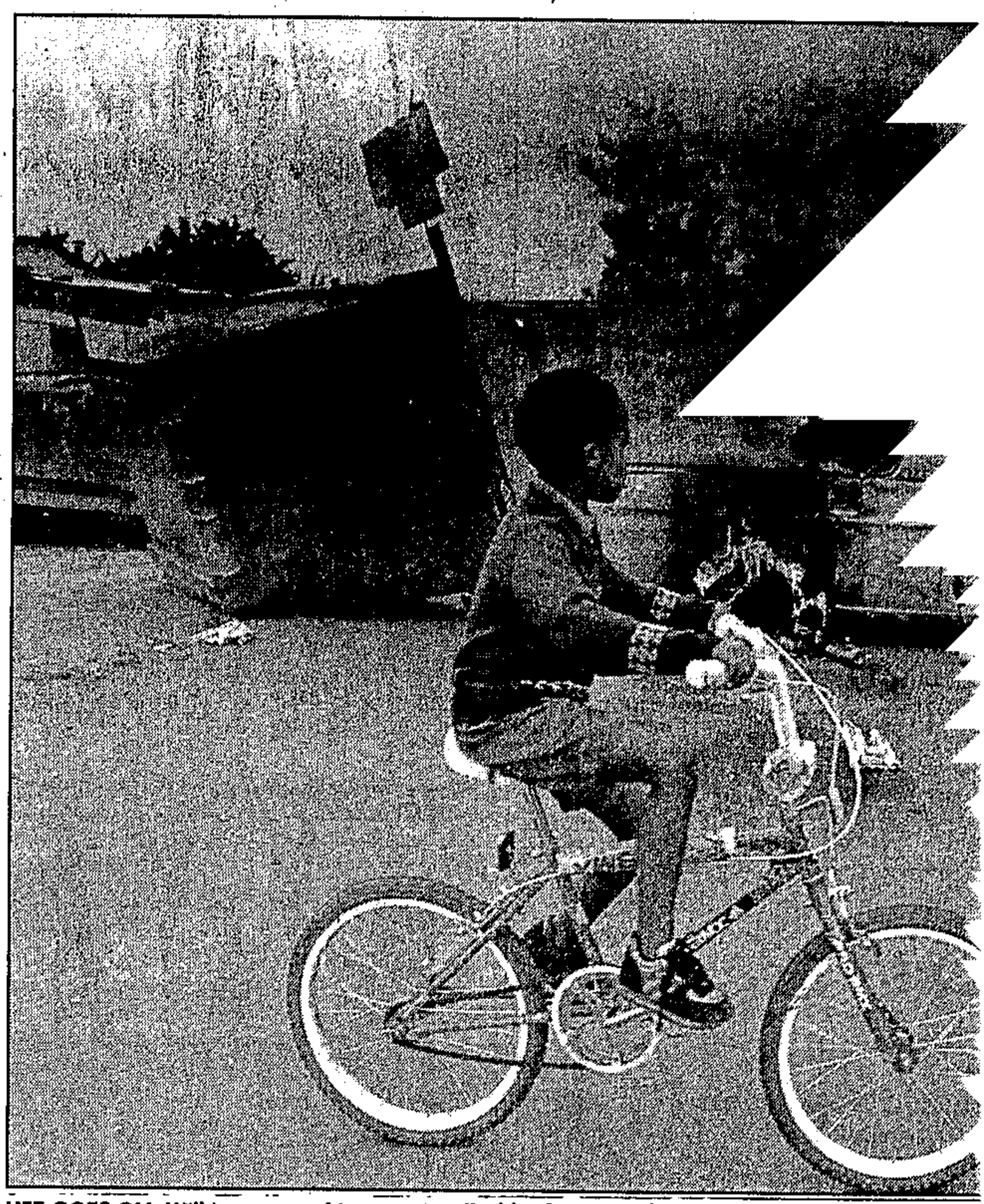
Three witnesses have identified Dlamini as having been one of the attackers on the Katlehong to Germiston train on that day.

Short fuse burns

Barricades, smouldering tyres return

Star 6/3/93 (278)

THE people in the townships are being held to ransom again — and the police raids have intensified. All the signs are there for the beginning of another season of killing, reports JOE LOUW, after a behind-the-scenes investigation in the Vaal Triangle.



LIFE GOES ON: Will it come to this again? A flashback picture shows a young cyclist circumnavi burning vehicle during riots in a Vaal Triangle township last year. Photographs: JOA

THE barricades are up again. Freshly dug trenches, a sure sign of community paranoia, have reappeared. Boulders, wrecks of cars resembling bizarre skeletons, and smouldering tyres herald the beginning of what could be another season of violence in the already blood-soaked Vaal Triangle.

Homes raided

Sebokeng, Evaton and Boipatong are simmering again. The old tensions, after a period of relative peace and calm, have resurfaced.

A harsh, "no-nonsense" police campaign of searching for "suspects" and illegal firearms has been under way for the past few weeks. Hundreds of Vaal township homes have been raided, many at night.

At nightfall, in Sebokeng Zone 7 and elsewhere, residents scurry home for protection. Motorists are made to stop at barricades and explain who they are, where they are going and where they will be staying. Safe passage depends on tact, recognising a familiar face, speaking in the right tone.

The young men who man the barricades will brook no nonsense, no insolence. The community feels once more at ransom. Yet nobody dares breathe a word of protest.

In these areas there is an unwritten law. If anything happens to you — your daughter is molested, your car stolen or your property damaged — don't go to the police. It's the worst thing you could do.

Instead, follow the rules and go to your local block committee or local coterie of "comrades". Explain your plight and eventually — within a few hours or maybe after a couple of days — your property will be returned and the culprits punished, or those who messed with your daughter or wife will be "brought to justice".

Failing to do this could mean your house going up in flames, or you could end up with that dreaded label, "mpimpi" — collaborator. That is the equivalent of sending your whole family "into exile".

Massacres

The Vaal has been the crucible of most of the violence in the PWV region since February 1990. The Human Rights Commission has recorded seven major massacres that have occurred in the Sebokeng, Evaton and Boipatong areas.

Starting with the Sebokeng/Evaton killing of 19 people after an Inkatha Freedom Party launch at the Sebokeng Stadium, then the gruesome massacre of 45 ANC mourners at a vigil in January 1991, followed by the Boipatong massacre last year in which 46 people perished, the region acquired the sobering title of "the killing fields of the Vaal".

Ernest Sotsu, Boipatong branch chairman of the ANC, bitterly accused the Goldstone Commission of having "failed lamentably in its investigations" because of its "arbitrary" rejection of SAP involvement in the massacre of the residents of Boipatong.

"The universal feature in all the killings," Sotsu wrote to the commission, "is the singular failure of the SAP to arrest, let alone prosecute, a single perpetrator in respect of these cases of violence. There is no hope that a solution to end violence can be found as long as the SAP still enjoys the protection of the apartheid legal system, reg of their illegal be and clandestine tions in perpetu violence in this co

Sotsu's views wide audience a lowing in the V across party youths in the ar lieve in him.

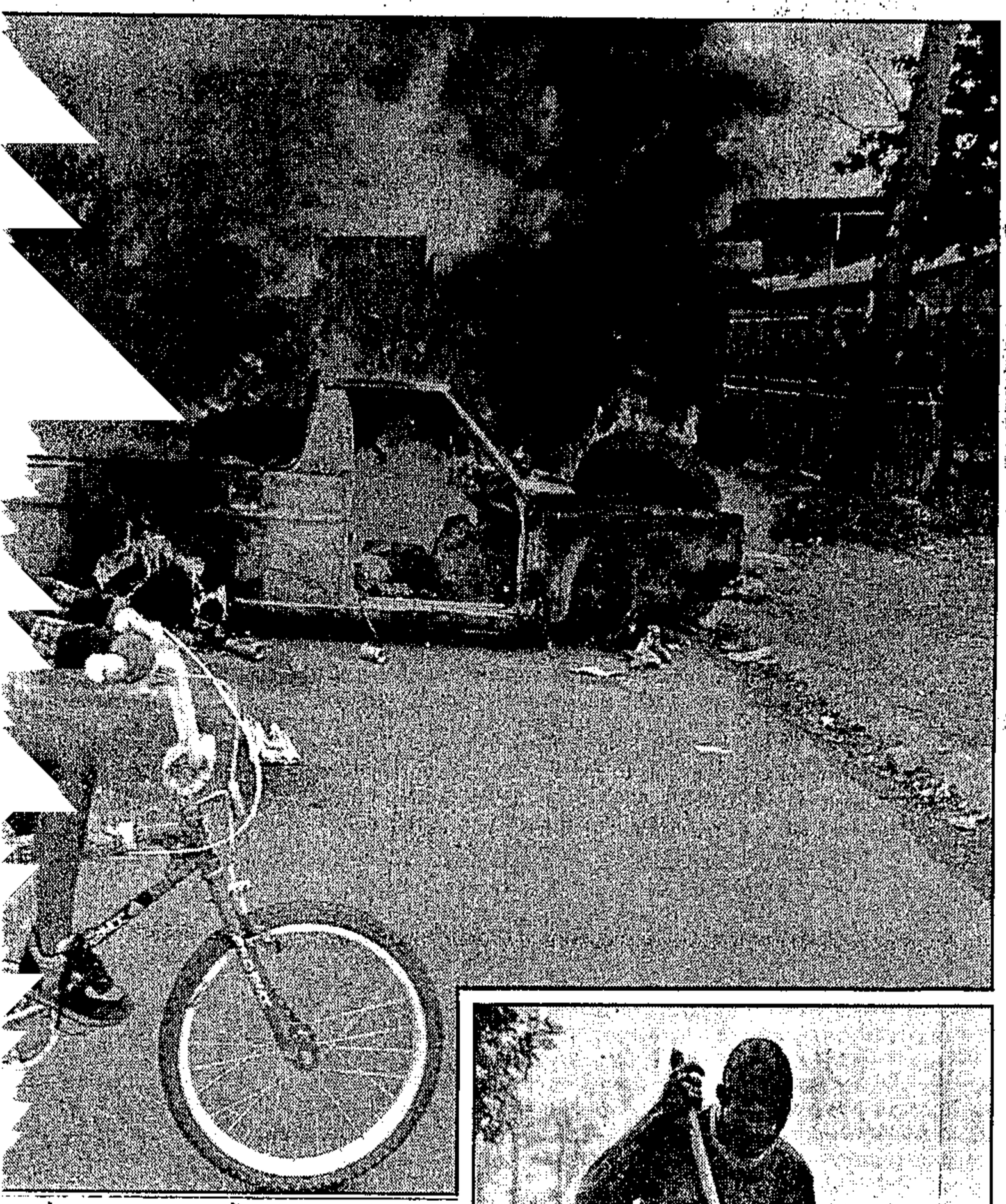
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ure shows a young cyclist circumnavigating a
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Sotsu's views have a wide audience and following in the Vaal — across party lines, youths in the area believe in him.

Explosion

In the daytime in Sebokeng, Small Farms, Evaton and other Vaal Triangle townships, for all intents and purposes, people go about their business. Taxis fly past the boulders, school pupils gambol along the rain-soaked streets.

But underneath the cheerful Vaal skies, an explosion is waiting to happen.



THE CLEAN-UP: After the mayhem there are efforts to return to normal. These residents were photographed last year cleaning up after the violence.

We know best, say Vaal's black police

Star 6/3/93

'Remove all the white (251) commanders'

A MEMORANDUM from black policemen in the Vaal Triangle calls for the removal of white 'commanders' and claims white policemen are using illegal firearms. JOE LOUW reports.

BLACK policemen in the riot-torn killing fields of the Vaal Triangle have demanded the removal of their white superiors — alleging that while they use illegal firearms to kill township residents, some black policemen do not have official weapons to protect themselves and their targeted families.

The allegations are detailed in a memorandum drawn up at a recent meeting of 190 disaffected black officers. The document, which is in the possession of the Saturday Star, is signed by a senior liaison officer, Adjutant T S Letlala. It calls for all white "commanders" in the area to be replaced by blacks, who should be in charge of all police operations in the area's townships.

Vaal Triangle police spokesman Major Piet van Deventer told the Saturday Star that as far as he knew, the contents of the memorandum were an "internal matter". The complaints, he said, had been addressed at the highest level. "I believe there are no similar complaints any more," he said, pointing out that the SAP "was very concerned about the welfare of all members of the police force, black and white".

The most serious allegation in the memorandum concerns firearms confiscated during raids. "We are aware that these (white) members do not want to help us," the memorandum says. "It is because they want to do their duties alone; because during the tour of our duty they use unofficial and unlicensed firearms seized from the public. When patrolling black residential areas after sunset, they always say that they are out for sport, then they start shooting at random."

The policemen also allege that there is a disregard for their safety by their white colleagues. The memorandum accuses the police force of not providing them with transport home from danger zones — despite killings of black police officers, they are forced to walk through the townships. The policemen also complain of not being issued with bullet-proof vests although these vests are issued to certain municipal policemen.

'Really big problems'

Van Deventer confirmed that since the beginning of last year 27 policemen had been killed in the Vaal Triangle, three of them this year. Last Friday, 34-year-old Detective-Constable David Dhlamini was fatally wounded when shots were fired at a police patrol vehicle in Sebokeng Zone 6, according to police sources. The next

Curfew in force after fortnight of violence

(275) ANC 6/3/93

Weekend Argus Bureau

PORT ELIZABETH. — Fort Beaufort townships were under curfew from last night after a fortnight of violence which has left three people dead, six seriously wounded and at least 14 families homeless.

Strife between the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress has been blamed for the unrest.

The Fort Beaufort district is still under emergency regulations imposed in September last year, after the Bisho massacre.

Police spokesman Captain Henry Chalmers said the curfew would be in force from 9pm to 4am.

Residents will be confined to their homes during those hours.

Exceptions would be made for residents with letters from employers stating reasons — for example shift-work — for being out during curfew or for residents able to justify being off their properties.

People ignoring the curfew would be arrested.

He said that in the lastest incident of violence on Wednesday night six people escaped death when a gunman raked their Tinus Township home with AK-47 rifle fire.

Nobody was injured in the attack, although several windows were shattered and the walls were riddled with bullet holes.

While police were investigating, a nearby house was set alight.

A couple inside were overcome by smoke and had to be rescued.

A man also was seriously assaulted by four men in the Tinus cemetery that night.

Since the violence began on February 19, at least three cases of murder, six of attempted murder and 14 of arson have been reported.

Nine people have been arrested on charges from attempted murder and illegal possession of ammunition to public violence.

Six die over charity food

By MOSES MAMAILA

INTENSE fighting at Holomisa squatter camp on the East Rand – which has claimed at least six lives in a week – was triggered by food donated by Operation Hunger, local residents have claimed.

"Operation Hunger has given birth to an ugly child – operation execute," one resident told City Press this week.

Community leader Wilson Maxaku said: "The whole thing was sparked by greedy so-called leaders who wanted to sell food donated by Operation Hunger.

"An organisation calling itself Vicosa, which apparently has connections with Operation Hunger and the Development Trust, was behind the scheme which defrauded the community.

"The so-called leaders distributed some of the donated food to card-carrying Vicosa members while the rest was sold to the people in the camp."

On Sunday the residents launched "operation execute" on the homes of officials of the organisation.

Six people believed to be Vicosa members were hacked to death and several shacks were destroyed in the fighting which lasted for three days.

The alleged Vicosa members, most of whom were driven out of the area, counter-attacked, leaving four people with gunshot wounds.

When City Press visited the squatter camp this week armed residents were patrolling the area.

Stokvel mayhem as thugs strike

C/Press 7/8/93

By ELIAS MALULEKE

A GANG of 11 thugs wielding AK-47s and an assortment of other weapons struck at a stokvel party in Mamelodi West and killed a man before robbing about 40 patrons and the owner of the house.

Businessman Eddie "Bifty" Seshoha, who was hosting the Maracuja Club stokvel at his house in Block B, was robbed of more than R25 000 in cash, and clothing and audio visual equipment valued at over R40 000 on Monday morning.

Patrons were robbed of their jewellery, cash and items of clothing by the thugs who pistol whipped several of the patrons.

Jafta "Saki" Mokwebo, 25, was shot at point blank range with a 9 mm pistol when the thugs stormed the kitchen where he was busy packing liquor into the fridges.

The thugs allegedly used "military precision" and took their time during the robbery which lasted more than 45 minutes.

Police spokesman Maj Andrew Lesch confirmed the incident and said 40 people were in the house when the incident occurred at about 3.15 am on Monday.

However, the SA Police's conduct during the unusually lengthy robbery was questioned after a man, who was sitting in a bakkie when the gunmen arrived, reported the incident to the local police station and returned to find the thugs still at work. The police allegedly arrived about 10 minutes after the robbers made their escape.

Lesch said the allegation was serious and would be investigated.

According to eyewitnesses, the heavily armed thugs stormed Seshoha's house shortly after 2.30 am and forced patrons in the yard and house to lie on the ground.



DEVASTATED ... Grieving parents Johannes and Clara Mokwebo after their son Jafta was shot by armed robbers. ■ **Pic: ELIAS MALULEKE**

One of the armed thugs kept watch at the gate, some surrounded the house and others went inside and held their victims captive.

Eyewitness James Maliba said he was taking a nap in the bakkie when he noticed an armed man standing at the gate.

"I realised it was a robbery and took off in the bakkie to report the incident at the police station," Maliba said.

After storming the house and shooting Mokwebo, the robbers stripped patrons of their valuables and forced them to undress.

Seshoha said he came out of a backroom when he heard the shooting and walked straight into the barrel of an AK-47.

"I froze, not knowing what to do and then I was hit on the head with a gun butt and fell down," Seshoha said.

He regained consciousness after the thugs left.

The three gunmen then turned their attention to a youth also employed by Seshoha. He was grabbed and threatened with death unless he showed them where the money was kept.

The youth, who asked to remain anonymous, said he pretended not to know where the keys to the backyard bedroom were kept. But he was knocked "senseless" with a gun butt.

"Two struggled with me and forced me to stand up, while the third demanded the keys. I continued to play dumb because Sis Grace was sleeping in the room," the youth said.

However, one of the thugs kicked the door open and pushed the helpless youth inside. They pointed their guns at him and ordered him to show them the cash box.

Seshoha's wife, Grace, who was sleeping in the bedroom, was also stripped and her jewellery was taken.

The gunmen also stripped unconscious Seshoha of his jewellery and leather jacket.

The gangsters loaded their loot into the boot of a white Skyline car they were using.

Meanwhile, Maliba said on arrival at the police station, about 2 km from the scene of the robbery, he stopped a vanload of policemen and told them the details.

"They said I should report first to the charge office," he said.

He allegedly reported the matter to a policewoman who then called the police. However, there was a delay as the police allegedly looked around for bullets.

The police then suggested I use my bakkie to lead them to the scene of the crime.

"I was driving ahead of them and as we neared the house, I found the police were no longer following me," said Maliba.

On arrival at the house, he saw the robbers were still standing in the yard. Maliba circled the block and noticed the police van allegedly heading back towards the police station.

He said if the police had reacted swiftly, they would have caught the thugs in the act.

The youth said before the thugs left, one of them demanded that all people in the house should be killed, but the others objected and then left the premises.

Maj Lesch said police were still investigating and no arrests had been made.

Black man claims assault by whites

Sowetan 8/3/93 (278)

By Mathatha Tsedu

A BLACK resident of Leondale, near Germiston, was assaulted at the weekend by two white men who called him a "kaffir".

Mr Reggie Ramerafe (34) said when he went to the Alberton police station he was asked to drop charges.

Police could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Ramerafe, of 49 Antelope Street, said the two men accosted him as he left his house on Saturday morning. They hurled insults at him, calling him a "kaffir" who had no business to stay in the once whites-only suburb.

■ 'They called me kaffir,' says Leondale resident:

"One of them started breaking my flowers. I threw a stone at him but missed and the second one came for me. I ran away," Ramerafe said.

He said he went into a black-owned house nearby where his assailants caught up with him, kicking and assaulting him. He sustained injuries to his jaw, eye, lips and legs.

"They tried to drag me into their car but I resisted as I knew they would probably kill me. The owner of the house called the police but by the time they arrived the men had left," he said.

A policeman traced the assailants to a house in his street, he said, and took him there to identify them.

'They tried to drag me into their car but I resisted as I knew they would probably kill me'

"I confirmed that they were the attackers but was surprised at the friendliness of the police towards the men," he said.

He left the policeman at the house and went to the police station to report the matter.

Hostels go for peace

Star
8/3/93
(28)

More than 1 000 hostel dwellers committed themselves to peace at a meeting at Soweto's Nancefield hostel on Saturday, organised by the Hostel Residents' Peace Initiative.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 30 Witwatersrand hostels.

It was aimed at furthering last year's peace initiative, started by both ANC and Inkatha Freedom Party hostel dwellers.

The meeting decided each hostel would draw up and implement a code of conduct for its residents. This would be shared with all other hostel residents to encourage and facilitate a shared approach, a South African Council of Churches statement said yesterday.

One of the key points accepted at Saturday's meeting was "respect for each person's right to belong to a political party of his choice as well as respect for all political leaders".

Other points to be included in the suggested codes of conduct were:

- Rejection of ethnic aggression.
- Promotion of healthy relationships with township residents living close to hostels.
- The need for reconciliation and the bridging of gaps in cultural values. — Sapa.

...by police at Sebokeng, ... men died in a shootout while police were investigating the ...der of a policeman. Families of the two men and the ANC have disputed the police version.

Teachers meet today to decide on strike

Sowetan 8/3/93

■ Schools staff want their demands met first:

By Lulama Luti

WHETHER Soweto teachers will go back to school is to be decided during a meeting at the Ipelegeng Community Centre today.

This follows a meeting last week when Education and Training Minister Mr Sam de Beer met with a delegation of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union.

At the meeting De Beer agreed to stop the retrenchment of 32 teachers until the matter has been discussed at a meeting scheduled to take place this week.

Speaking at a Press conference on Friday, representatives of the Soweto branch of Sadtu indicated that unless their demands were acceded to they would not go back to school.

The demands included the unconditional reinstatement of the 32 teachers, that they be paid and given letters of appointment and that the DET place a moratorium on all pending retrenchments.

According to Sadtu Soweto president Mr Matakanye Matakanye they had information that 518 teachers would be retrenched by the end of this month.

General secretary of the Soweto Education Co-ordinating Committee Mr Joe Ndlovu said his organisation supported the teachers' action and added that it would be simplistic to call on them to go back to class while their grievances had not been dealt with.

Hostel dwellers committed to peace

Sowetan 8/3/93

278

■ Residents meet at the Nancefield Hostel:

MORE THAN a thousand hostel dwellers committed themselves to peace at a meeting at Soweto's Nancefield Hostel, organised by the Hostel Residents' Peace Initiative on Saturday.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 30 Witwatersrand hostels and was aimed at furthering peace initiatives started by both African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party hostel dwellers.

The meeting decided that each hostel would draw up and implement a code of conduct for its residents to encourage and facilitate a shared approach, a South African Council of Churches statement said. —*Sapa.*

Vaal hostels in meeting for peace

(278) 3/93

JOHANNESBURG. — More than a thousand hostel dwellers committed themselves to peace at a meeting at Soweto's Nancefield hostel organised by the Hostel Residents' Peace Initiative at the weekend.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 30 Witwatersrand hostels and was aimed at furthering last year's peace initiative started by both ANC and IFP hostel dwellers.

The meeting decided that each hostel would draw up and implement a code of conduct for its residents which would be shared with all other hostel residents.

One key point accepted at the meeting was "respect for each person's right to belong to a political party of his choice and respect for all political leaders". — Sapa

Court told of attack and murder on train

Star 9/3/93

By Susan Smuts

The third trial involving men accused of train violence began in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday when two Soweto hostel dwellers pleaded not guilty to one count of murder and seven counts of attempted murder.

Icam Bongani Mazibuko (24) and Michael Mguni (26), both of Mapetla Hostel, pleaded not guilty to murdering Thapelo Johannes Tsotsetsi on the Germiston-Johannesburg train on October 17 1991, and to attempting to murder seven other commuters.

Victims

The State alleges the men were part of an armed group who attacked the commuters.

One of their alleged victims, Cecelia Hleziphi Hlatshwayo, told Mr Justice W J van der Merwe and two assessors she had seen a group of about 10 men board the train at the George Goch station.

Three of the men, who were armed with a panga and knobkerries, had come into her coach, where commuters were singing "freedom songs".

The singing stopped when the men entered. Tsotsetsi urged the commuters to continue their songs because "these people are not fighting", Hlatshwayo testified.

She said Mazibuko then hit Tsotsetsi with an iron weapon which had been screwed into his knobkerrie. Two other assailants joined the attack.

Tsotsetsi fell to the ground and the three men hit him repeatedly. (218)

Mazibuko then attacked Hlatshwayo, who was pregnant at the time. Although she tried to defend herself, she quickly lost strength and fell to the ground. Mazibuko hacked her on her head.

She said the men alighted at the Jeppe station.

The hearing continues.

2 more deaths in squatter camp

CT 9/3/93. 278

DURBAN. — Two men were killed in the Bhambayi settlement near Inanda, Durban, at the weekend bringing the number of deaths in the overcrowded squatter camp to 12 in recent days.

Police spokesman Captain Hamilton Ngidi said the men had been found with stab and bullet wounds on Saturday.

At Mehlomnyama, Port Shepstone, Mr Mandlenkosi Dube was gunned down at the weekend, KwaZulu police said.

Two people were arrested and are expected to appear in court today.

In another attack, a woman and her two sons were injured when men armed with AK-47 rifles fired on them in the Phoboko area. No arrests were made.

Illegal arms

On the Reef, the body of a Wattville Hostel resident, Mr Johan Mgabhie, 30, was found in the hostel grounds with two bullet wounds on Sunday night, police reported yesterday.

Also on the East Rand, three men were arrested for the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. A 28-year-old man was arrested after a 9mm Baretta pistol was found in a room in the Daveyton Hostel, and at a house in nearby Rasinguve a 21-year-old man was arrested after the discovery of a .38 Special revolver and ammunition, plus two AK47 bullets.

The third man was arrested when he was found in possession of an unlicensed pistol and ammunition at a home in Tsenelong in Tembisa. — Sapa

Man denies train killings

B/D Rand 10/3/93

STEPHANE BOTHMA

A CARD-carrying Inkatha member charged with murdering three and attempting to kill another nine train commuters claimed in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday that he was the victim of train violence and not the perpetrator.

In a statement made shortly after his arrest, Albert Dlamini told the police how six men armed with pangas and other sharp weapons entered a train coach on October 9 1991, and indiscriminately launched an attack.

They were travelling from the Kwesine railway station to Germiston when attacked. Shortly before the attack some people were singing ANC songs but were warned to stop, he stated.

Dlamini, in possession of an unlicensed firearm he intended taking to Natal, had opened fire on the attackers and hit one before receiving a blow to his head with a panga, he stated. He was assaulted several times more before being thrown off the moving train.

Later, he was taken to the Natalspruit hospital where some of the other victims pointed him out as one of the attackers.

After his arrest, he was transferred to the Boksburg-Benoni hospital.

"I think the reason for my transfer was because one group of nurses wanted to give me a lethal injection, while the others said that I should live," Dlamini said in the statement.

He denied that he had attacked anybody on that train or that he had thrown any commuter from the train. He had only fired shots in self-defence, he said.

Star 11/3/93

AK-47 hit team guns down taxi owners

(278)

Two unidentified brothers were shot, one of them fatally, in a taxi-war attack at the Baragwanath rank yesterday.

They were gunned down after leaving the Soweto Taxi Association offices as they stood talking at a petrol station.

A police spokesman said a white BMW had driven past and returned a few minutes later.

Three men armed with AK-47 rifles jumped out of the car and opened fire on the brothers.

The taxi owners were hit several times in the fusillade of about 20 bullets before their assailants sped off in the car.

The two were taken across the road to Baragwanath Hospital, where one later died.

NEWS Keys announces VAT exemption on wheatmeal, rice

Two cops shot dead on the East Rand

Sowetan 11/3/93.

278

■ Service pistol stolen by killers:

By Sipho Mthembu and Sapa

TWO traffic policemen were shot dead in their car at Vosloorus on the East Rand yesterday morning.

They were Mr Samuel Khaya Mbokwana (30) and Shadrack Mbuyazi (28).

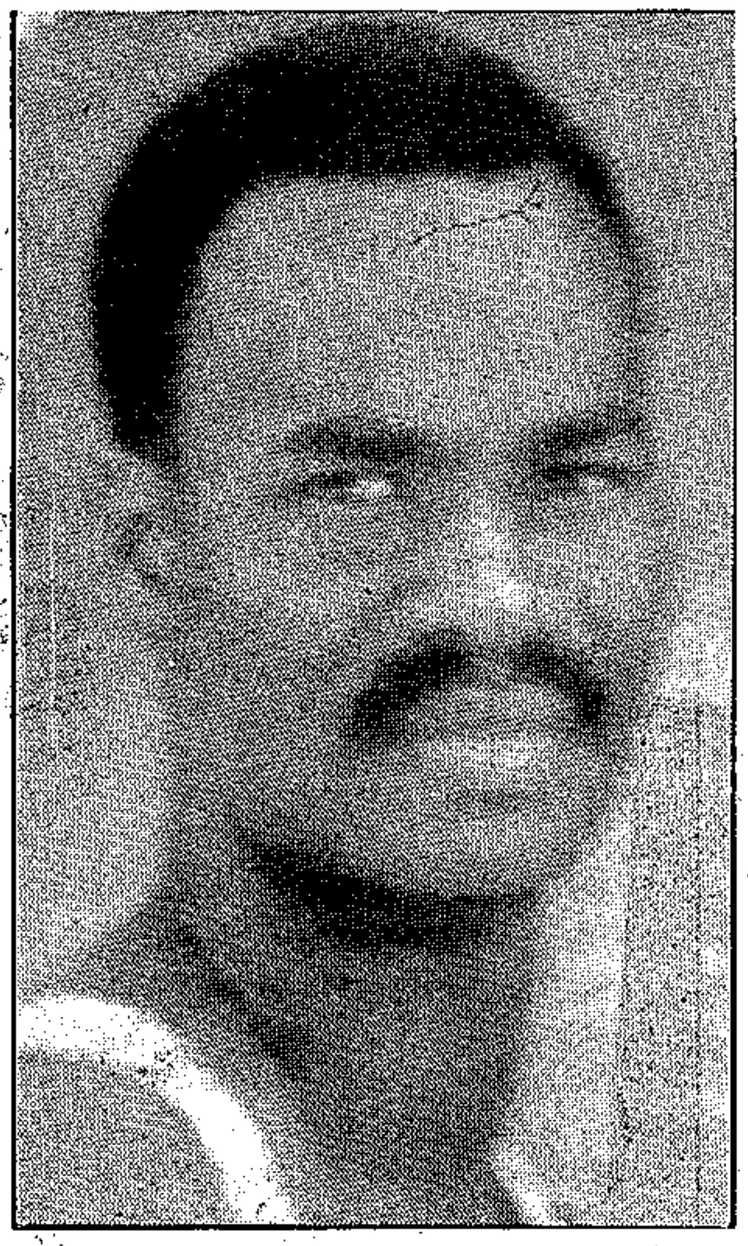
Police spokeswoman Lieutenant Janine Smith said the policemen were sitting in their car in Hattingh Drive when they were approached at about 7.20am by two men armed with handguns.

The men fired through the driver's window, hitting both officers in the chest. Two 9mm cartridges were found at the scene, Smith said.

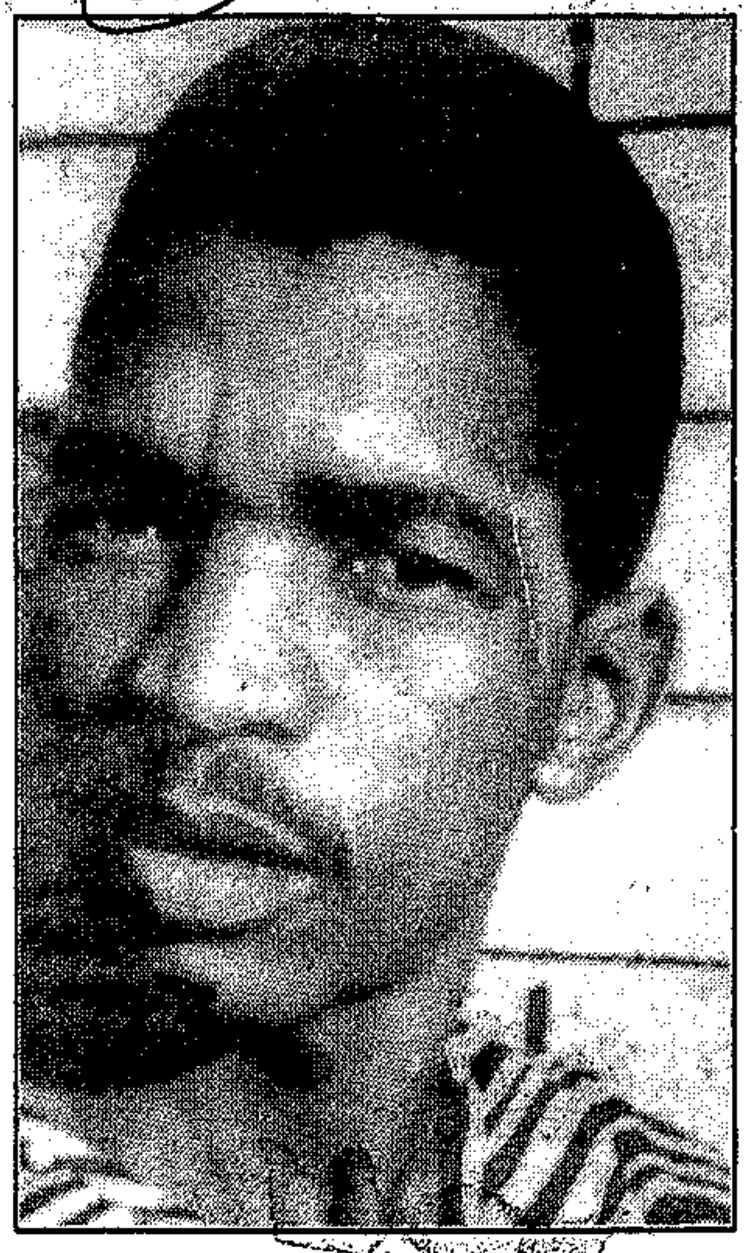
Vosloorus town clerk Mr George Prinsloo said only Mbuyazi had been armed. His service pistol was stolen.

Vosloorus police station commander Captain Casper van Eeden confirmed police were tracking one of the attackers thought to have been wounded in the incident.

Mbokwana's wife Judith was too distraught to talk to *Sowetan* yesterday. The couple had three children. Mbuyazi, who stayed in the barracks at the Vosloorus traffic department, is from KwaMbonambi in Richards Bay.



Shadrack Mbuyazi



Samuel Mbokwana

Star 12/3/93

Mamelodi pupils (2/8) stone, burn trucks

By Phil Molefe and Mckeed Kotlolo

As Soweto schools struggle to return to normal, chaos erupted at schools in Mamelodi, near Pretoria, after violent incidents in the area yesterday.

Pupils burnt two delivery vehicles and stoned several others in the township. No injuries were reported.

Township sources said pupils from the troubled Izikhulu Secondary School in Mamelodi East attempted to disrupt classes at another school. When they failed, they turned on a furniture delivery van and stoned it before setting it alight.

They then attacked other vehicles including a bread delivery truck which they set alight. Pupils said they had targeted Government vehicles, and a member of the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) said it was unfortunate that business vehicles were also attacked.

Izikhulu yesterday reopened after being closed because of disruptions.

Meanwhile, three Cosas members pleaded not guilty in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court yesterday on a charge of attending an illegal gathering. The case was postponed to March 22.

In Soweto, good attendances were reported in most schools but the spectre of further disruptions hung over the township. The local branch of Cosas yesterday accused the police of waging a silent war against the organisation and its members.

Soweto Cosas spokesman Bafana Twala warned that schools in the township would not get back to normal because of the "continued harassment and intimidation of pupils" by police.

Twala said two "comrades" were taken to the Protea police station last week and allegedly tortured by police.

Soweto police spokesman Major Joseph Ngubeni said four pupils were arrested in Diepkloof about two weeks ago for allegedly hijacking a delivery truck, and were facing robbery charges.

Inkatha man gets 8 years for train attack

THE police had done everything they could to solve a 1991 train attack, a Rand Supreme Court judge said yesterday as he sentenced an Inkatha member to eight years in jail for attempting to murder a commuter.

The judge, Mr Justice J Els, found Albert Dlamini (30) of Mazibuko Hostel, Katlehong, guilty of attempting to murder a commuter on a Germiston-bound train on October 9 1991 and of illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Dlamini was jailed for eight years for attempted murder and two years for illegal possession of the gun and ammunition. The sentences are to run consecutively.

■ Judge rejects ANC supporter's evidence of R90 000 payment:

The judge found two groups had battled on the train, which made it impossible to find Dlamini had acted in common purpose with other attackers.

Sowetan 12/3/93

Give evidence

Not all the people who were attacked had been called to give evidence, and Dlamini could not be convicted for attempting to murder these people. Of the four victims who did testify, the judge accepted the evidence only of one.

The judge rejected as false the testimony of ANC supporter Simon Komane, who said Dlamini had told him he had been promised R90 000 for the "work" of attacking commuters. Komane claimed Dlamini told him the money and guns for the attack had been supplied from Kwesine Hostel on the East Rand.

● In another train violence trial, judgment is expected today in the trial of Mr Icam Bongani Mazibuko (24) and Mr Michael Mguni (26) who have pleaded not guilty to murdering a commuter and attempting to murder seven others on a Germiston-Johannesburg train on October 17 last year. - *Sapa.*



Peace at last ... Children play in the streets of 'Beirut' where, a year ago, running gun battles raged

Photos: GUY ADAMS

A fragile peace comes to Alex

W/Mail 12/3 - 18/3/93 (278)

A year after the 'Alex war' initiatives by the community and outside monitors have brought peace to the poverty-stricken township.
By **PHILIPPA GARSON**



Flashback ... Bloodied victim carried to safety in last year's violence

A YEAR ago an all-out war erupted in the congested township of Alexandra. Early in March, bitter gun battles broke out between former neighbours and friends and the once close-knit community was tragically divided into "no go" zones controlled by the Inkatha Freedom Party or African National Congress.

Thousands fled their ransacked, burnt-out homes in "Beirut", the Inkatha-controlled area bordering the Madala hostel where most of the fighting took place. ANC supporters fled the hostel and surrounding "Beirut" and Inkatha followers moved in. A total of 2 800 of the 360 000-member community were displaced, fleeing to relatives, churches and the local town council. The Alex clinic was awash with blood as the injured and dead kept pouring in.

Now, however, a miraculous — if fragile — peace has descended on Alex. Where bullets whizzed ceaselessly up and down in Third Avenue, people now mill about peacefully in the midday sun. Where the Madala hostel was a fortress manned by snipers, it is now a calm, though still dilapidated and stench-filled home to thousands of unemployed men who come and go freely.

Much of the credit for the astounding transformation of Alex into a relatively peaceful area with prospects belongs to the Interim Crisis Committee for Alex (ICC). Formed on April 1 last year when violence peaked, the ICC, which now has six task groups, has grown into a strong and credible body.

Although it falls under the National Peace Accord, the peace committee perceives itself as far more than a local dispute resolution committee, dedicated not only to violence monitoring, but to large-scale upliftment of the community in the belief that peace will never be attained without substantial upgrading of the area. The ICC is comprised of local ANC and IFP leaders, local and regional government authorities, business and church representatives, police and defence force members and international monitors.

Engaging directly with Alex residents, the ICC or its task groups hold meetings almost daily. According to the peace body there has not been one politically-related murder since December last year.

Pascal Ngakane, assistant director of the Alex Clinic, saw the worst of the violence last year. "Alex at the time was in flames — literally. We were inundated by large loads of patients shot by high-calibre, high-velocity weapons. Now political violence has dropped significantly. We haven't seen casualties of such violence for almost eight months ... we are seeing the results of the work the ICC has put into peace. The whole thing is so exciting. People are really beginning to find each other."

Mike Beea, representing the interests of the ANC and its allies on the peace committee, says peace has come about largely because of the impact the individuals serving on the ICC have made on ordinary community members. "People have learnt a lot about the National Peace Accord. They have learnt about tolerance. The majority of people in Alex don't belong to political organisations but they have suffered the consequences." He also notes an improvement in police-community relations.

Despite persistent lawlessness exacerbated by the tremendous amount of arms in Alex, police liaison officer Colonel Dave Bruce describes the township as "a success story", praising police, the ICC and the community for transforming the area into a "totally different place", and an example to other areas where peace initiatives are not working. In his view, the police, who raided Alex in full force in June last year, were pivotal in reducing violence and it was on their initiative that the ICC was formed.

Sadly, the criminal activity that subsided during the eruption of political violence has surfaced again and criminally related murders average five a week — symptomatic of the high level of stress in the densely populated community where 360 000 mainly unemployed people are crammed on two-and-a-half square kilometres of land.

But the urge to fight over scarce resources has clearly been replaced by a desire to find solutions. There are signs everywhere of the reconstruction underway. "Beirut" has become known as the "reconstruction area" where homes destroyed by fire and looting are soon to be rebuilt. Clean-up operations have begun in earnest. Bulldozers have replaced Casspirs and young men who were once forced to participate in the pointless feuding are today converting shacks into houses.

Although the warring has ended, people still fear returning to their former homes and areas are still strictly "Inkatha" or "ANC", despite the political affiliation (or political indifference) of those who live there. Petersen Poswa, local IFP leader who sits on the ICC, says "it is not happening yet that people walk freely in each other's sections. That will depend largely on the ANC and IFP. We are trying through the ICC to achieve this."

The biggest challenge for the ICC looms large: the repatriation of the thousands of displaced people who are living in makeshift accommodation in six areas around the location.

Phillip Mdlangamandla, who represents hostel-dwellers on the ICC, says initial suspicion of the peace efforts has been replaced by the desire to facilitate the repatriation of people. "At first they didn't believe the ICC would bring peace. Now they are beginning to believe in it. They want the hostel-dwellers who fled to come back. There are no longer guns or weapons in this hostel."

Two men lounging at the entrance of the hostel confirmed this sentiment. "We feel very happy that there is peace. We can be together with the ANC. They can come back."

The change in attitude of the hostel-dwellers, who increasingly feel they have a stake in the community, has partly come about through the efforts of the Direct Action Group, backed by the O'Connor Foundation, which is building new facilities for small business ventures and literacy classes in the hostel grounds and Greater Alex area. DAG, formed in November last year, is also engaged in a major clean-up operation of Alex, employing 138 people from the community. DAG also has 16 soup kitchens and is feeding 38 000 people every day.

Families who fled "Beirut" and are living in makeshift quarters in the town council buildings also express the desire for reconciliation. However they are bitter that their homes have been taken and that they continue to live like refugees. They are still too scared to venture up to "Beirut" to see what remains of their dwellings and some say they will never return.

S'TRUE EKSÊ

True tales from around Southern Africa, by **ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK**

In the pink

TRAFFIC officers in the Vaal Triangle have far too aggressive an image, according to delegates at the annual meeting of the Law Enforcement Co-ordinating Committee of the Vaal region. A solution, said one delegate, was to make traffic cops wear pink uniforms. The existing brown colour just made them seem aggressive.

Nose for trouble

PRIVATE security guard Jan Pretorius responded to an alarm signal in Edenvale at 5pm one afternoon. He saw no warning signs about dogs, and peered through a gate to see if anything suspicious was going on. A pitbull terrier then bit off three quarters of his nose.

Speaking from the Rose Acres Clinic in Primrose, Pretorius said he had laid charges against the owner, but did not want the dog put down. "The dog was just doing his job and so was I," he said.

Love less

LOVEMORE NYABEZA, a flight lieutenant and coach of the Zimbabwe Air Force soccer team, confronted MP David Rizlve on a Gweru street on August 28 last year, and accused him of sleeping with his wife.

When Rizive denied the accusation, Nyabeza allegedly struck him down with a stone. He then beat him, bit him in the chest and poured sand in his eyes. This week, in the Gweru Magistrate's Court, he pleaded not guilty to assault.

No flies on Bill

BILL MACMENIGALL of Unconventional Engineering, a Johannesburg company that manufactures a fly trap called the Redtop Flycatcher, says South Africa's fly population appears to be larger and more of a nuisance this summer than before.

He believes the spreading of informal settlements and sewerage leaks are partly responsible.

In response, his company has developed a larger fly trap for farms and businesses, to complement the smaller trap it makes for domestic use.

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CLOSING DATE: 26 March 1993

LABOUR

Doves of peace coo at Langeberg

W1 Mail 12/3-18/3/93

The Langeberg Food Co-op, once the site of violent battles between rival union factions, is now striving for peace after the intervention of mediators, reports

FERIAL HAFFAJEE

A LITTLE hope for deeply divided South Africa is being forged at the Langeberg Food Co-operative in Boksburg, near Johannesburg.

Last month, warring workers at the factory signed a pact to end violence and promised to use a peace committee instead of pangas to solve problems.

Workers have lost their lives and many have been injured in two years of political strife between the Inkatha-linked United Workers' Union of South Africa (Uwusa) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions affiliate, the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) at the factory.

It was the site of the most notorious Uwusa/Cosatu battles on the Reef and while fighting only once strayed on to the factory premises, workers fought just outside the factory and also in surrounding townships.

Things got so dangerous that management at one time considered closing the factory.

Instead, they called in the Local Dispute Resolution Committee (LDRC) — affiliated to the National Peace Accord — which suggested they enlist the help of the Independent Mediation Service of South Africa (Imssa).

Imssa took each worker through a four-hour crash course in tolerance and democracy, and on February 16, a code of conduct was signed at the factory. Each worker has received a copy and



Pledged to peace ... Langeberg workers have commited themselves to a code of conduct **Photo: RUTH MOTAU**

huge signed versions occupy pride of place in the factory's yard so that the code is always visible to the company's 1 000 canning, glassing and distribution workers.

But it is going to take a lot of work to make the code more than just a pretty symbol.

There is still palpable tension at Langeberg. At the front gate everyone is searched with state-of-the-art equipment and a sign warns that weapons will not be allowed on to the premises. Security guards with walkie-talkies escort visitors about.

Uwusa and Fawu representatives deliberately sit at different sides of the table and talking to each other does not come easily. But both unions have committed themselves to the freedom of association or disassociation — and neither can compel workers to join their organisation.

According to the code, this gives workers "the right ... to belong to a political party, organisation or trade union of their choice ... or to elect not to belong to any such body".

The parties to the code have agreed to affiliate to the LDRC and also sworn against violence and compulsion.

Workers who signed the code have made sacrifices: they may not wear any party political symbols, like T-shirts in the workplace, or distribute any material of the organisation or trade union they belong to.

Langeberg management also committed itself to majority unionism in the code and while there must be no compulsion to strike, a clause states: "This shall not be construed as limiting or preventing any trade union, office-bearer, shop steward or worker from lawfully engaging in, or lawfully encouraging others, to engage in industrial action."

Uwusa has, according to sources, a minimal presence at the factory. It does not have shop-stewards and Fawu would not at first assent to it participating as a representative union.

"If it could hinder the peace process, that organisation must be brought into that process regardless of its constituency," believes a source who helped draw up the code.

Despite the various provisions, the parties realised that disputes could still arise. So the code makes provision for dispute resolution: a permanent peace committee, comprising three management representatives, seven from Fawu and three from Uwusa, is the first option.

Fawu president Chris Dlamini said parties at Langeberg had "been brave enough to discuss ways and means of sorting out problems" while the rest of the country was being devastated by violence.

Amos Magcanya, a shop steward at Langeberg, at first resisted meeting the National Peace Accord. It wasn't working on the ground and had become a "paper commitment", he thought. Now he will "encourage use of the code and the procedure to minimise friction".

To popularise the code, Langeberg's management will "run follow-up sessions throughout the year", says general manager Garth Ward.

Ward adds that peace negotiations have had the important spin-off of improving labour relations. "Productivity will improve if you improve (workplace) relations," he says.

Tapes snag delays carnage inquiry

By CHARLENE SMITH

ANALYSIS of the tapes concerning the Boipatong massacre in July last year are still holding up the findings of the Goldstone commission into the deaths of 45 people in Boipatong.

The tapes, which were partly erased — apparently in error by the SA Police — have part-recordings of police radio and phone traffic in the area before the evening of the massacre.

The Goldstone commission initially first gave the tapes to a South African electronics company for analysis, and then withdrew them when it was discovered that the company was a major defence force contractor. ST Times 14/3/93.

Refused

The tapes were then taken to Britain for an analysis that all parties involved in the hearing, including the ANC, SADF and SAP, considered woefully inadequate.

Members of the commission then listened to the tapes, and it is believed they compiled a lengthy transcript of the communications on them. It is also believed that nothing of a dramatic nature is contained in the tapes. However, the commission refused to comment this week.

In November last year the commission gave the police the opportunity of obtaining an additional transcript of the tape by other overseas experts.

However, since then the Department of Foreign Affairs has had difficulty in finding a country willing to investigate the tapes.

C/Press 14/3/93

Gunmen flee axeman

(2K) F1

AK gang routed by local 'peace' man

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

HE might be a man of peace, but when the chips were down Daveyton peace committee man Diketso Makana Moloi showed he could out-Rambo the best of them – armed with only an axe!

This happened while the ANC man's house was being attacked by a gang of six men armed with AK-47's and Molotov cocktails.

This week Moloi, a member of the National Peace Accord's local Dispute Resolution Committee, told of how he drove off the gunmen.

Sylvester Stallone eat your heart out!

"It sounds fictitious . . . but it's real," said a relieved Moloi.

A bit like the legendary Xhosa prophet Makana, Moloi said he had shouted to his attackers "My time is not near" and counter-attacked, swinging an axe above his head.



TRUSTY BLADE ... Daveyton peace offical Diketso Makana Moloi shows off the homemade axe he used in his dramatic counter-attack.
■ Pic: EVANS MBOWENI

THIS WEEK

A bit like the legendary Xhosa prophet Makana, Moloi said he had shouted to his attackers "My time is not near" and counter-attacked, swinging an axe above his head.

Moloi and his family escaped unhurt but his Tlase Street home was damaged by a petrol bomb during the early Saturday morning attack.

Moloi said the attack was part of a campaign of "systematic killings of ANC members" in the area.

Explosion

He said: "It was round 2 am. I heard my two dogs barking loudly and then there was a deafening explosion.

He rushed outside, grabbing his trusty home-made axe on the way.

He encountered three men, one of whom was struggling to ignite the fuse of a petrol bomb.

"The one who was busy striking a match was armed with an automatic weapon.

"I jumped for the armed man ... struck him twice with the axe ... on the head and then his arm."

The gang of six, surprised by the ferocity of the axeman, panicked and ran.

"They thought I was part of a group of comrades!"

Turning only to fire off a wild burst, the gang disappeared into the darkness.

Moloi was at the forefront of attempts to prevent the police from harrassing residents of the area, which has been a flashpoint of violence.

Chris Hani, whose lives in one of the hardest hit sections of Daveyton, has blamed a vigilante gang called the Amabutho for the strife.

Seven residents were massacred there last year.

While residents accuse the Amabutho, police said they believed the attackers were from "outside" adding that investigations were at a sensitive stage.

Riot and Serious Crime Investigations Unit commander Lt. Watson confirmed that the names had been



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Riot and Serious Crime Investigations Unit commander Lt. Watson confirmed that the names had been handed to him.

■ Another recently returned ANC soldier, Erasmus "Rasta" Mawela, 25, was stabbed to death, allegedly by Amabutho, last Friday night in Mandela Park.

Mawela and four others had been charged with the murder of two Amabutho members.

Also last Saturday another ANC member, "Big-boy" Dladla, was buried after he was shot dead, allegedly by Amabutho.

Last year ANC official Wiseman Cebisa was allegedly executed by the same group.

East Rand traffic cops withdrawn

278

Sowetan 16/3/93

■ SAFETY CAUTION Move follows the killing of two colleagues sitting in a car

By Lulama Luti

ALL EIGHT TRAFFIC POLICEMEN operating in Vosloorus on the East Rand have been withdrawn indefinitely following the fatal shooting of two of their colleagues in the township last week.

The decision to withdraw them was effected last Friday.

This follows the killing of Samuel Khaya Mbokwana (30) and Shadrack Mbuyazi (28), who were shot dead while sitting in their car in Hattingh Drive in Vosloorus.

Local Chief Traffic Officer Mr GS Lehihi told *Sowetan* that all eight traffic policemen in the area would be withdrawn until their safety could be ensured by the community.

"At the moment (having them out on the streets) is not worth it. There is some kind of squad patrol going on but the officers no longer man the roads as was the case prior to last week's incident," he said.

Both Mbokwana and Mbuyazi will be buried at their hometowns in Empangeni, Natal, and Mount Frere, Transkei, respectively. A memorial service for the two will be held at the Vosloorus Civic Centre tomorrow.

The chairman of the Vosloorus Road Safety Committee, who is in charge of the scholar patrols in the township, said they were dealt a heavy blow by the removal of the traffic policemen and that the safety of the schoolchildren was now at stake.

"There are about 13 primary schools taking part in the programme and we are talking here of thousands of little children who are now going to be at the mercy of rude motorists.

"The scholar patrol programme was started about three years ago.

Kagiso house torched

Sowetan 16/3/93

By Ruth Bhengu

A KAGISO, West Rand, house was damaged after a mob of rampaging schoolchildren set it alight yesterday.

The pupils, all from the SG Mafaesa High School, petrol bombed the house at about 11.30am in what is believed to be a revenge attack following the killing of a pupil earlier last week.

The pupil, Samuel Khunou, had apparently been involved in a quarrel with another youth over a girlfriend. During the

■ Rampaging pupils on a revenge mission: 278

row Khunou was stabbed to death.

The suspect's uncle, Mr Ezekiel Vilankulu, said he came home to find a group of people standing outside the house trying to put out the fire.

"The front portion of the house was completely gutted," Vilankulu said.

He said trouble started last week when Khunou was stabbed to death.

A youth has been arrested.

Bodies found on East Rand

(28) 04/6/1973

JOHANNESBURG. — The bodies of two men with various wounds were found in Katlehong on the East Rand yesterday morning, a police spokeswoman said.

A Daveyton policeman, Constable M J Mokwena, was shot and wounded by gunmen in the township on Sunday, police said yesterday. The motive for the attack is unknown.

A Tembisa man, Mr L J Chuene, was found necklaced in the township on Saturday, it was reported yesterday. — Sapa

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Former mine compound becomes school*

Fragile peace on Reef after much bloodletting

Soweten 16/3/93.

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By Mzimasi Ngudle

■ Elderly men at two hostels offer an olive branch:

IT TOOK elderly men and a suicidal risk to launch a peace initiative that has now spread to more than twenty-four hostels in the Reef.

A breathtaking case is that of Jeppe Hostel inmate Mr Jacob Dlomo, who pleaded with rival Selby Hostel inmates not to burn his corpse in case they decided to kill him.

"Leave my corpse for my next-of-kin so that they can give it a decent burial," he said when young Selby Hostel residents cried for his blood.

This was after he had ignored persistent pleas from fellow inmates and braved his way into the Selby Hostel to deliver a message of peace.

Scribbled on a piece of paper, the message of peace was the culmination of the efforts of eight elderly Jeppe Hostel inmates who were exhorted by a Xhosa chief to work towards bringing an end to black on black violence.

It was August 31 and the war between the two hostels was at its climax.

Spattered with blood

The gates and walls of both hostels were still splattered with fresh human blood.

"I did not come here to ask forgiveness. I simply came to find an alternative to the kind of life we are subjected to," he told them..

Selby Hostel residents did not believe a word. They were adamant he was on a reconnaissance mission for further attacks.

In fact Mr German Mlatsheni, leader of the Selby Hostel residents, still grimaces with shock and disbelief whenever he recalls the day he saw Dlomo at Selby Hostel.

"We knew that Jeppe Hostel was a valley of death. They too knew they could not put a foot in our hostel.

"On seeing him at our hostel, unarmed and with only a letter in his hand, I could hardly believe my eyes," he said.His patient pleas did not fall on deaf ears. Although still very suspicious, the old men in Selby calmed down the young residents. A peace process began. At great risk to their lives, the old men from both hostels had to contend with the fury of the youths who were bent on vengeance. To defuse an atmosphere of mistrust the residents from both hostels decided to invite a Methodist Church minister the Rev Mvume Dandala to act as a facilitator. Dandala's participation began when he attended a meeting at Pioneer Park in November last year and challenged the men to pass peace to one another as would happen in church.

"It was incredible to watch the two groups begin to embrace one another with the peace of God," Dandala said.

This meeting led to a prayer, peace and Christmas service in December at the Jeppe Hostel for about 200 residents.

In February this year another prayer service attended by more than 1 000 hostel residents was held at Selby.

Leaders of about 24 hostels committed themselves to a peace pledge in the presence of Bishop Stanley Mogoba, the Rev Frank Chikane and Dr Peter Storey.

The residents also elected a committee to work on long-term peace goals, including setting up a code of conduct, programmes for social life and education and plans to make a contribution to the future of the country.

The peace initiative is still in its infancy. The hardened attitudes of many years of great apartheid are still apparent.

Nonetheless, the interest that has since come from many hostels on the Reef looks set to overcome ethnic conflict and party political bickering.

All the participants stress the need to root out the involvement of political parties. They insist the initiative is strictly a hostel affair. All they are pleading for is money to fund their programme of action.

Contact person is the Rev Mvume Dandala at (011) 337-5938.

Star 17/3/93

Residents protest at shooting in stadium

Residents from Eldorado Park, Kliptown and Klipspruit West last night staged pickets in protest against the fatal wounding of an Eldorado Park High School student by police on Thursday.

Anthony Morgan (21) was shot dead by an assistant police constable during a school athletics meeting at the Eldorado Park stadium, south of Johannesburg.

— Staff Reporter.

(298)

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ANC and Inkatha to march in same area

RAY HARTLEY

POLITICAL tolerance in East Rand townships will be seriously tested on Sunday when the ANC and Inkatha hold marches and rallies in Vosloorus and Katlehong on the same day.

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said yesterday a groundbreaking decision to have a joint ANC and Inkatha "marshalling structure" at both rallies had been taken to lessen the chance of violence at the rallies.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi would address Inkatha supporters in Vosloorus, while ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa had been asked to address an ANC rally in Katlehong, he said.

Mamoepa said the PWV regional dispute resolution committee had decided on joint monitoring mechanisms which involved police and independent monitors, and it had been agreed that the routes for the marches to the rallies would be identified beforehand and strictly adhered to.

The ANC rally would launch the organistion's election campaign in the region and it was therefore even more important that a tone of peace and political tolerance be generated, he said.

He said ANC supporters would begin door-to-door campaigning immediately after Sunday's rally and would also canvass the area in which the Inkatha rally was being held.

"We are in touch with the regional dispute resolution committee and the national peace secretariat, we are making approaches to the Commissioner of Police to minimise confrontation on Sunday.

"This is the litmus test of political tolerance. Maybe the tone set over the weekend in Natal (where ANC and Inkatha leaders issued reconciliatory statements) will come to the East Rand," he said.

□ LLOYD COUTTS reports that the DP will venture into Soweto this weekend following successful forays into the northern suburbs in pursuit of the hearts and minds of Johannesburg's domestic servants.

MP for Yeoville Douglas Gibson will address the Soweto branch of the DP at the Funda Centre on Saturday on "the DP plan to save SA".

Observers from the UN and the greater Soweto dispute resolution committee will attend the meeting.

DP city councillor Jack Bloom said recent threats from civic organisations to prevent "white" parties from holding meetings in the townships would not deter his party.

"At the end of the day it's a question of political tolerance. If we can't have ordinary meetings, what are we coming to? As far as democracy is concerned, it's not just our right to have a meeting that is at issue, it's free political expression for everyone."

Bloom said disruptions of DP meetings in Guguletu near Cape Town had attracted many new members to the party.

Saturday's meeting will be chaired by Soweto chairman Andile Mzaidume, and will start at 2pm.

Goldstone appeals | **Row over invites**

Greed, intolerance spark taxi wars

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — The intolerance, selfishness and greed of minibus taxi operators are partly responsible for outbreaks of violence in the industry, the Goldstone commission has found.

In its fourth interim report on violence in the industry, the commission said a variety of factors had contributed to the serious loss of life, injury and damage in the Groblersdal area since 1988.

These included the existence of too many taxis, a power struggle between operators, economic pressure as a result of high vehicle and maintenance costs, and a culture of lawlessness.

"There is a high degree of intolerance, selfishness and greed which militates against co-operation and bedevils attempts at mediation," the report said.

Among recommendations made by the commission were the appointment of neutral taxi rank marshalls operating under a code of conduct agreed upon by all taxi companies. Fair, consistent but sympathetic law enforcement from the authorities and a more accessible town council were also required, the commission's report said.

Taxi operators and drivers should obtain further business and driving skills, while those involved in the industry needed greater empathy, less selfishness and more respect for the rights of other operators, the report recommended.

The commission stressed that all participants in the industry should be committed to the peaceful resolution of grievances.

"Unless every person in the minibus industry wants peace and works towards it, all efforts to combat violence are doomed to failure."

ANC and Inkatha plan rallies

RAY HARTLEY

MORE moves were made yesterday to prevent violence on the East Rand, where Inkatha and the ANC are scheduled to hold rallies and marches in Katlehong and Vosloosrus townships on Sunday.

Johannesburg hostel residents' peace initiative committee official the Rev Mvume Dandala said his organisation had called on 500 Vosloorus hostel dwellers to mark Inkatha's rally in the township with "peaceful behaviour".

Inkatha and the ANC have agreed to a joint marshalling arrangement for the two rallies, which will be addressed by Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa.

Dandala said the committee had been invited to address the hostel residents "on the need for peace in these difficult days. A special call was made to those who will be travelling long distances to get there, to ensure that they observe the efforts for peace and do not disturb the community in any way," he said.

"A plea was made to the township residents of Vosloorus not to be surprised or overcome with panic when they see people in traditional dress on this day, for people have been alerted to observe peace," Dandala said.

International observers and regional dispute resolution committee officials will monitor Sunday's marches and rallies.

Meanwhile, ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the ANC and the Transvaal Hostel Residents' Association would meet shortly to strengthen an accord signed in October last year.

Mamoepa said the bilateral agreement had substantially reduced violence and not a single incident of political violence between hostel dwellers and surrounding communities had been recorded this year.

He said the meeting would look at ways of putting pressure on government to make funds available through the National Housing Forum for the upgrading of hostels and surrounding areas.

The two organisations would also discuss ways of involving businesses and churches in the upgrading process.

"Business can play a role in providing technical and financial resources for upgrading and development," Dandala said.

● Comment: Page 8

Dutch police slam SAP

Senior Dutch policemen have slammed the 'insensitive' methods of their counterparts in the Vaal Triangle.

By **PAT SIDLEY**

A SENIOR Dutch policeman monitoring violence in the Vaal Triangle has sharply criticised South African Police methods in the area.

In particular, he and colleagues in his team have related how an Internal Stability Unit (ISU) Casspir "slalomed" through mourners at a political funeral "for no apparent reason". He said if his team had not intervened, violence would have erupted.

Amsterdam superintendent Gert van Beek and Sergeant Joop Koops of the Groningen police, with Amsterdam lawyer Willem van Maanen and researcher Ineke van Kessel, are staying in the Vaal townships to observe violence, with particular reference to how it is policed. They are here on behalf of the three Dutch police unions.

Van Beek said he and colleagues from violence-monitoring organisation Peace Action were at the March 6 funeral of two African National Congress youths in Sebokeng, when a Casspir began "slaloming through the procession".

Van Beek said he could see no justification for the action in terms of crowd control, and that it had been additionally insensitive given that the youths had died as a result of police action. (The youths had been shot after police believed they were implicated in the death of a policeman.) Van Maanen said his impression was that the police conduct had been designed "to cause trouble". Van Beek said the arrival of another Casspir at the graveside was "a red flag to a bull". As youths in the crowd were about to throw stones, he and his colleagues had driven between the youths and the Casspirs.

When Van Beek had asked the Casspir driver "to move a few paces back", he had refused to do so and questioned the Dutch policeman's right to intervene. Van Beek had responded that he too was a policeman, who had seen violent action in Amsterdam during squatter riots.

Eventually the driver moved 50m back, immediately easing tensions.

The SAP, commenting on the observations, said police were obliged "as far as possible" to "merely keep a watchful eye on proceedings", but the SAP said it was known that funerals were "often abused by certain groups" and "violence was not uncommon" at these events.

Commenting on the ISU's approach, Van Beek stressed that policing was not only a matter of counter-measures once violence had erupted. Much could be done beforehand, including consultation with community leaders and traffic control, to ensure there was no violence at all.

The SAP said it welcomed both "advice and constructive criticism", but commented that conditions in Holland were different to Africa, and it was sure Dutch police were not killed in nearly as great numbers as South African police were.

But Van Beek said subsequent contact between his group and senior SAP officers had convinced them there were structural problems which hampered effective community policing.

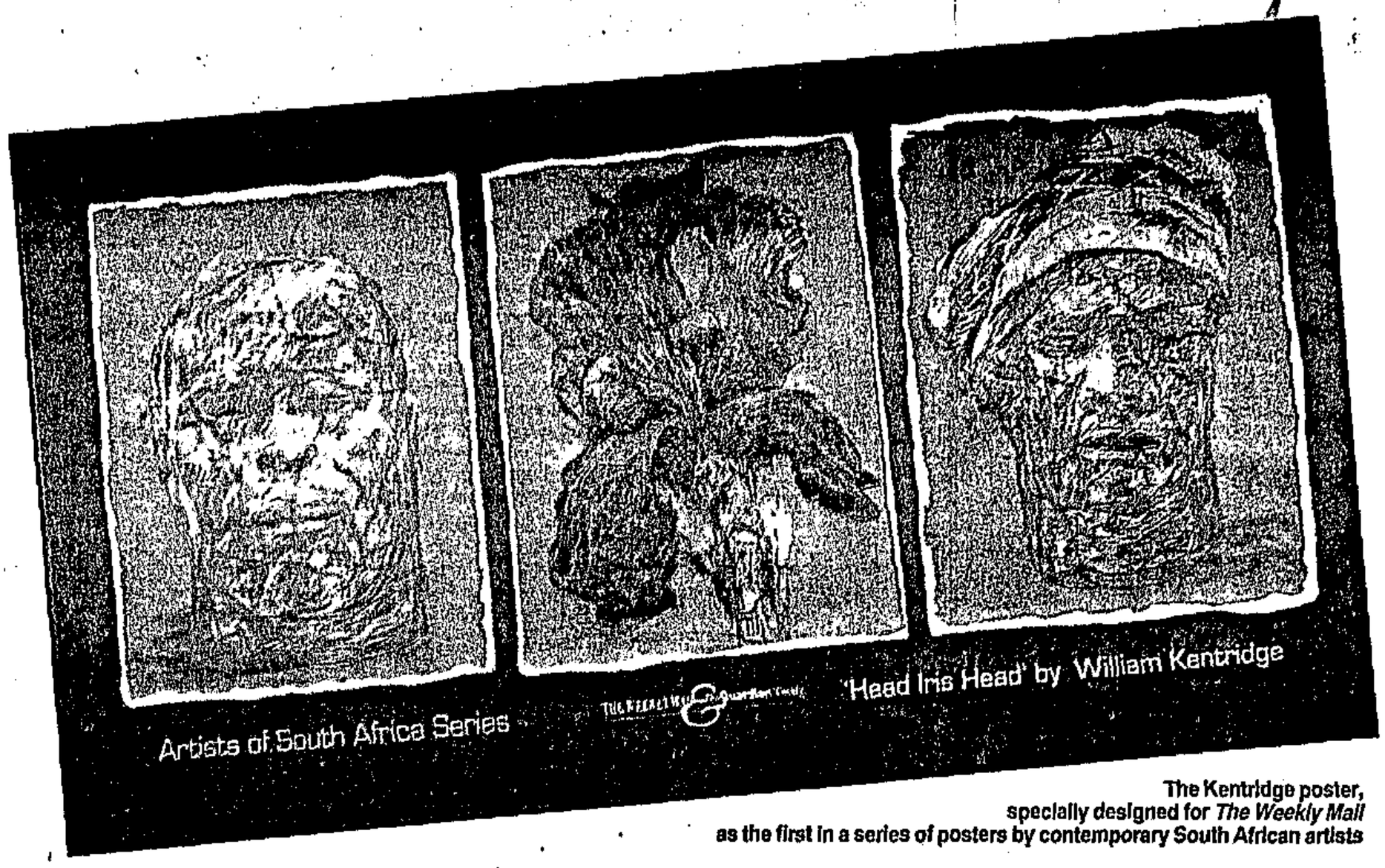
He cited as an example the fact that units of Crime Combating and Investigations — the investigating arm of the SAP — operating out of police stations did not report to station commanders, but through a separate chain of command.

"The law enforcement and investigations arms of the police should work together to be effective," said Van Beek.

One senior policeman, said Van Beek, had also complained that the ISU in his area would arrive without informing the station commander. This could disrupt local police initiatives already under way.

Van Maanen pointed to a Pan Africanist Congress funeral the group had observed a few days later in which the police had shown no interest. There was no violence, and gunshots fired over the grave had not provoked the crowd in the way senior policemen had told the group it always did.

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Train ambush

Four dead as police surprise robbers

278
CT 19/3/93

JOHANNESBURG. — Police lying in wait inside the coaches of a goods train shot dead four men after a group of about 30 squatters stormed the train and began plundering it near Katlehong station on the East Rand yesterday morning.

Five others were wounded, one seriously.

Police spokesman Lieutenant J Smith said the shooting started after the mob ignored warnings that they were under arrest.

Most of the group escaped and fled to the nearby squatter camp, Mandela Park, where unemployment and violence are rife.

Lt Smith said in a statement that members of the East Rand truck theft unit had boarded the train at Klipspruit station after receiving information that goods were going to be stolen from a railway truck.

When a red signal stopped the train at Mpilizweni, near Mandela Park, about 8.45am, a group of between 25 and 30 people stormed it and began offloading goods.

Lt Smith said the police jumped off the train to make arrests. Their warnings were ignored, however, and they opened fire.

Arrested

The ages of the dead and wounded ranged from 12 to 27.

The wounded were treated at a local hospital. Four were arrested on being discharged.

The value of recovered goods was about R10 000, but it is not yet known how much else had been stolen, Lt Smith said.

The four arrested people would probably appear in the Germiston Magistrate's Court on Monday.

The dead were Freddie Ramagola, 16, Jabo Nhlapo, 25, Johnny Maboso, 16, and Vusi Nkwanazi, 18.

Another police spokesman, Lieutenant Wikus Weber, told the Cape Times last night that an inquest will be held.

"Should it be found that more force was used than the situation warranted, the police will investigate further," he said.

Sporadic theft from trains had become "a real problem", especially at crossings where trains stopped and had necessitated the formation of the special police unit, he said.

A Spoornet spokesman said last night that the train was carrying containers. Train "hijacks" were on the increase, he added. — Staff Reporter, Sapa



Arrested man had 'robbery hit-list'

By JACKIE CAMERON
Crime Reporter

POLICE acting on "instinct" made a chance arrest in the city centre yesterday of a man carrying a bank robbing kit that included a list of potential "hits" to fund his personal debt.

The "robbery kit" was in the man's khaki satchel and included a replica of a 9mm Beretta service pistol, blue overalls, white woollen gloves and a green home-made knitted cap with holes cut out for eyes and nose.

They also found several handwritten signs which read: "This is a stick-up. Put the money in the bag or I will f..... shoot you dead."

An inspection of the man's notebook revealed a list of banks, "mini-banks" and shops in the city.

The notebook also listed the crimes the man planned to commit — including "bag snatching!!!" — as well as the amounts he hoped to obtain from the various "jobs" (all around R100).

The man had tallied his debts in his notebook — they totalled less than R1 000 — and had made several lists prioritising his personal goals which included losing 10kg, becoming a Western Province athlete and becoming rich and intelligent.

R200 000 on heads of 'Apla' gang

278
ARG 20/3/93

LOUISE MARSLAND
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A R200 000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest of the killers of a Walkerville mother and her 14-year-old son who were shot in a seemingly racially motivated attack yesterday.

A second child remains in a critical condition in the Johannesburg Hospital where she last night had brain surgery. The woman's husband and a third child — all in a school lift club — are in hospital in a serious condition.

Yesterday a man claiming to be a commander from the Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla) — the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress — phoned the South African Press Association to claim responsibility for the attack.

The man — who refused to give his name — said the incident was in line with Apla's programme for 1993, which the organisation had dubbed "the year of the great storm".

'I'm sick and tired of it. This kind of thing goes on every day and it's time we took some kind of action,' Malcolm Lambrecht, father of victim Craig Lambrecht.

Neither PAC nor Apla officals, who are this weekend meeting in the Transkei capital of Umtata to discuss the committment to the armed struggle and participation in next month's peace talks, have been available for comment on the attack.

The purported Apla man said, before ringing off, that whites "can expect more such activities this year".

Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel offered the R200 000 reward. He said that "the killings are made all the more reprehensible by the fact that innocent children were involved".

One man was arrested within hours of the attacks when a police helicopter spotted the car at the Orange Farm squatter camp after an intense search. An AK-47 rifle magazine was found in the vehicle. Police later sealed off the squatter camp and conducted a through search — without finding any trace of the gunmen.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Major Eugene Opperman said the arrested man claimed he was hijacked in his car — a green BMW 5-series — and was forced to drive the gunmen from place to place, including to and away from the scene of the attack.

According to witnesses at the scene the gunmen sprayed motorists with AK-47 gunfire at the intersection of the N27 and Daan Pienaar Drive on the old Vereenging road south of Johannesburg.

Despite being hit in the back, neck and body by five bullets during the attack, Norman Mitchley drove about 1km to a service station for help.

But his wife Sandra, 35, was dead when help arrived. Her son, Shaun, 14, died shortly afterwards on the forecourt of the garage.

■ Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu has condemned the shootings, saying the church "regards racist murders such as these as deeply abhorrent".

'Cold-blooded murder' says woman driver

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG.— Ms Erica Leukemans thought she was going to die yesterday. Instinct took over when she saw the barrels of AK-47s pointing from the open back windows of a green BMW, and she threw herself down across the passenger seat as bullets ripped into her car and those of motorists in front of her.

Ms Leukemans is shaken, but very angry at the senseless attack on white motorists at the Grasmere intersection.

"It was cold-blooded murder."

She says she was devastated when she heard that two people had been killed and youngsters critically wounded.

She said: "It was about 7.20am and I was on my way to work. There were about five cars in front of me at the intersection. I slowed down and then saw a yellow Golf make a sudden U-turn in the intesection, followed by the green BMW.

"The guy in the Golf must have noticed something. The next minute the BMW's back windows were wound down and the barrels of guns came out and they started firing at random."

Her first thought was that she would be shot and she ducked down. The whole incident lasted less than two minutes. Another motorist yelled at her to "drive".

"I just drove right through the intersection. About 500m down the road I pulled over, I was in such a state."

It was then that she noticed that a bullet had gone through the window frame of the driver's door. "If I hadn't ducked, I would have been victim number three."

Joburg pupils run amok

JOHANNESBURG. — Renegade pupils damaged three vehicles, robbed a bystander and smashed shop windows in the city centre yesterday, marring a march in protest against examination fees.

The protest, called by the Congress of South African Students, the Pan-Africanist Students' Organisation and the Azanian Students' Movement, turned ugly when most of the marchers ignored marshals' warnings and charged through the streets.

Journalists were threatened and a photographer was beaten.

The organisations later distanced themselves from the unruliness.

The marchers, estimated at 3 500, were on their way to the DET's offices to deliver a memorandum when groups broke away and rushed toward the DET offices, ululating and taunting police stationed outside.

The memorandum, which was handed to a DET representative, outlined reasons for not paying exam fees. It said the government was unrepresentative, was misusing taxpayers' money and the DET had failed to deliver library and laboratory equipment or to renovate some schools. — Sapa

Apla claims highway ambush

278 CT 20/3/93

THE PAC's armed wing Apla has claimed responsibilty for the Vaal highway ambush yesterday in which a 14-year-old boy and his 35-year-old-mother were killed.

Two pupils and a man — the husband and stepfather of the dead — were wounded.

The victims were among a party of white children on their way to school.

Within hours of the ambush Law and Order Minister Mr Hernus Kriel offered a R200 000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers.

A man claiming to be an Apla PWV commander telephoned Sapa in Johannesburg early yesterday afternoon to claim responsibility. He said: "My people carried out the attack as part of the organisation's 'Year Of the Storm'."

The caller refused to divulge his name.

Before ringing off, the man said: "White people can expect more such activities this year."

The leaders of Apla's parent body were not available for comment.

The car in which the victims were travelling was riddled with AK-47 bullets by four to six gunmen. All the windows were blown out.

The members of the school lift club were travelling on the N27 between Vereeniging and Johannesburg early yesterday morning.

In the hail of bullets, Mrs Sandra Mitchley and her 14-year-old son Shaun Nell, from her first marriage, were killed.

The driver, Mr Norman Mitchley, sustained serious gunshot wounds.

The other two wounded were Claire Silber-Bauer, 13, and 16-year-old Craig Lambrecht.

All the victims were from Walkerville.

Shots were also fired at another car but the bullet missed the driver, Ms Erika Leukemans, by centimetres.

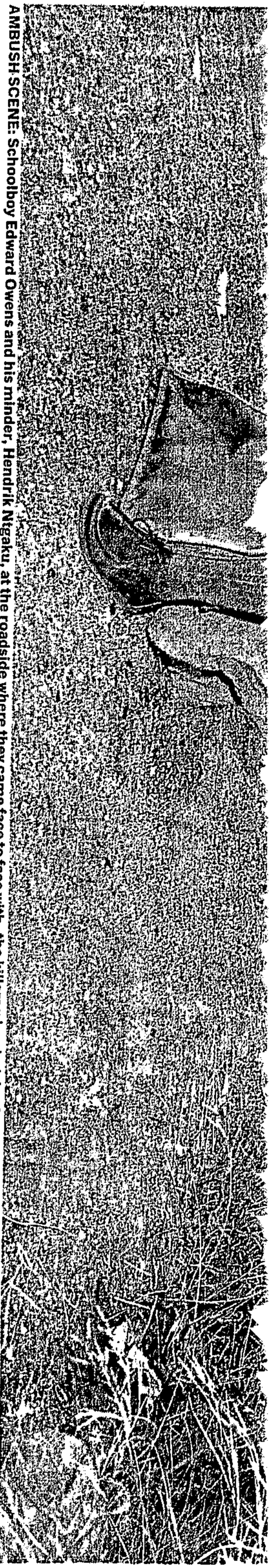
Police believe the shots were fired from a green BMW. The driver of the car was later arrested, but claimed he was hijacked in his car and was forced to drive the gunmen from place to place, including to and away from the scene of the attack. — Staff Reporter, Sapa

How killers in green BMW cold-bloodedly staked out their target . . . and asked two children: Where is the school bus?

DEATH WATCH

(278) 21/3/93





AMBUSH SCENE: Schoolboy Edward Owens and his minder, Hendrik Ntgaku, at the roadside where they came face to face with the killers who shot dead a mother and her son

Picture: CHRISTINE NESBITT

Killers quizzed kids

ST Times 21/3/93

By JOCELYN MAKER and NICK OLIVARI

COLD-blooded killers carefully plotted the slaughter of a bus-load of white schoolchildren south of Johannesburg this week.

The four murderers first quizzed locals in Walkerville about when the bus was due and how full it would be. Then they patiently waited 30 minutes for it to arrive.

But when the bus did come, they mistakenly thought it was nearly empty because the heads of the passengers — mainly tiny primary school children — could not be seen from the road.

And so the killers, not to be disappointed in their quest for victims, randomly turned their guns on a passing car, killing a 35-year-old mother and her 14-year-old son.

This chilling sequence of events, leading to the killings of Sandra Mitchley and Sean Nel, was yesterday recounted to the Sunday Times by three key witnesses.

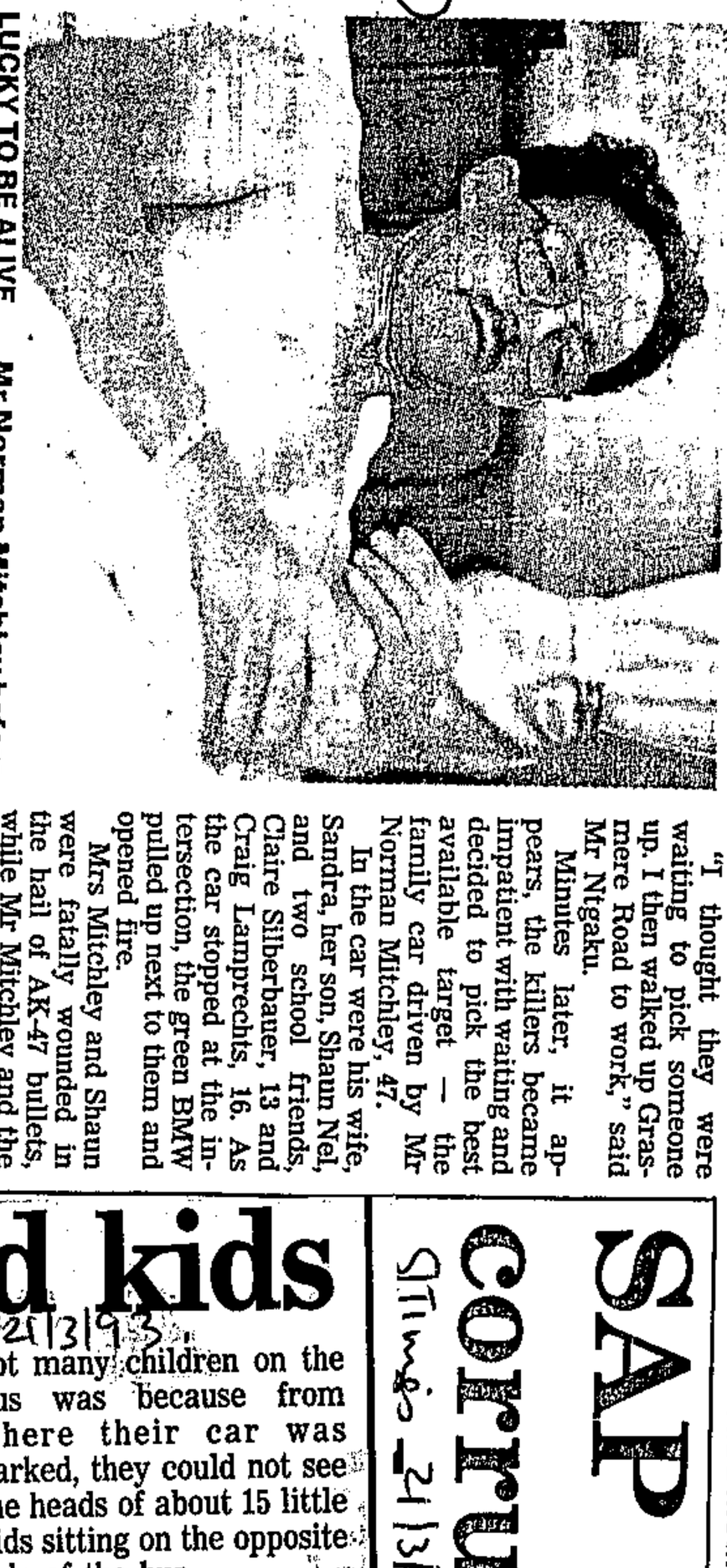
The murders have outraged the country, prompted police to extend protection to rural school buses and aroused new fears of sporadic racial violence in response to what is being seen as a politically-motivated attack.

Two of the witnesses, young black children, were approached by the killers only moments before the shooting and asked: "When is the bus due?"

Bullets

Earlier, they had asked the same question of a labourer at the nearby Eikenhof NG Kerk.

Now under police protection, the two children narrowly escaped death when the killers returned in their car and sprayed them with bullets as they



LUCKY TO BE ALIVE... Mr Norman Mitchley before being discharged from hospital yesterday

Sunday Times how two of the men left a green BMW parked directly opposite the bus stop, walked across the road and asked two black children waiting for a mini-taxi what time the bus was due.

Edward had walked the short distance from home to the bus stop with his "minder", Hendrik Ntgaku, 25, around 7am.

"I was the only white child waiting," he said yesterday.

"I sat on the rock that I always sit on to wait for the bus and Hendrik stood next to me. We saw a green BMW across the road with four men inside.

"One of them was half lying down on the back seat. The driver was a fat man, and their clothes were untidy.

"After a little while, two of the men got out of the car and walked over to speak to two black children who were standing next to me.

"I did not think they were strange. A little while went by, and then the bus picked me up."

Mr Ntgaku said that while he was waiting with Edward, he saw two of the men get out of the car and urinate in the veld.

The driver, he said, was a short, round man who was wearing blue trousers and a green jacket. Police later disclosed that the driver had been hijacked by the four men and forced to accompany them on the raid.

"I thought they were waiting to pick someone up. I then walked up Grasmere Road to work," said Mr Ntgaku.

Minutes later, it appears, the killers became impatient with waiting and decided to pick the best available target — the family car driven by Mr Norman Mitchley, 47.

In the car were his wife, Sandra, her son, Shaun Nel, and two school friends, Claire Silberbauer, 13 and Craig Lamprechts, 16. As the car stopped at the intersection, the green BMW pulled up next to them and opened fire.

Mrs Mitchley and Shaun were fatally wounded in the hail of AK-47 bullets, while Mr Mitchley and the two other children were seriously injured.

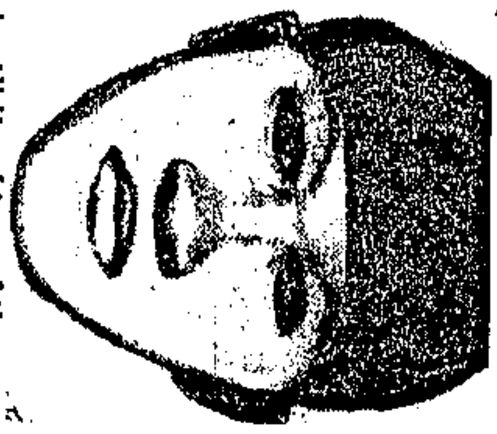
Edward's father, Henry, 38, who owns a general dealer's store about 80m from the intersection, heard about the shooting within minutes.

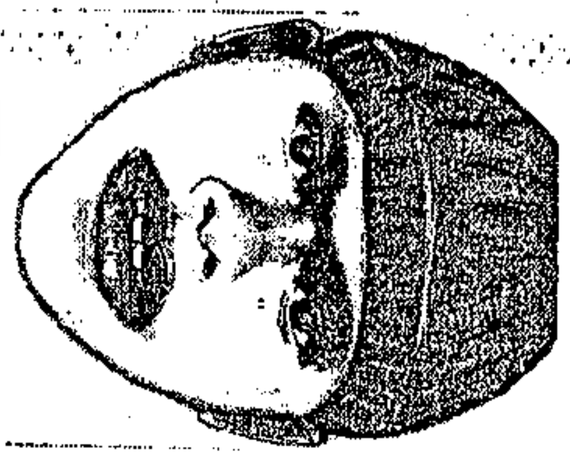
Screamed

"I went down to the scene. There were about four ambulances and police everywhere. I was in a panic, as I wanted to know where Edward was. Someone told me the bus had already left for school," said Mr Owens.

"That afternoon, the two children who were approached by the killers at the bus stop came to my store and told me that the men had asked them where the school bus was and

□ To Page 2





PICK 6

Identikits of two of the men being sought by police

Killers quizzed kids

ST Times 21/3/93

□ From Page 1

what time it was due to arrive.

"The two also said that just as the bus came around the corner, they heard one of the men say they were not going to hit it as it was not full enough and that there were only three children in it.

"They told me that they watched as the men got back into their car. A few minutes later, as the Mitchley car pulled up at the intersection to turn into the Vereeniging road, the BMW pulled out and drove up next to them."

Mr Owens said the two children stood and watched as the BMW, with tyres screeching, made a sharp U-turn back into Grasmere Road. As it did so, one of the men opened fire on the Mitchley car, hitting it from behind.

"They said that as the BMW passed the bus stop, narrowly missing the car, the gunman began firing. The children said they screamed and fell to the ground as they heard bullets whizzing past their heads," said Mr Owens.

"The only reason the attackers thought there were not many children on the bus was because from where their car was parked, they could not see the heads of about 15 little kids sitting on the opposite side of the bus.

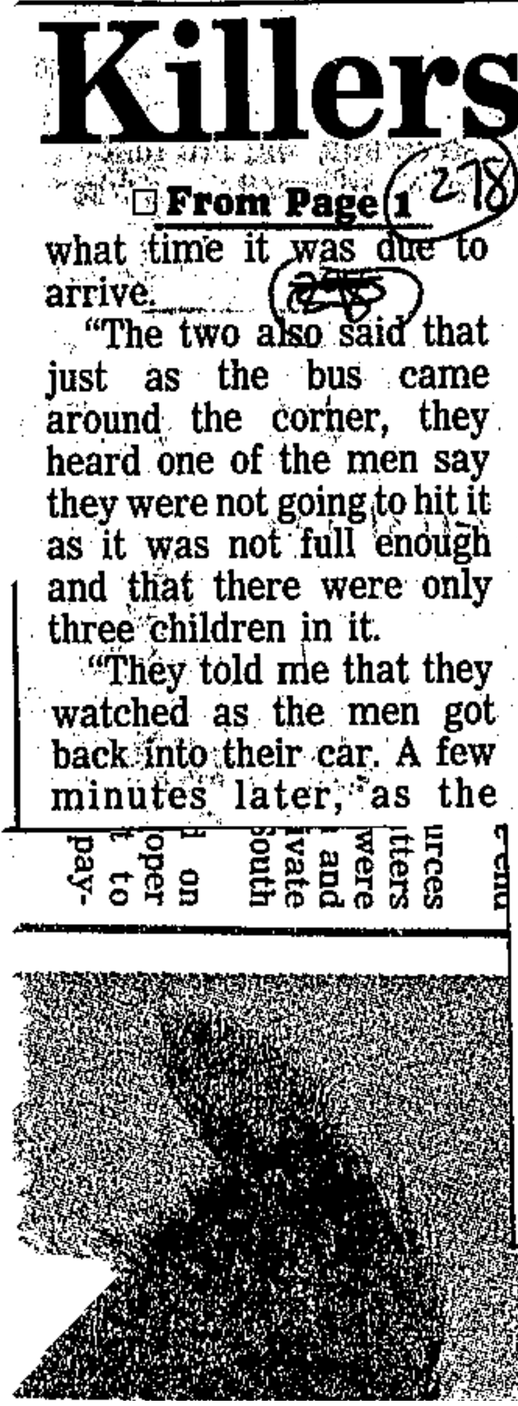
"All the pupils who catch that bus are at primary school and very young. I have no doubt in my mind that the bus was their target.

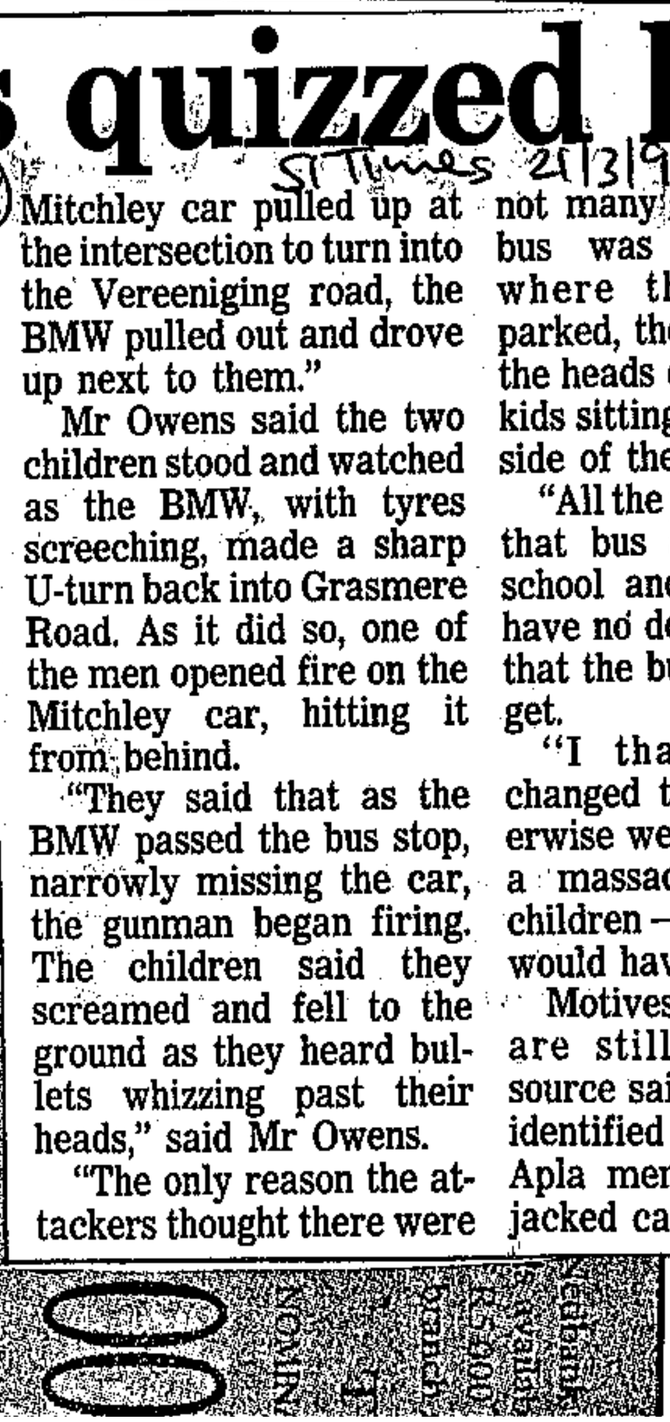
"I thank God they changed their minds, otherwise we would have had a massacre of innocent children — and one of them would have been my son."

Motives for the attack are still unclear. One source said the killers had identified themselves as Apla members to the hijacked car driver.

SAP seized corruption

ST Times 21/3/93





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THE PEACEMAKER

By BILL KRIGE

BY day, Jacob Dlomo is a Johannesburg bank messenger — but after work he is the architect of a peace movement sweeping through the hated Reef hostel system.

Alienated from adjacent communities and isolated by coils of razor wire, hostels have been central to the violence which has left thousands dead in the past two years.

Inmates have been blamed for train violence, for taxi wars and, above all, for murderous forays into neighbourhoods, of which the Boipatong massacre last June was the worst.

There are about 50 hostels in the Johannesburg area housing well over 100 000 men. Now the leaders at 32 of these grim relics of apartheid have signed a peace pledge, and moves to heal the ghastly wounds have begun.

But without the skills and courage of the 54-year-old messenger — who brews tea for clerks at First National Bank's branch at the corner of Simmonds and Market streets — the homegrown peace initiative might have been stillborn.

A humble messenger succeeds in bringing warring hostels together

Last August, with trouble brewing again between Zulus at the Jeppe Street Hostel and the Xhosa and Bhaca municipal workers housed at Selby, the Jeppe leadership decided they'd had enough.

They wrote a letter, a peace overture, to Selby but found no one to deliver it. With reason. Death could be swift and brutal for a Zulu caught in the grim no-man's land of this alien stronghold.

Diplomat

Mr Dlomo, renowned in his remote Kwazulu village of Nakanda as a diplomat and peacemaker, volunteered to take the missive.

"What? Are you mad?" the Jeppe man was asked, recounted the Reverend Mvume Dandala of the Central Methodist Mission, a key player in the peace initiative.

"If I'm to be killed for making peace it's better than being killed without knowing what you are dying for," Mr Dlomo replied.

He carried the letter to the compound at Selby. The Xhosa leadership was so impressed they smuggled him out by car to avoid trouble.

In November delegations from both hostels met at a neutral venue.

"It was tense. You could cut the atmosphere with a knife but something was built there which will take a lot of breaking down," said Mr Dandala.

Mr Dlomo, a balding, angular man with highly polished black shoes and trousers that hang too short, doesn't look like a hero and yet to thousands that's what he is.

They crowd around him in the street and even urchins sing his praises.

He refuses to take credit for getting the peace initiative rolling. Nor does he concede his diplomatic and oratory skills have helped give it a momentum which seems unstoppable.

"It is not my duty to help but, when circumstances call, I have answered," he said through an interpreter. Others, he insists, have done as much.

He singles out Mr German Mlatsheni, his Xhosa counterpart at Selby, as "a man who gives me courage to go on. We are one in thought and we share whatever is happening".

The Rev Dandala — "I am a Xhosa born at Mount Ayliff in Transkei but it has never been held against me" — is more forthright.

"Jacob Dlomo may lack education but he is one of the clearest thinkers I know. He has the type of wisdom needed in the parliament of a new South Africa. He is supremely eloquent.

"People don't understand the Peace Accord or Dispute Resolution Committees and he is able to get the ideas across in a beautiful and flowery vernacular. . . . It is not possible to have peace in South Africa until we put it in the idiom people understand."

Suspicious

Education is a sore point among the hostel residents, and they have expressly excluded scholars from the process they have begun.

They are equally suspicious of the involvement of political parties, and the ANC and Inkatha, both deeply anxious that the process succeed, have been kept at arm's length.

The South African Council of Churches is involved to the extent that it recommended Rev Dandala as a neutral chairman. Even this concession has been accepted grudgingly at many hostels.

"They told me: 'We will speak to you but we want no educated people. We want people who respect our integrity. We don't want people to dazzle us with their thoughts,'" said Mr Dandala.

So what do they discuss? "Dlomo tells them we are drawn by the vision of what we can be and that we will revisit the past only to try to find out where we went wrong. He says they are gathered as residents, not politicians, for it is only as residents that they can take binding decisions," he said.

Mending relationships with former hostel inmates is one thing. Reintegrating them with terrorised and damaged communities is another. But soccer matches are being arranged and the process of normalising ties has begun. Residents have been welcomed to peace initiative meetings and hundreds have responded.

But it is the effort to change hearts and minds which promises peace.

"Since the start of the movement the difference has been noticeable," said Jacob Dlomo. "People are starting to come together again. There is contact."



MESSENGER OF PEACE: Rev Mvume Dandala, left, of the Central Methodist Mission, with unsung hero Jacob Dlomo
Picture: HERBERT MABUZA

NEWS ROUND-UP

Foes sign agreement for peace at rallies

278

ST Times 21/3/93

THE ANC, Inkatha, the SA Police and the SA Defence Force yesterday signed a wide-ranging agreement aimed at ensuring peace at rallies to commemorate the Sharpeville massacre next Sunday.

Wits/Vaal Regional Peace Secretariat spokesman Peter Harris described the agreement as "historic — the first of its kind".

Inkatha president Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi will address his supporters on Sunday in Vosloorus, while the ANC holds its gathering in Katlehong.

Both processions, however, will wind their way through Vosloorus, Katlehong and Thokoza.

The agreement lays down elaborate procedures to ensure no fighting erupts between the ANC and IFP.

Angela King, spokesman for the UN Observer Mission in SA, said: "The measures agreed are intended to allow participants to reach and return from the stadiums in safety.

"They represent an important step towards political tolerance."

3 more policemen killed over weekend

Star 22/3/98

278

Staff Reporters

An Alexandra policeman was overpowered by two attackers and shot dead with his service pistol in the Sandton township today, bringing to three the number of policemen murdered at the weekend.

According to police, at least 41 policemen have been killed in the line of duty this year.

Police spokesman Major Ida van Zweel said the 26-year-old policeman, whose name will be released once his next of kin have been informed, was on patrol when he was attacked shortly after midnight.

As he got out of his car at a house in Second Avenue, the two killers wrestled the gun from him during a struggle, said Van Zweel.

The policeman died later at the Alexandra Clinic.

Early yesterday, a policeman was shot dead and a colleague seriously wounded in a central Johannesburg shooting. Van Zweel said the gunman opened fire with a 9 mm pistol on the officers who were on foot patrol between Klein and Noord streets at about 3.30 am.

"Hillbrow police were patrolling the area when they heard shots go off. They went to investigate and saw a man running away from the scene," she said.

The wounded policeman is in a serious condition at a Johannesburg hospital. Police declined to name the hospital as the attacker has not yet been arrested.

Van Zweel said the dead constable was based at Soweto and his colleague at John Vorster Square in Johnnesburg. Their names are being withheld until their families have been told.

In other attack on a policeman, a police detective who lived in Vosloosrus and worked in Boksburg, was shot and killed in his driveway on Saturday.

Van Zweel said Detective Warrant Officer Morgan Zwane (36) who was married and had three children, was talking to a friend in his driveway when two men armed with Makarov pistols approached and shot Zwane, who died at the scene.

His friend, and policemen in a patrol van, managed to trace two men who were both arrested with Makarov pistols in their possession. The men resisted arrest and were slightly injured. They are expected to appear in court tomorrow.

In other incident, a Birchleigh North, Kempton Park policeman who returned home from duty shortly after midnight on Saturday was attacked by three men wearing balaclavas as he opened his front door.

Van Zweel said the policeman managed to free himself and pulled out his service gun. His assailants fled and ignored warnings by the policeman to stand still.

He fired one shot and one of the assailants was hit in the thigh. He is under guard in a local hospital.



Massacre remembered . . . Pan Africanist Congress supporters sing at the gravesides of Sharpeville victims during the annual grave-cleaning ceremony yesterday.
Picture: Ken Oosterbroek

Rallies mostly peaceful

Star 22/3/93

By Montshiwa Moroke, Phil Molefe and Gien Elsas

In contrast to past years, Sharpeville Day rallies across the PWV area attended by tens of thousands of people passed relatively peacefully in a day of celebration marred by the death of a man and the wounding of at least two others in Katlehong on the East Rand.

Angry marchers also stoned a car carrying members of the European Community peace monitoring team in the township. No one was injured.

A potentially explosive situation was defused in the Vaal Triangle outside Sharpeville police station yesterday evening when police placated angry ANC supporters by supplying them with a pole on which to hoist their own ANC flag.

The relatively peaceful day was preceded by a historic pact between the ANC, the Inkatha Freedom Party, the SAP and the SADF on Saturday in ~~which all~~ parties

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P.T.O.

Star 22/3/93

Man dies on relatively peaceful Sharpeville Day

● From Page 1

agreed to co-ordinate their activities yesterday.

A statement of intent at the beginning of the agreement called on all parties and supporters to conduct themselves in a peaceful manner and abide by the tenets of the National Peace Accord.

Although words of reconciliation were spoken at the IFP and ANC rallies, PAC president Clarence Makwetu told supporters in Sharpeville to prepare for a "bitter struggle" and Azapo leaders in Soweto called on supporters to intensify the armed struggle for the "repossession of our land".

In Katlehong, ANC national executive committee member Cheryl Caroulas said if all armed forces, including the SADF and AWB, laid down their arms, Umkhonto we Sizwe would do the same.

SA Communist Party central committee member, Ronnie Kasrils, said the ANC fought a "just war" and did not dirty itself with the blood of "innocents" such as the 69 people shot in Sharpeville 33 years ago.

At a rain-interrupted rally in nearby Vosloorus, Inkatha Freedom Party leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi urged ANC leader Nelson Mandela to join him in a series of public appearances "to show that the ANC and IFP are seriously joining forces to eradicate violence from our midst".

When the rally ended, peace monitors persuaded IFP marchers to change their route to avoid oncoming ANC supporters from the rally in Katlehong.

However, a man was shot dead later in a house and a bystander was wounded by shots fired from a passing minibus.

Witnesses said an IFP supporter, who was part of a group of 300 men returning from Vosloorus, ran into a house at Everest section and opened fire on three men and a woman identified as Betty Khoza. The situation became extremely tense, but after a sudden downpour the crowds dispersed.

The ANC last night condemned the incidents of violence, but said the behaviour and conduct of members and supporters of both the ANC and IFP on the East Rand represented a major step in the creation of a climate of peace and political tolerance in the region.

At Sharpeville, Umkontho we Sizwe commander-in-chief Joe Modise urged supporters to accept the movement's pro-election campaign.

Later he led thousands of supporters through the township conducting a door-to-door election campaign in preparation for the country's first democratic elections.

After the rally, thousands of placard-waving ANC supporters toyi-toyied in the rain outside the Sharpeville police station.

Colonel Tienie Halgryn, police liaison officer for the area, said the organisers of the rally suddenly ignored the prearranged programme and entered the Sharpeville police station at 4.15 pm.

They demanded that the South African and police flags be lowered so that the ANC flag could be hoisted to show how the police had changed. The crowd of about 4 000 became agitated.

Brigadier Flores Mostert, Deputy Regional Commissioner of Police in the Vaal Triangle, realised that the situation was on a knife's edge and gave instructions that a flagpole be placed outside the police grounds so that the ANC could raise their own flag.

The crowd raised their flag, lowered it after a while and dispersed quietly.

"Brigadier Mostert definitely defused an extremely tense situation," Halgryn said.

At the PAC rally, PAC president Clarence Makwetu told supporters at George Thabe Stadium to brace themselves for a "bitter struggle".

7 die in weekend violence

278

Sowetan 22/3/93.

■ Kriel wants to know if Apla is to blame for hotel attack:

By Lulama Luti and Sapa

SEVEN people, including two policemen and an 18-year-old student, were killed at the weekend in separate incidents of violence throughout the country.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Major Eugene Opperman said a gunman shot dead a policeman and wounded another in central Johannesburg yesterday morning.

He described the condition of the wounded policeman as serious. The motive for the attack was not yet known.

And in another incident an off-duty black policeman stationed at Boksburg died in hospital after he, his wife and a colleague were shot at by two armed men in his driveway in Vosloorus on Saturday afternoon.

One of the attackers was slightly injured and is in hospital under police guard.

In one of the bloodiest incidents in Cape Town three people, believed to be ANC supporters, were gunned down in a house at Unathi Village, Old Crossroads, on Friday night.

Those who died were Mr Sicelo Pawula, Mr Temezi Soga and Mrs Joyce Ndinisa.

A man has been arrested in connection with the incident.

Meanwhile, police have offered a R100 000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for Saturday's attack on an Eastern Cape hotel.

An 18-year-old Port Elizabeth Technikon student was killed when men armed with automatic rifles opened fire on patrons at the Yellowwood Hotel outside Fort Beaufort.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Captain Craig Kotze said yesterday that Minister Hernus Kriel had been trying to establish whether the PAC's military wing, Apla, was responsible for the attack.

Argus Picture Service.

IN MEMORY: PAC/Apla supporters sing at the gravesides of Sharpeville massacre victims after the annual cleaning of the graves.

Sharpeville Day passes 'peacefully'

The Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG. — Apart from the death of one man and the wounding of two in Katlehong on the East Rand, Sharpeville Day rallies across the PWV area — attended by tens of thousands of people — passed relatively peacefully compared with past years.

Marchers also stoned a car carrying members of the European Community peace-monitoring team in the township. They were not injured.

A potentially explosive situation was defused in the Vaal Triangle outside Sharpeville police station when police placated angry African National Congress supporters by supplying them with a pole to hoist their flag last night.

The relatively peaceful day was preceded by a historic pact between the ANC, the Inkatha Freedom Party, the police and the Defence Force on Saturday, in which all parties agreed to co-ordinate their activities yesterday.

A statement of intent at the beginning of the agreement called on all parties and supporters to conduct themselves in a peaceful manner and abide by the tenets of the National Peace Accord.

Although words of conciliation were spoken at the IFP and ANC rallies, PAC president Clarence Mkwetu told supporters in Sharpeville to prepare for a "bitter struggle" and Azapo leaders in Soweto called on supporters to intensify the armed struggle for the "repossession of our land".

SA Communist Party central committee member Mr Ronnie Kasrils said the ANC fought a "just war" and did not "dirty itself with the blood of innocents such as the 69 people shot in Sharpeville 33 years ago".

In a rain-interrupted rally in nearby Vosloorus, IFP leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi urged ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela to join him in a series of public appearances "to show that the ANC and IFP are seriously joining forces to eradicate violence from our midst".

When the rally ended, peace monitors persuaded IFP marchers to change their route to avoid the oncoming ANC supporters from the rally in Katlehong.

But a man was later shot dead in a house and a bystander wounded by shots fired from a passing minibus.

The ANC last night condemned the incidents of violence, but said the behaviour and conduct of members and supporters of both the ANC and IFP on the East Rand represented a major step in the creation of a climate of peace, reconciliation and political tolerance in the region.

Vanderbijlpark commuter dies, driver escapes as car blasted by AK-47s

Page one

Gunmen shoot dead white man on the road to work

Reef

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Black gunmen shot dead a white man travelling to work at Vanderbijlpark in the Vaal Triangle today.

Police Spokesman Major Piet van Deventer said three or four men opened fire on Mr Tony Concer, 55, and Mr Daniel de Bruin, 52, at about 7.10 am.

Mr Concer was killed, but Mr de Bruin, who was driving, was uninjured.

Major van Deventer said it appeared AK-47s had been used.

He said no arrests had been made and the motive for the attack was not known.

Police have offered rewards of R300 000 to help catch the killers of four whites in two weekend attacks, while the government claims the "terrorist" murders appear to be the "cowardly" action of the Pan Africanist Congress's military wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla).

Police said R200 000 was on offer for information on Friday's attack at Walkerville, near here, after the death toll rose to three last night when Clare Silberbauer, 13, died in hospital of head injuries.

Mrs Sandra Mitchley, 35, and her son Sean Nel, 14, died when gunmen with automatic weapons sprayed a vehicle carrying children to school.

A group of AWB members today blocked the M27 Johannesburg-Vereeniging road near the scene of Friday's attack.

Police were at the scene and were apparently involved in a standoff with AWB members, who hurled abuse and chanted racist slogans.

A R100 000 reward was offered after Port Elizabeth Technical College student Johan Jerling, 18, died on Saturday night when gunmen attacked a motel bar near Fort Beaufort. Spokesmen said the attack was similar to others in the area for which Apla had claimed responsibility.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Captain Craig Kotze said: "Because this tragedy apparently bears the hallmarks of an Apla terrorist attack, the silence from the PAC on whether its military wing was responsible or not for this attack and the Walkerville attack is all the more deafening."

But after a day of stubborn refusals from the PAC and Apla to claim or deny responsibility, PAC information head Mr Barney Desai said last night Apla was not responsible for the Walkerville attack. He did not comment on the Fort Beaufort attack.

Mr Desai said a race war against whites was counter-productive and not PAC policy.

He sent his condolences to those who had died in the Walkerville attack, for which a man claiming to be an Apla commander had claimed responsibility.

Mr Desai said the movement was outraged by calls to the media in which people claimed responsibility on behalf of Apla.

"It is not our policy to conduct a race war against whites and we don't know who these guys are," he said.

But later he told SABC-TV he did not know whether Apla was responsible for the Eikenhof attack, adding cautiously that it was not PAC policy to kill children.

This was echoed in Umtata last night by PAC national organiser Mr Maxwell Nemadzivhanani.

Earlier yesterday PAC president Mr Clarence Makwetu said Apla had not yet informed the PAC leadership whether its members had carried out the attacks.

Questioned at a Sharpeville Day rally in the Vaal Triangle township, he said the PAC "has not received word" from Apla's high command on whether its members had carried out the attacks.

Refusing to comment directly on the attacks, Mr Makwetu said the community should also publicly ask about the killers of three people in Crossroads, Cape Town.

278 Aug 22/8/92

It's a year of terror, assailants tell victim

278 STAR 22/3/93

By Gien Elsas
West Rand Bureau

A Vereeniging man was told by three attackers who kicked, hit and threatened to kill him that 1993 would be the year of terror in which old white people and children would die.

Barnard Rudolph Buys (23) of Unitas Park said he was on his way home from work along the old Alberton-Meyerton road at about 11.20 pm when he saw a parked yellow Ford XR3.

Three men were standing in the road and he saw an AK-47 rifle and an R-1 rifle aimed at him.

"I swerved my car, a Fiat Uno, and landed up in the bushes next to the veld. The car came to a standstill and they plucked open the door and pulled me out. They kicked me and boxed me and dragged me into the veld.

"They searched me for a firearm and money and kicked me and boxed me some more. The one spoke good English. He told me: 'You Boer, you are going to die. You must know 1993 is the year of terror. Old white people and white children will be murdered'."

"I lay there, I tried not to think and did not say anything.

"At one stage I did think my little son would grow up without his father," Buys said.

He lost consciousness and when he came to, he was in his burning car.

He ran into the veld and lay in the long grass.

"I heard another car but lay quite still. I heard a man shout and ask if anyone was hurt and if he could help. I got up and ran to him. He sent his wife home to telephone the fire department and the police and he waited with me."

The man was Charles Augustinus Pitout (33) of Meyerton.

"While we waited, two shots were fired and we ran back to the veld and fell down. His wife came back, loaded us into the car and they took me to the police station," Buys said.

Calls for more Apla attacks in SA

JOHANNESBURG. — A Pan-Africanist Congress Sharpeville Day commemoration held in Sharpeville itself turned into a pro-Azanian Peoples Liberation Army (Apla) rally yesterday as several thousand people chanted Apla slogans and called on the PAC's military wing to increase attacks in the country.

"I appeal to you, our supporters, to brace yourself for a bitter struggle," said PAC president Mr Clarence Makwetu, who added, however, the PAC was ready for a "mutual cessation of hostilities".

The militant crowd openly called to be armed with AK-47s and Scorpion sub-machine pistols. — Sapa

Shooting mars peaceful Sharpeville rallies

B/DAY 22/3/93 278

LLOYD COUTTS

PROSPECTS for a peaceful end to Sharpeville Day commemorative rallies on the East Rand yesterday were dashed when a man was hurt seriously after being shot in Katlehong while watching an Inkatha group returning from a rally in Vosloorus.

The shooting followed a call by Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi at the rally for ANC president Nelson Mandela to join him in public meetings to help end violence.

The mood in Katlehong became tense after the incident.

Earlier, while Buthelezi was speaking in Vosloorus, shots were fired into the air at the stadium.

An ANC rally being held at the same time in Katlehong was disrupted by rain and supporters left without incident.

Fears of violence and clashes at the rallies had led to a historic agreement between the ANC, Inkatha and security forces on Saturday on measures to minimise conflict. The agreement was brokered by the Wits Vaal regional peace secretariat.

Heavily armed ANC and Inkatha supporters brandishing axes, spears and pangas poured into stadiums in the two townships yesterday morning, following agreed-upon routes under the watchful eye of the police and SADF.

International monitors, local peace secretariat volunteers and joint marshalling teams patrolled routes and stadiums.

In his speech, Buthelezi said: "I call on Mr Mandela now to stop posturing and commence on a series of joint appearances with me in public meetings so that we can show strife-torn areas in the whole of the nation that the ANC and the IFP are seriously joining forces to eradicate violence from our midst."

Buthelezi said he was appalled by the barbarity of the violence against innocent

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Sharpeville

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lives, Sapa reports.

"We cannot and will not tolerate this massacre any longer. It is critical that the leadership of the ANC and the IFP get together and solve this issue of violence."

In terms of Saturday's agreement, the parties agreed to conduct themselves and their supporters in a peaceful manner at the rallies and to abide by the letter and spirit of the national peace accord.

In turn the SAP and SADF committed themselves to ensuring the deployment of sufficient personnel to maintain law and order and "not to take any action which may be perceived to jeopardise the smooth running of events".

The security force deployment of 500 men included personnel at six possible flashpoints, at least 26 roving vehicle patrols, two helicopters, perimeter deployments and a presence close to stadiums.

The SAP patrolled all railway stations.

Police also agreed to intervene in disputes only if the efforts of marshalls, monitors and observers failed. ANC and Inkatha volunteers were paired with senior members to man flashpoints and patrol cars.

Secretariat regional director Peter Harris on Saturday said the agreement amounted to a "remarkable show of cooperation" and could set the tone for future elections.

The international observer mission in SA welcomed the joint initiative, and said the measures to contain violence represented an important step towards giving practical expression to the principle of political tolerance.

No incidents were reported at yesterday's PAC and ANC rallies in Sharpeville.

Civilians, police die in shootings

Big hunt for killers after terror attacks

B/DAY 22/3/93

Business Day Reporter

POLICE are working round the clock to find the killers in two terrorist attacks in which a woman and two teenagers died — at Walkerville south of Johannesburg on Friday and at Fort Beaufort in the eastern Cape on Saturday night.

In other incidents, two policemen were killed on the Witwatersrand — one in central Johannesburg — and an attempt was made to burn a young man in his car on the Alberton-Meyerton road. He escaped from the blazing vehicle and was then shot at before being rescued.

A total of R300 000 has been offered for information leading to convictions in the terror attacks — R200 000 in the Walkerville case, in which the victims were Sandra Mitchley, 35, and her son Sean Nel, 14, and R100 000 for the eastern Cape shooting, in which Port Elizabeth Technikon student Frederick Johannes Jerling, 18, was killed.

There had been no arrests by late yesterday and no motives had been established.

Sapa reports that Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel was trying to establish yesterday whether Apla was responsible for the attacks. Kriel will visit the Walkerville scene today.

Spokesman Capt Craig Kotze said the Minister had ordered PAC leaders to find out whether its military wing was responsible for the attacks, but PAC officials had refused to speak to him.

"Because this tragedy apparently bears the hallmarks of an Apla terrorist attack, the silence from the PAC ... is all the more deafening," said Kotze.

Chief of the SAP internal stability division Lt Gen Johan Swart appealed to anyone with information to contact the nearest police station, or use the toll-free Crime Stop number, 0800-11-12-13.

PAC president Clarence Makwetu said at a rally yesterday he had not received word from Apla high command about whether Apla was responsible for Friday's killings.

Sapa reports that at the PAC's Sharpeville Day commemoration in the Vaal township, thousands chanted Apla slogans and called for the PAC military wing to increase its attacks.

Makwetu said the PAC would never unilaterally suspend its armed struggle, although it was ready for a mutual cessation of hostilities. If government wished to discuss Apla's activities, the PAC would sit at the table as long as the existence of all armed formations was on the agenda, he said.

Meanwhile, Clare Silberbauer, 13, an epileptic who was among the injured in the Walkerville attack, was still in a critical condition in intensive care yesterday after brain surgery. Craig Lamprecht, 16, was in a satisfactory condition in hospital. Norman Mitchley, 47, has been discharged from hospital.

Police have promised increased security for school buses south of Johannesburg.

The attack in which Jerling died was at the Yellowwood hotel 20km from Fort Beaufort on Saturday night.

Witnesses said a man walked into the

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Terror attacks

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bar and opened fire on the group of people inside. Jerling was killed.

The rest of the group ran into a nearby diningroom after the lights were abruptly turned off. A second man entered the hotel from a back door and also opened fire on the fleeing people.

The attackers then ran away.

Captain Lisbe Vermeulen said the eight people who took cover had not been injured.

In the Vaal Triangle, motorist Bernard Buys, 23, escaped possible death when he wriggled out of his blazing car after being tied up by gunmen.

Police spokesman Lt Eugene Henning said Buys was driving on the old Alberton-Meyerton road on Saturday night when he was forced off the road by three men armed with AK-47s. After demanding money, they tried to tie him up with his seat belt before setting his car on fire. His assailants fled when another car appeared.

Buys escaped and flagged down Charles Pitout and his wife. The two men waited at the roadside while Pitout's wife drove to Meyerton to call the police. Shots were then fired at them "from an unknown direction", Henning said. Nobody was injured.

The killing of two policemen in separate incidents at the weekend brought the number of policemen killed this year to 40.

Early yesterday a gunman opened fire on two policemen on foot patrol in central Johannesburg, killing one and seriously wounding the other.

On Saturday afternoon, off-duty policeman W/O Morgan Zwane, his wife and a colleague were attacked by two armed men in the driveway of the Zwane's Vosloorus house. His colleague gave chase and caught the attackers. Two Makarov pistols and ammunition were confiscated.

* Zwane died later in hospital.

Comment: Page 4

Women, cops in clash

Sowetan 22/3/93

By Abbey Makoe

TURNED AWAY Hymn-singing group in march to chief's palace in Phokeng:

BOPHUTHATSWANA police clashed with a group of uniformed churchwomen from various denominations in Phokeng near Rustenburg yesterday.

The marchers, carrying Bibles and hymn books and singing church songs, were marching from the Roman Catholic Church to the Bafokeng chief's palace.

They were turned back near Nkapo's Butchery, which police said marked the boundary between South Africa and Bophuthatswana.

When the women knelt and prayed to the "Lord to stop tyranny", the police rushed at a group of journalists covering the event and arrested them.

They were released after identifying the newspapers they worked for.

The march by the women was organised by the Bafokeng Women's League.

The League's leader, former chieftainess and now banished Mrs Semane Molotlegi, told hundreds of supporters: "Behind every successful man there's a woman."

Her husband, Edward Molotlegi, the rightful chief of the platinum-rich Bafokeng tribe, fled about harassment at the hands of the Mangope regime.

Semane yesterday told her supporters that her husband would be returning to Phokeng from Botswana "very soon".

The police refused to allow the commemoration of the third anniversary of the former chieftainess' banishment to take place at the palace, saying it was illegal.

Senior ANC official Mr Popo Molefe, who attended the anniversary, could not convince the police that there was no likelihood of violence.

OAU, UN and World Council of Churches representatives were prsent.

Policemen killed on Reef

ST 22/3/93

JOHANNESBURG. — Two policemen were shot dead in separate incidents in the Transvaal at the weekend, raising the number of policemen killed this year to 41.

In central Johannesburg early yesterday morning a gunman shot dead a policeman and wounded another.

Police said attack on the officers took place about 3.30am.

A number of nearby policemen chased the attacker, but he escaped.

The wounded policeman is in a serious condition.

On Saturday an off-duty policeman died in hospital after two armed men shot at him, his wife and a colleague in his driveway in Vosloosrus on the East Rand.

Warrant Officer Morgan Cwane's colleague, Constable Ngquala, gave chase and arrested the men. — Sapa

SOWETAN Tuesday March 23 1993

NEWS Five cops die in one weekend

Three more cops killed

Sowetan 23/3/93

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■ BLOODY Officer shot with own pistol:

THREE MORE policemen were shot dead during the past two days, bringing to five the number of policemen murdered at the weekend.

An Alexandra Township policeman was overpowered by two attackers and shot dead with his own service pistol yesterday.

In Tsakane, the body of Assistant Constable Johan Makwakwa was shot dead by five gunmen late on Sunday night.

Also on Sunday night, an off-duty policeman was robbed of his service pistol and shot dead by unidentified attackers in Tshiawelo, Soweto.

Police spokesman Major Ida van Zweel said the Alexandra Township policeman was on patrol duty when he was attacked shortly after midnight.

As he got out of his car at a house in 2nd Avenue, the two killers wrestled the gun from him during a struggle.

He died later at Alexandra Clinic.

Police said the Tsakane shooting took place about 11pm on Sunday when two cars pulled up, the gunmen got out and opened fire. The constable was shot in the chest. He tried to flee but fell about 75 metres from the scene.

Assistant-Constable Lazarus Ngomani was attacked in Tshiawelo about 9.30pm on Sunday while walking with a friend.

Two men, one armed with a pistol and another with a knife, accosted the men, shot Ngomani and fled with his pistol.

A KwaZulu police constable was stoned to death in Umlazi, near Durban, on Sunday night. His attackers fled with his service pistol, police said.

Early on Sunday, a policeman was shot dead and a colleague seriously wounded in central Johannesburg.

In another attack, a Vosloorus detective was shot dead in his driveway on Saturday.

'No revenge' are his last words

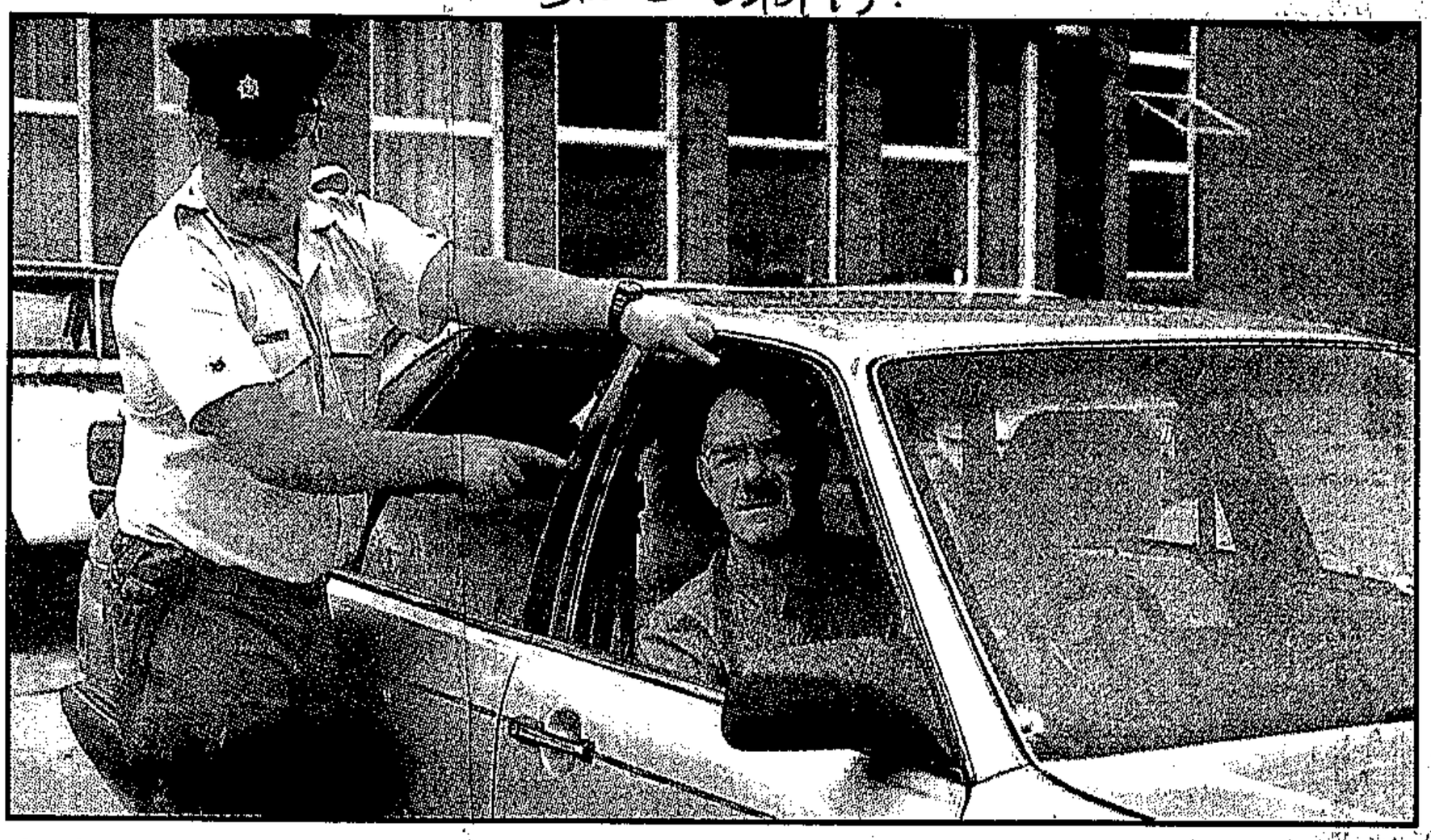
STAR 23/3/93.

Melody McDougall
Vereeniging Bureau 278

The last words Anthony Rex (Tony) Concer (54) spoke to his wife yesterday were against seeking revenge for Friday's attack on a car at Eikenhof which claimed three lives.

Comforted by family friends outside her Vanderbijlpark flat yesterday, Concer's grieving widow Marie (50) said: "Just before my husband left for work this morning I was very angry about the young girl who died following the Eikenhof car shooting incident.

"He said to me: 'Two wrongs don't make a right'. Those words came from his heart ...," was all she would say before being led back inside.



Lucky escape . . . Warrant Officer Jaco Grobler points to a bullet hole in Daan de Bruyn's car. De Bruyn's passenger, Tony Concer, was killed. Picture: Melody McDougall

Loud bangs

Independent Overvaal MP Koos van der Merwe (formerly CP) yesterday visited Mrs Concer to give his condolences.

The driver of the car in which Concer was shot, Daan de Bruyn (52), said from his Vanderbijlpark home that he picked up Concer at his flat at about 7 am yesterday morning.

The pair, both Iscor employees, have been travelling to work together along the same route for the past five years.

They were driving in Donges Road — less than a kilometre from the Slovo Park Squatter Camp at Boipatong — when he noticed three or four black men at the roadside a short distance ahead. He then heard a series of loud bangs.

"At first I thought that my car was backfiring. Then I heard bullets whistling all around us and realised that we were in big trouble. The next instant Tony called out my name before he slumped over forward. I thought that he had suffered a heart attack as he was breathing with difficulty."

According to De Bruyn he turned the car around, ducked as low over the steering wheel as possbile and sped off.

Less than a kilometre further he saw a police van and informed the occupants of the shooting before rushing to the Vanderbijlpark Hospital.

Shortly afterwards, Concer was certified dead.

De Bruyn said his car was hit by at least nine bullets and virtually all of the windows were shattered.

Star 23/3/93

Man killed in taxi dispute

A 33-year-old Soweto man was shot dead yesterday when he took shelter in a house at Orange Farm shortly after his bakkie was forced off the Golden Highway by a gun-wielding gang. Mazwi Xaba, of Orlando East, died from a bullet wound to the head in a suspected taxi dispute. (278)

Police start escorting school buses

278
ARGT 23/3/93

Fear, anger over deaths of white motorists

The Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG. — Police have started to escort school buses in the Vaal Triangle and troops may be sent in to help protect civilians.

This was the response to a terror attack on a white motorist yesterday — the third in as many days in the Walkerville-Eikenhof area.

Vanderbijlpark businessman Mr Tony Concer, 54, was shot dead when four gunmen opened fire on a car in which he was a passenger.

A woman and two children died after a similar attack on Friday and a Vereeniging man's car was set alight on Saturday by gunmen who said 1993 would be the year in which old white people and children would die.

Police Commissioner General Johan van der Merwe said yesterday the police were going all out to prevent further terror attacks.

"We have alerted all our forces and all our members. We are planning to take whatever precautions are necessary."

The government believes at least two attacks — Friday's Walkerville attack and an attack on an Eastern Cape motel pub on Saturday in which a student was shot dead by gun-toting men — were the work of the PAC's military wing, Apla. But the PAC and Apla are still refusing to say whether the organisation's operatives were in fact responsible.

The attacks have sparked widespread condemnation and urgent calls from a range of organisations on the government to track down the merciless killers.

In an emotional response, the SA Council of Churches said yesterday: "It is a tragedy when children are made to be the innocent victims of violence. It is a tragedy when the terror of the random killings strikes at the heart of the nation. It is a tragedy when some feel the necessity to take the law into their own hands."

In the first ANC response, the organisation's PWV region condemned the killings and said: "We call upon the police to ensure that law and order is maintained and also bring the perpetrators of the killings to book."

In yesterday's attack, at 7am in Donges Road near Boipatong, four men with assault rifles jumped out in front of a car driven by Mr Daniel de Bruyn, 52, of Vanderbijlpark. They sprayed the car with bullets, killing Mr Concer.

Mr De Bruyn sped past the four gunmen amid a hail of bullets. He drove straight to the Vanderbijlpark Hospital, where Mr Concer was pronounced dead on arrival.

A large contingent of policemen was sent to the attack scene and a ground and air search was launched for the killers. Police would not say whether the shooting could be linked with Apla.

Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel yesterday visited the scene of Friday's ambush, which claimed the lives of Mrs Sandra Mitchley, 35, her son Sean Nel, 14, and Clare Silberbauer, 13.

Earlier about 400 angry placard-carrying members of the AWB blocked the Vereeniging-Johannesburg road south of the city — metres away from Friday's ambush of the Mitchley car.

Hundreds of Johannesburg-bound motorists were forced to turn back and use alternative routes to work.

Watched by a large contingent of police, the rightwingers lashed out at the government's inability to halt the string of recent killings.

Placards reading: "One settler, one taxi", "One white child — one squatter camp", "Gatvol! Gatvol! Gatvol!", "Apla, your days are numbered" and "SAP, *let us exterminate* Apla, PAC rats" were paraded at the impromptu roadblock.

One poster-carrying woman insisted on pointing out that many of the AWB supporters were English-speaking.

Tensions ran high as the AWB faced police from behind the roadblock. They demanded daily patrols on the Grasmere road.

Speaking an hour after the demonstration ended, Mr Kriel told reporters the cabinet would decide what action would be taken on the "dualism" displayed by Apla and the PAC.

Mr Kriel promised angry residents that a satellite police station would be opened in Eikenhof within four to six weeks.

An AWB "general", Johan Thompson, had earlier claimed in an interview in front of his belligerent supporters that the government had tied the hands of the police, who were being prevented from acting.



RACE WAR? AWB members strad

Massive search for Vaal Triangle killers

B/DAY 23/3/93. (278)

LLOYD COUTTS

VANDERBIJLPARK police launched a massive ground and air search for the killers of an Iscor employee yesterday after a third AK-47 attack on whites in the Vaal Triangle in four days.

Tony Concer, 55, was shot in the chest in Donges Road, near Boipatong, by gunmen who ambushed his car early yesterday.

The driver of the car, Daan de Bruin, 52, escaped a hail of bullets and rushed Concer to hospital, but Concer was declared dead on arrival.

De Bruin and Concer were driving to work when the attack occurred less than 1km from De Bruin's home.

"There is a sharp bend in Donges Road near the squatter camp. I saw some blacks standing on the corner but I see them every day so I did not pay any attention to them.

"I slowed down and concentrated on the road and as we turned into the corner they started firing. I still didn't realise we were being shot at. Tony slumped down on the seat and I thought he had had a heart attack. I leaned as far forward as possible, put the car into a lower gear and raced away. They continued shooting. About 700m down the road there was a police van and I reported the incident to them."

He said he realised Concer had been shot only when he got to the hospital.

"When I picked him up the seat was full of blood. His clothes were soaked in blood. Then I realised he had been shot."

Concer was married with three children.

De Bruin, cut by flying glass, said his car was hit nine times. Police found 25 spent AK-47 cartridges at the scene.

A couple living nearby said they had

☐ To Page 2

AK-47 attack

8/DAY 23/3/93. (278)

☐ From Page 1

heard the shots and saw two black men carrying plastic bags running into the veld.

Police spokesman Maj Piet van Deventer said police had no evidence to connect the shooting to the PAC's armed wing, Apla, which allegedly claimed responsibility for the Walkerville attack on Friday.

Apla would not confirm or deny responsibility for yesterday's attack. Spokesman Jackie Moila told Sapa from Dar es Salaam that Apla was waiting for its cadres to report. But PAC national organiser Maxwell Nemadzivhanani said the PAC would continue its armed struggle while negotiating a political settlement.

The shooting came only hours before a visit by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel to the scene of the Walkerville shooting, which claimed three lives.

STEPHANE BOTHMA reports that police are investigating a claim by the right-wing Wit Wolwe that one of its "generals" had shot a five-year-old black girl in retaliation for the Walkerville attack.

A warning that similar attacks would take place if the killing of whites did not stop, was issued by the Wit Wolwe in a statement to Sapa yesterday.

The "general", arrested on Sunday, faces charges of attempted murder and drunken driving. He would appear in court today, East Rand police said.

Mzandile Morajane was wounded in her arm while walking with her father near Nigel on Sunday. She was shot from a moving car with a 9mm pistol. The gunman was arrested minutes later, after he almost knocked down two pedestrians.



Little Mzwandile John Morajane (5) recovering from a bullet wound at Dunnottar Hospital. PIC: SELLO MOTSEPE

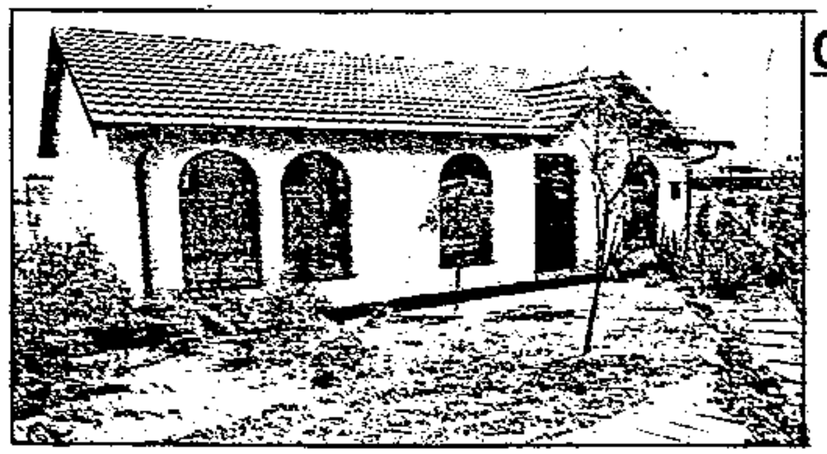
3 shot in race attacks

Sowetan 23/3/93

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A FIVE-YEAR-OLD BLACK BOY was shot and wounded, allegedly by a right-winger, in Nigel on Sunday in apparent retaliation for the killing of whites by gunmen armed with AK-47 rifles.

In another ambush, black men armed with AK-47 rifles opened fire on a car in which two white men were travelling in the Vaal Triangle yesterday morning, killing the passenger. Mr Tony Concer (55) was shot in the chest.

Concer died on the way to the Vanderbijlpark Hospital, bringing to four the number of whites ambushed in the Vaal in four days.

The driver, Mr Daniel de Bruin (52), escaped unharmed. "Wit Wolwe," secretary-general "Boerstaat" Bosman said the shootings of Mzwandile John Morajane was to avenge the attack on white motorists on Friday at Walkerville, which left three whites dead.

"Wit Wolf" Barend Strydom, however, last night distanced his organisation from the shooting and rejected Bosman as a renegade who had split from his organisation some time ago.

The Ministry of Law and Order has also condemned the boy's shooting.

Morajane, who lives on the farm Nooitgedacht near Nigel, was shot in the right elbow. He is being treated at Dunnottar Hospital. His condition was satisfactory yesterday, hospital superintendent Dr EM Schutte said.

Speaking from his hospital bed yesterday, Mzwandile said: "My mom told me the police have taken the people who shot me."

Police confirmed that charges of attempted murder and drunken driving had been laid against a man.

Bosman warned yesterday: "If there is no real action from the authorities to stop Apla, more incidents similar to this (Nigel) one will take place."

Meanwhile, the Cabinet is to meet in the next few days to discuss the attacks. Law and Order Minister Mr Hernus Kriel said while visiting the scene of last Friday's shooting near Walkerville, outside Johannesburg, yesterday.

Kriel visited the area shortly after right-wingers staged a demonstration in the area, forcing away black commuters on their way to work.

The death toll in Friday's attack rose to three on Sunday night when Clare Silberbauer (13) died of head injuries in the Johannesburg Hospital. Sandra Mitchley (35) and her son Sean Nel (14) died at the scene when gunmen sprayed a vehicle carrying children to school with automatic gunfire.

A group of AWB members staged a protest on the M27 Johannesburg-Vereeniging road by blocking traffic.

The AWB member in charge of the operation, "General" Johan "Hagag" Thompson, said the protest was to bring it to the attention of whites that the Government was doing nothing to protect them in the face of Apla attacks.

He warned: "Apla has declared war on whites. We accept the declaration and will fight them with everything at our disposal."

PAC secretary-general Mr Benny Alexander yesterday said only Apla's high command could confirm or deny the activities of its members. He was replying to questions on whether Apla was responsible for the attacks.

By Abbey Makoe

"Apla has declared war on whites. We accept the declaration and will fight them ..."

Sowetans campaign to beat crime

B/DAY 23/3/93

A CAMPAIGN against township crime, planned to culminate in a peace summit of all Soweto organisations at the end of April, had begun, the organisers' spokesman Pat Nhlapho said on Monday.

Nhlapho said the campaign, which was launched at the weekend, consisted of house-to-house visits and mass meetings, at which Soweto residents would be asked for suggestions on minimising crime.

A Declaration on Crime would be compiled from the residents' proposals and would be tabled at the summit, to which every resident and the SAP would be invited.

Organisations participating in the campaign included Soweto branches of the ANC, SACP, Cosatu, the Congress of SA Students, the SA Democratic Teachers' Union, women's organisations, taxi organisations, business people, youths and church bodies. — Sapa.

Natal leaders meet to aid peace process

B/DAY 23/3/93

DURBAN — The spiralling violence in Natal has led ANC Natal Midlands leader Harry Gwala and his Inkatha counterpart David Ntombela to agree to meet in the next two weeks to look at ways of boosting the peace process in the region.

In renewed violence on Sunday, a gunman killed four people when he fired on a moving pickup truck in the Port Shepstone area in Natal.

A police spokesman said the man was given a lift on the truck near Paddock, 120km south of Durban. The man opened fire with a pistol, killing the driver and a passenger before shooting two other passengers as they fled, Sapa-Reuter reports.

Three people, including a KwaZulu policeman, were killed in separate attacks at Umlazi and Kwa Mashu near Durban at the weekend.

Natal regional dispute resolution committee chairman M C Pretorius said yesterday the recent slaying of six school children at Table Mountain near Maritzburg had shocked local leaders into speeding up efforts to end the conflict between the ANC and Inkatha.

Pretorius said the bilateral meetings would look at ways of publicly emphasising the parties' support for the peace accord. They would discuss joint rallies to be addressed by the rival leaders.

Agreement had also been reached on the establishment of task forces for the Natal Midlands, southern Natal and northern Natal, which would concentrate on getting the bilateral meetings off the ground.

RAY HARTLEY

There had been a significant shift towards peace in the region since the ANC and Inkatha began discussions on a possible meeting between Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and ANC president Nelson Mandela in October last year, he said.

"When they started meeting on a bilateral basis, they came to one basic recognition — that the leaders have a major influence on the level of violence.

"By setting an example and stopping belligerent speeches — that would tone down the violence in Natal," he said.

A workshop held earlier this year had reached several significant agreements including a decision to oppose political intolerance and to defend the right of people to use venues "controlled" by their rivals.

The ANC had conceded that traditional leaders had a role to play in a future SA, he added.

Pretorius said about R600 000 would be poured into the Port Shepstone area as part of the peace accord's reconstruction and development programme.

He said violence in the Port Shepstone area had been brought under control with the death rate of between 40 and 70 a month dropping to just one death since December prior to Sunday's attack.



Cosas national president Moses Maseka, right, and Azasu national publicity secretary Kgomotso Modisele said in Johannesburg yesterday about 100 000 Reef pupils would protest tomorrow to demand the scrapping of matric exam fees. Picture: BRIAN HENDLER

Policeman killed on patrol in Alexandra

FOUR policemen were murdered in the Transvaal at the weekend, bringing to 42 the number of SAP members killed this year. Last year, 226 policemen were murdered in SA.

B/DAY 23/3/93

The latest victim was a 26-year-old policeman killed in Alexandra while on patrol early yesterday morning. He was overpowered by two attackers who shot him with his own service pistol. The policeman's name will be released once his next of kin have been informed.

On Sunday night, off-duty Assistant Const John Vuse Makwakwa was shot dead at Tsakane on the East Rand while visiting a friend.

STEPHANE BOTHMA

278

No arrests have been made.

Early on Sunday morning, a policeman was shot dead and a colleague seriously wounded in a central Johannesburg shooting. Gunmen opened fire on the two policemen who were on foot patrol.

In another incident, Boksburg-based detective W/O Morgan Zwane, residing in Vosloorus on the East Rand, was gunned down in his driveway on Saturday.

operation, "General" Johan "Hagar" to page 2 CAPE TOWN

Third AK-47 attack kills man

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Vanderbijlpark police launched a massive ground and air search for the killers of an Iskor employee yesterday after a third AK-47 attack on whites in the Vaal Triangle in four days.

Mr Tony Concer, 55, was shot in the chest in Donges Road, near Boipatong, by unknown gunmen who ambushed his car shortly after 7am yesterday.

The driver of the car, Mr Daan de Bruin, 52, escaped a hail of bullets and rushed Mr Concer to hospital, but he was declared dead on arrival there.

The two men were driving to work when the attack occurred less than a kilometre from Mr De Bruin's home.

"There is a sharp bend in Donges Road near the squatter camp. I saw some blacks standing on the corner and as we turned into the corner they started firing," Mr De Bruin said.

"I leaned as far forward as possible, put the car into a lower gear and raced away. They continued shooting."

The car was hit nine times and police found 25 spent AK-47 cartridges at the scene.



SURVIVOR ... Daan de Bruin

BUSINESS BRIEF

Wit Wolwe squabble over 'drunk' gunman

STAR 23/3/93.

278

By Staff Reporters

Wit Wolwe (WW) mass killer Barend Strydom has distanced himself from the "drunken" shooting of a five-year-old black girl near Nigel on Sunday.

His denial of WW involvement followed a telephone call to Sapa by a man claiming to be the movement's secretary general, "Boerestaat" Bosman who said the WW were responsible.

Little Mzandile Morjane was lightly wounded in the left arm by a passing motorist while she and her father, Simon, were walking along a country road on the outskirts of the East Rand town.

Moreyane managed to flag down a passing police car and the alleged culprit, who appeared to be drunk, was arrested minutes later.

Police spokesman Major Ida van Zweel said the man also nearly knocked down two black women who were walking next to the road. A 9 mm pistol and a cartridge were confiscated.

After the report appeared in newspapers yesterday, Bosman telephoned Sapa and claimed the shooting had been done by a WW agent.

It had been in retaliation to the shooting of white people south of Johannesburg on Friday, he said.

No sooner had he made the claim, than WW leader Barend Strydom denied it, saying Bosman was a charlatan.

Bosman had been kicked out of the WW earlier this year and had subsequently formed his own faction, but had insisted on calling it the Wit Wolwe too.

Strydom said Bosman's statement was an attempt to try and discredit the WW and said he distanced himself from the shooting.

The original WW were doing everything in their power to prevent the ANC from taking over the country.

Strydom said he supported the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging's protest action south of Johannesburg yesterday. "That was a step in the right direction."

Police spokesman Colonel Reg Crewe said yesterday there was no indication that the man arrested for the killing belonged to the Wit Wolwe.

"We do not know whether these people are just jumping on the bandwagon, but we have taken note of the claims," said Crewe.

Youngsters agog at armed police escort

STAR 24/3/93 27B

By Charmeela Bhagowat
Crime Reporter

Waiting for the school bus could not have been more exciting for the young pupils of Danie Theron Laerskool.

Oblivious to the terror that has gripped the Vaal Triangle after three ambushes on white motorists since Friday, and unaware of the subsequent decision by police to escort school buses as a safety precaution, the wide-eyed youngsters curiously looked at the armed police officers, their Nyala vehicles and the journalists who had gathered to report on the unprecedented police action.

But for worried parents waiting in their cars at the Kibler Park school south of Johannesburg, the day could not have been more nerve-wracking. They wanted to leave as quickly as possible — to get off the roads and into their homes without delay.

Clinging to the metal fence around the school, dozens of children tried to talk to armed police stationed at the gate.

"What are you doing here?" and "Are you waiting to shoot someone?" they asked.

On the bus, a police officer told the children to dive to the floor if they heard gunshots. But they paid scant attention to the warning.

Bedazzled by the heavy police presence and SADF motorcycles, their heads poked out of the window most of the time.

The mood of their worried parents was summed up by Walkerville mother Annalie Barnard, whose two children use the school bus daily: "I am so angry and so sad for the people who died. All I do in the morning is tell my children to lie on the bus floor if they hear gunshots and 'may God be with you'."

Relief

When the bus, with two armed policemen in it, SADF escorts on motorcycles in front and a heavy armoured vehicle in the back, reached her stop 10 minutes late, Barnard heaved a sigh of relief. Her children were home.

But Maria Vermaak, who drives her daughter to and from school, said she refused to be scared. "I've been expecting the attacks. We are sitting ducks and I just refuse to bow to the pressure.

"How long are these armed escorts going to last? Our children are going to grow up with fears and complexes we never had," she said angrily.



Riding shotgun . . . Sergeant Andre Duvenage on the school bus to Elkenhof and Walkerville yesterday. Picture: Joao Silva

Police campaign to protect motorists will last indefinitely

ARG 24/3/1978

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The massive police anti-terror campaign that swung into action in the Vaal Triangle to prevent more attacks on white motorists is to continue indefinitely, police said.

The security operation, focusing mainly on the Vaal but covering parts of southern Johannesburg as well, will continue as long as necessary and police will plan their action "day by day", said Vaal Triangle police spokesman Major Piet van Deventer.

The Internal Stability Unit, assisted by troops, has been flexing its muscles in the area since Monday morning.

Two helicopters, one from the police and another from the SADF, and hundreds of policemen have been making their presence felt.

Major Van Deventer said all school routes, covering more than 30 schools in the region, were patrolled regularly with the assistance of the "eye in the sky" helicopters, armoured vehicles and patrol vans.

"Where possible, school buses are being escorted," he said.

He would not say how many security force members were involved in the operation, saying only that "every available policeman" was being used.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Captain Craig Kotze said the police response to the spate of attacks was a reactive, short-term one.

A political violence analyst at Witwatersrand's Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, Ms Janine Rauch, said the police response to the attacks was "obviously disproportionate" to the manner in which they responded when black lives were lost.

Protesters to invade city today

Star 24/3/93

By Phil Molefe

Black schools countrywide will be hit by stayaways today as thousands of pupils stage protest marches to demand the scrapping of matric examination fees.

The ANC national working committee yesterday gave the march its full support and offered to provide marshals to assist in crowd control.

The marches will be jointly co-ordinated by the Congress of South African Students, Pan African Students Organisation and the Azanian Students' Movement.

In Johannesburg, thousands of pupils from townships in the PWV region are expected to assemble outside the Public Library to march to the regional offices of the Department of Education and Training in Stiemens Street, Braamfontein.

A march will be held in Cape Town and pickets and sit-ins will be staged in other cities.

At the centre of the protest is the R72 exam fee paid by all matric candidates.

Mayor slates wildcat taxis

Staff Reporters

WILDCAT action by taxi operators was "completely unacceptable" because special communication channels to sort out grievances had been set up by the taxi liaison committee, Mayor Frank van der Velde said today.

Asked to comment on yesterday's peak-hour blockade in Strand Street, he said he had not been briefed but understood "the group responsible was not Codeta (Convention for a Democratic Taxi Association) but some one else".

"The taxi liasion committee is still active and there is no need for wildcat action. There

● See page 23

are communication links to get an instantaneous response to a grievance.

"The action by the taxi drivers was totally unacceptable and served only to annoy everyone," said Mr Van der Velde.

Attorney-General Frank Kahn said today he wished to speak to traffic officials before commenting on the blockade.

After a similar blockade last November, Mr Kahn said there could be "very scant sympathy" for such demonstrations.

Ordinary citizens of Cape Town were entitled to go about their business undisturbed and taxi drivers who took the law into their own hands would not be tolerated, Mr Kahn said then.

Calls mount to ban PAC from multiparty negotiations as whites react to shootings

Terror attacks: FW set to get tough

278
ARG 24/3/93

TOS WENTZEL and MICHAEL MORRIS, Political Staff

PRESIDENT De Klerk will today make major announcements expected to include tough measures to deal with the crisis caused by attacks on white civilians, allegedly by Apla, the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress.

White reaction to the continuing attacks is mounting and consensus is growing among political parties to exclude the PAC from negotiations unless it distances itself from the attacks.

Mr De Klerk will address a special joint session of parliament at 4.45 pm and will hold a Press conference afterwards.

A Tuynhuys spokesmen said the speech would cover "a wide range of issues".

Political and security sources said it was likely Mr De Klerk would tackle the Apla issue as Law and Order Minister Mr Hernus Kriel had already announced this would be discussed in Cabinet today.

Mr De Klerk's address and Press conference follow the weekly Cabinet meeting, indicating he will announce measures decided in Cabinet.

Nationalist MPs have been left in the dark, but they believe Mr De Klerk will deal with security matters.

Democratic Party leader Dr Zac de Beer said today there was shock among Mr De Klerk's supporters following the weekend shootings of whites, and many doubted whether events since 1990 had been worthwhile.

In the circumstances Mr De Klerk wanted to be seen to be doing something.

Today's address will also coincide with the release of the Goldstone Commission's report on the activities of Apla.

Sources believe Mr De Klerk will announce tough measures to try to frustrate further Apla attacks, although the possibility of a ban on Apla is generally being ruled out.

But security sources said the government was poised to take a hard line.

Government sources have indicated Mr De Klerk might



Picture: JOAO SILVA, Argus Group Picture Service.

RIDING SHOTGUN: Bus routes to more than 30 schools in the Vaal Triangle are being patrolled by police, assisted by the army, "eye in the sky" helicopters, armoured vehicles and patrol vans. The campaign is aimed at preventing a repetition of attacks on motorists.

24/3/93

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Argus

sures against the PAC.

ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela and Mr De Klerk met on Monday. This might have been to review the prospects for the resumptions of multilateral negotiations.

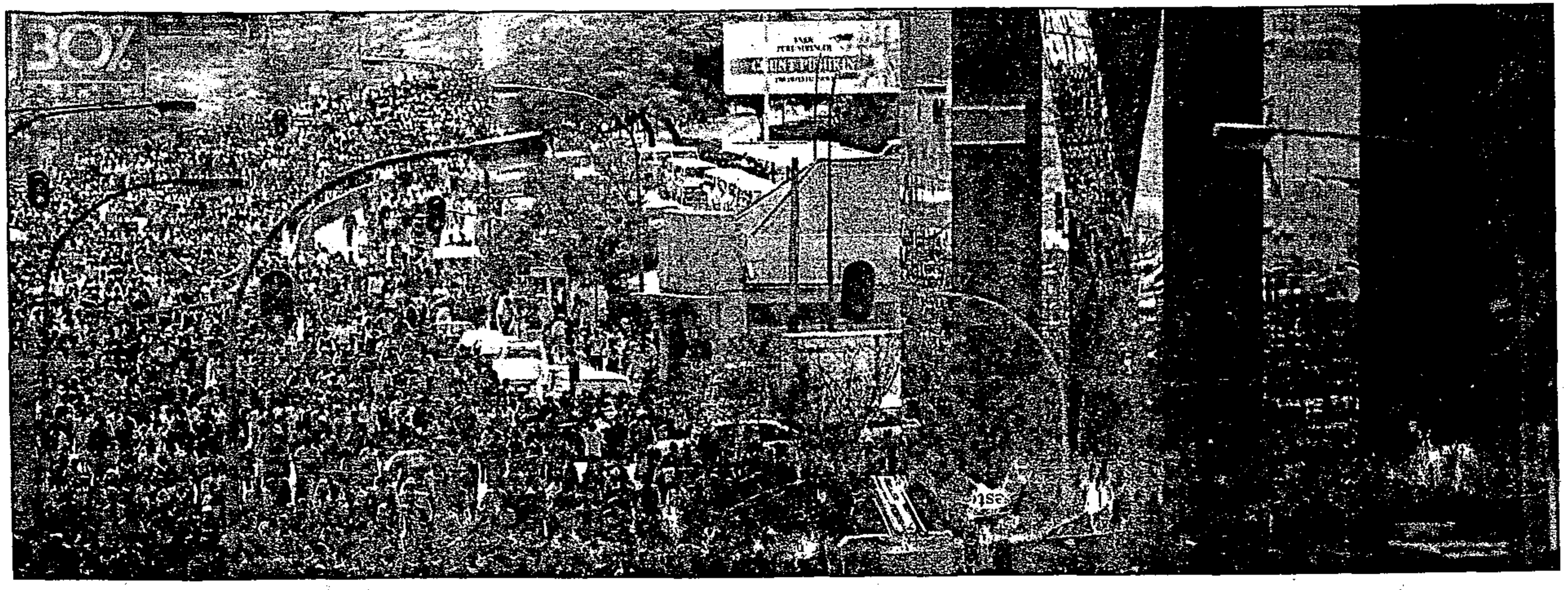
ANC spokesman Mr Carl Niehaus rejected the suggestion that Apla had been discussed at all, or that the ANC had been canvassed by the government to adopt a common stand on the organisation.

Mr De Klerk and his negotiating team met at Donkergat, Langebaan yesterday and are returning there tomorrow before attending next week's multilateral talks.

Pressure has been mounting on the government — even from within National Party ranks — since the weekend to take stronger action against armed attackers to bar the PAC from talks if it failed to distance itself from Apla attacks and to bring back hanging for killers.

The Democratic and Conservative Parties have both issued strong statements saying that if Apla was found to be responsible for armed attacks — with the blessing of the PAC — the PAC should be cast out of the negotiation process.

And the Conservative Party warned that if the government did not act firmly against Apla it should not blame whites in the Eastern Cape "if they take law and order into their own hands".



Unruly marchers ... close to 40 000 pupils paraded in the Johannesburg city centre yesterday in a one-day protest against exam fees. Picture: Etienne Rothbart

Pupils terrorise Jo'burg

Star 25/3/93

By Phil Molefe
Education Reporter (278)

Nearly 40 000 pupils protesting against exam fees went on the rampage in Johannesburg yesterday after a march to the offices of the Department of Education and Training.

The protest was organised by the Congress of South African Students, the Pan African Students' Organisation and the Azanian Students' Movement.

The SAP Regional Commissioner of the Witwatersrand, Lieutenant-General Koos Calitz, said permission for the march was granted to the ANC and it had accepted full responsibility.

Pandemonium broke out in the vicinity of Sauer, Bree, President and Diagonal streets as pupils damaged cars, looted shops, stole goods from hawkers and smashed about 300 cases of cold drink (provided by a soft-drink company for the marchers' benefit).

Some white onlookers were attacked and harassed.

Sandton businessman Denis Gibb (65) was hit with a bottle and sustained a deep wound in the head. More attacks took place in front of the Supreme Court and next to the Johannesburg Sun.

Another group robbed a jewellery store on the corner of Pritchard and Smal streets.

Journalists were threatened and a foreign agency photographer was assaulted.

Police had to use teargas near the library.

White motorists trapped in their cars were abused by pupils shouting "one settler one bullet" and spitting at their vehicles.

The ANC condemned the actions of what it called a small minority.

● *More than 3 000 pupils* marched to the Vereeniging offices of the DET, writes **Melody McDougall**. The march was incident-free but youths shouted racist slogans.

Sapa reports that peaceful marches were held in Maritzburg and the Northern Transvaal regions of Mankweng, Seshego, Lebowakgomo and Namakgale.

"When an invitation reads, "Dress formal" I am never quite sure whether it means I must wear evening dress or whether a lounge suit is acceptable."



Paarl, was provisionally liquidated.

Key was provisonally sequestrated on March 19.

The wine estate is owned

fraud and contravening foreign exchange regulations.

Tollgate Holdings was liquidated earlier this year owing Absa Bank more than R300 million. — Sapa.

Star 25/3/93

Gunmen kill taxi driver

Crime Reporter (278)

A Soweto taxi driver was shot dead and two women hawkers injured at the Baragwanath taxi rank in Soweto yesterday when gunmen in a minibus opened fire on people at the rank.

The killing was the second at the rank this week. On Monday, a Diepkloof man was gunned down in front of his wife. His killer fled on foot.

According to the police, between eight and 12 men were in a white minibus which sped past the rank at 11.30 am yesterday. They opened fire, killing the man whose name will be released once his next of kin have been informed.

The hawkers were shot in the legs and hands.

They were treated at Baragwanath Hospital.

Police found nine AK-47 cartridges and handguns at the rank.

Pupil protest turns violent

Sowetan 25/3/93

By Isaac Moledi, Don Seokane, Alinah Dube and Sapa

AT LEAST four people were assaulted, several shops looted and vehicles damaged when thousands of pupils went on the rampage during a protest march in central Johannesburg yesterday.

Thousands of black pupils throughout the country stayed away from school to observe a call by the Congress of South African Students, the Pan Africanist Students Organisation and the Azanian Students Movement to protest against examination fees.

About 4 000 pupils marched on the offices of the Department of Education and Training in Braamfontein yesterday and delivered a memorandum.

The marchers also demanded the supply of textbooks and the employment of more teachers.

Police used tear gas to disperse groups of pupils who threw bottles and objects at passersby and vehicles.

Three whites, including a pregnant woman, were assaulted by a group of pupils during the march.

A white man alleged he was assaulted and robbed of his wallet.

Street hawkers also had their goods stolen.

Organisers of the march distanced themselves from rogue elements who had joined the march.

Police spokesman Major Eugene Opperman said police used tear gas after pupils went on the rampage.

He said no arrests had been made.

In Cape Town, a planned march by pupils failed to take place after a claim by the Western Cape ANC that pupils were arrested on their way to the city.

Police spokesman Major Attie Laubscher said Spoornet had conducted a ticket check at Nyanga and a number of pupils were put off the train after they were unable to produce their tickets.

At Seshego, Pietersburg, 19 pupils were arrested when a running battle broke out between the Cosas-led march and Lebowa police.

■ **NOT OURS** Rogue elements blamed:

Pupils rampage through city

B1 DBY 25/3/93

WILSON ZWANE, GAVIN DU VENAGE and LLOYD COUTTS

A NUMBER of assaults and robberies were reported, cars were damaged and shops looted in central Johannesburg yesterday when thousands of schoolchildren marched in protest against examination fees.

The march, organised by the Azanian Students' Movement (Azasm), the Congress of SA Students (Cosas) and the Pan Africanist Students' Organisation (Paso), was monitored by UN, EC, Commonwealth and OAU observers.

The ANC PWV region said at least 60 000 pupils took part in the march. It said it unequivocally rejected the actions of "a small minority of students who attacked innocent people indiscriminately, stole and damaged property.

"Of particular concern is the racial element of many of the actions, and of some of the racist slogans which are not consistent with the democratic and nonracist SA that the ANC is committed to building."

Witwatersrand police spokesman Maj Eugene Opperman said the incidents showed that marshals, charged with keeping the marchers in line, did not have control over a big portion of the crowd during the march from the Library Gardens to Braamfontein.

Witwatersrand police commissioner Lt-Gen Koos Calitz said large groups broke away from the march in Braamfontein and committed "various acts of violence".

□ To Page 2

Pupils

B1 DAM 25/3/93

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□ From Page 1

They jumped on parked cars, broke shop windows and stole displayed items. Pedestrians were also pushed around.

While returning to the city centre, where it had been promised that they would disperse peacefully, the children attacked white bystanders.

The pupils were escorted to Park Station by police and left the city. No arrests were made.

Calitz said permission for the demonstation had been granted to the ANC, which had accepted full responsibility for controlling the event.

The organisers had agreed the city council was indemnified against any damage arising from the march.

Several shopkeepers in the city centre closed their businesses because of looting. Hawkers also had their wares strewn across the pavements.

Police fired teargas into the crowd outside the library when pupils started throwing empty cool drink bottles.

Paso official Michael Xashimba said his organisation believed the march "went on smoothly". Alleged attacks on passers-by were committed by "thugs".

UN observer Kevin Kennedy said march monitors had received no reports of attacks. They had seen the looting of a truck and the smashing of a shop's windows.

Sapa reports that the students handed a memorandum, reaffirming the students' commitment to nonracial and unitary educations system, to DET chief education specialist Jacobus du Plessis.

The document outlined three major reasons for not paying exam fees. It said government was unrepresentative and could not make decisions on behalf of the community. Government was misusing taxpayers' money and the DET had failed to deliver library and laboratory equipment or to renovate some schools.

Marches were also held in Maritzburg, Durban, East London, Queenstown and the northern Transvaal regions of Mankweng, Seshego, Lebowakgomo and Namakgale.

A planned march by pupils in Cape Town did not materialise. The western Cape ANC claimed pupils were arrested on their way from the townships to the city.

SAP liaison officer Maj Attie Laubscher said Spoornet had conducted a ticket check at Nyanga and a number of pupils were put off the train because they were unable to produce their tickets. There were no arrests. Cars were damaged by stone throwers near Guguletu.

In Queenstown pupils occupied DET offices and said they would remain until government responded positively to demands for the scrapping of exam fees.

At Seshego, near Pietersburg, Lebowa police arrested 19 pupils who threw stones at police cars.

● Picture: Page 3

Star 26/3/93

E Rand 'peace summit'

The ANC and allied organisations on the East Rand are to hold the third in a series of PWV peace "summits" on the first weekend in April. Mondli Gungubele, deputy head of the ANC's regional peace desk, said the ANC wanted to ensure that its attempts to end conflict were not mere "tokenism".

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Rightwing attacks on blacks ignored by media

By CHRIS LOUW

IN sharp contrast with the saturation coverage of alleged Azanian People's Liberation Army attacks on whites, numerous cases of racist attacks on black people this year have passed virtually unnoticed by the media.

The most recent incident was the shooting by a rightwinger of five-year-old Mzandile Morajana in Nigel on Sunday. A man has been arrested for attempted murder and driving under the influence. Wit Wolf "Boerstaat" Bosman claimed the shooting was in retaliation for the Walkerville attack.

No fewer than five other cases of rightwing attacks so far this month have been reported by the Human Rights Commission. Apart from the shooting of Mzandile, five black men — one aged 76 — were injured in assaults by whites and one man was killed this month.

The 76-year-old is NJ Xhali who was assaulted by three white men in Port Elizabeth on March 6. He was admitted to hospital in a serious condition.

In Pretoria three black men were attacked by whites on March 5 when one of them spoke to a white woman. One of the victims lost an eye.

On the same day a resident of Leondale, near Germiston, was assaulted by two white men who allegedly called him a "kaffir". They told him he had no business living in a "white suburb".

On March 21 the body of a black man was found with a shotgun wound in the chest near a mine road in Stilfontein. A 28-year-old white man has been arrested and a rightwing connection is being investigated.

Other attacks since the beginning of this year include:

*In the western Cape two black men were shot dead by a Philippi farmer who alleged they were stealing potatoes and brass hose fittings. The farmer claimed to have also shot other blacks in the past.

*Kraaifontein squatter Douglas Nkwali was abducted by two rightwingers on January 2 and shot several times. He was released from hospital only this week.

*In February five blacks were injured on the East Rand and in Pretoria in what seemed to be unprovoked attacks by rightwing elements.

*In the East Rand squatter camp Etwatwa, two black schoolboys were wounded when white men in a car fired shots randomly into the settlement.

*On February 21 three black people were injured when white men fired on them from a moving vehicle in two separate incidents along the Hartbeespoortdam/Scheerpoort Road.

*A black baby, 11-month-old Boipelo More, was seriously injured last month when a group of white youths on a bakkie threw stones at a group of people on the road near Swartruggens.

*In Natal, two black watchmen were shot and injured last month on a construction site for informal housing in Kingsborough on the South Coast.

Top Natal counterparts to talk

B10 Army 26/3/93

RAY HARTLEY

MARITZBURG — The ANC yesterday confirmed that ANC regional chairman Harry Gwala and his Inkatha counterpart David Ntombela would meet "within a week" to advance peace in the region.

ANC Natal Midlands information officer Mzwandile Mbongwe said the two organisations' regional executive committee was scheduled to discuss peace and free political activity in the region.

The meeting would also discuss a meeting between ANC president Nelson Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi. The ANC saw a joint regional peace initiative as a precondition for a meeting between the two, he said.

The ANC wanted to move away from the system where organisations "controlled" various areas and barred their opponents.

He said the national peace accord needed more teeth to effectively ensure peace.

WILSON ZWANE reports that fears of clashes between members of the ANC and Inkatha in Driefontein in the southeastern Transvaal have prompted the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac) to ask the national peace secretariat and UN observers to monitor an Inkatha rally at the weekend.

The rally would be addressed by Inkatha president Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Trac said it had received information that Inkatha members had threatened ANC members Yunus Cajee and Trac fieldworkers Star Motswege and Beauty Mkhize with violence.

Trac stressed that the residents of Driefontein were not opposed to Inkatha holding the rally but wanted an assurance it would not result in violence.

Inkatha's Johannesburg office said the fears of violence were unfounded and it dismissed as "nonsense" allegations of threats against the ANC members.

Sapa reports that a three-day summit to address violence, political intolerance and demands for free political activity would be held on the East Rand from April 2-4, the ANC announced yesterday.

The summit is part of an ANC PWV region programme aimed at curbing the violence in townships.

South Africa digs in for 'year of terror'

Guardian / IN w/Mail 26/3 - 1/4/93.

By David Beresford in Johannesburg

WHITE South Africa is being reduced to a state of explosive paranoia by a string of racial murders which continued this week with the random killing of a motorist near Johannesburg.

As the country braced itself for a revenge campaign by rightwing extremists, black gunmen using AK-47 assault rifles ambushed a car in the Vaal Triangle south of Johannesburg, killing a white man travelling to work with a friend.

Simultaneously the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) staged a roadblock at the scene of an attack on motorists last week, in which a mother and her two children were killed. Chanting racist slogans and brandishing placards, about 300 uniformed demonstrators forced traffic off the Vereeniging-Johannesburg road.

The first evidence of revenge attacks on blacks came in the form of a bizarre announcement from another extremist organisation, the White Wolves, claiming responsibility for the wounding of a five-year-old black girl near the town of Nigel, east of Johannesburg. Apla, the military wing of the Pan Africanist Congress, continued to be blamed for the attacks.

Pressure on the government to take action is fast mounting. Radio chat shows were inundated this week with calls from listeners demanding revenge. Anger was fuelled by the news of the death of the third of the victims of last week's attack, Clare Silberbauer, aged 13, who had been shot in the head.

The tragedy was hammered home by a poignant statement from the girl's parents. Referring to a brain injury she suffered when she fell off a horse at the age of six — from which she had seemed to be recovering after a series of operations — the statement said: "Men with guns, who wish to change this country with violence, you may have many reasons for anger as a result of this sad country's politics. Clare so many times in her short, young life had unfair blows to bear and reason for anger, but never would she take the road of violence, not even stand on an insect . . ."

White agitation over the killings is compounded by mounting insecurity caused by the high level of crime. The division between politically-motivated and "ordinary" crime is becoming increasingly blurred, in part because robbers seem to be justifying their crimes on political grounds.

But blacks also continue to die, as always with less fanfare. The latest included four people shot dead by a pedestrian who opened fire on the occupants of a pick-up truck which had stopped to give him a lift in Natal.



Pumping their performance ... Marching Inkatha members veer past the line of peace monitors

Photos: KEVIN CARTER

Fragile peace along a thin orange line

W mag 26/3 - 1/4/93. (278)

Violence seemed imminent as the African National Congress and Inkatha held rallies commemorating Sharpeville. But a small group of peace monitors averted disaster.

By **STEPHEN LAUFER and DAVID ZARING**

IN the end, it is a thin orange line which saves the peace in Thokoza-Katlehong.

A handful of African National Congress and Inkatha peace monitors wearing orange Wits/Vaal Peace Secretariat stickers on their chests and backs join hands with international observers in the blues of the United Nations and the Commonwealth and the green of the Organisation of African Unity to stop the surge of red-shirted Inkatha marchers.

Disaster seems near. Inkatha Freedom Party supporters are determined to force a straight route while police and monitors believe the only way they will avoid ANC marchers returning from a rally is to turn left.

The monitors finally turn the tide at the corner demarcated by the police as their final cut-off point — the point at which security forces will open fire if reason does not prevail.

But the peacemakers, neighbours from across the ideological and ethnic divide, prevail, sending a fragile new message of genuine peace to their leaders from the weekend Sharpeville day rallies.

Working within a strategy agreed with security forces, 32 peace monitors from each of the rival organisations at least twice prevented bloodshed in the battle-scarred east Rand townships, as a written agreement to separate the marchers broke down and it appeared that armed members from the IFP and the ANC were about to clash.

The treaty, brokered by the Wits/Vaal Peace Secretariat, created mobile ANC/Inkatha conflict-resolution teams which, on several occasions, found themselves in the front line separating marchers armed with steel axes, pangas and firearms. And, as about 10 000 participants from all sides returned to their homes and hostels on Sunday evening, it became clear that despite a shooting incident it was the sheer willpower of the monitors, rather than their physical numbers, which had saved the day.

The monitors got to know and respect each other in several preparatory discussions in the weeks leading up to the rallies.

The first test of their newfound strength and unity of purpose came as they faced down a critical situation prior to the rallies.

Apparently determined to take the shortest route to their meeting with IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi in Vosloorus stadium, about 500 Inkatha supporters organised in three disciplined groups and brandishing a variety of weapons surged up a road reserved for participants in the ANC rally at Huntersfield stadium in Katlehong.

Approaching a curve in the road, they caught sight of several buses filled with ANC supporters heading towards them.

Informed by radio of what was happening, peace monitor Gertrude Mzizi of Inkatha and Alfred Woodington of the ANC rushed to the scene with the police captain commanding operations in the area.

With the tension at the thought of the coming showdown visible in her face, Mzizi talked en route about her four children and her wish that South Africans could find a way to express political differences peacably.

And she told Woodington that it was time he taught her some Afri-kaans.

Arriving, the monitors find passions running high, weapons drawn, and the rival groups within 100m of each other. Police have just manoeuvred armoured vehicles between them, donned bullet-proof vests and loaded automatic rifles.

Frail and intense, her voice sometimes breaking with tension and effort, Mzizi implores the Inkatha leaders to halt their marchers. They fail to respond at first, but Mzizi is undeterred.

"We won't be told where we can march," taunts the crowd.

Clutching at one IFP man's naked shoulder, she pleads with him to slow his marchers down at least long enough to give the ANC monitors time to talk to their side.

Meanwhile, Woodington and other ANC peace monitors are cajoling their people — who are outnumbered but ready for a fight — back into the buses, explaining to them that allowing Inkatha marchers right of way will be less painful than loss of life.

Minutes later the situation has been defused. The ANC buses have turned around and the Inkatha marchers are on their way.

But for the peace monitors, the respite will only be temporary. The real test is due after the rallies, when marchers on both sides return to their homes. And indeed, the showdown comes at a crossroads in Katlehong. Troops in full battledress are deployed and the police confirm that they will open fire if there is no resolution of the situation.

But the thin orange line averts disaster.



Restrained but ready ... Policemen ensure marchers follow their designated route to prevent confrontation

●The keeping of the peace on Sharpeville Day is the subject of *Ordinary People*, The Weekly Mail Television programme screening on Sunday at 9pm. See PAGE 32

Fear and anger at Apla attacks

W/Mail 26/3 - 1/4/93.

By ALEX DODD

IN EIKENHOF, a territory of isolated farms and modest homes surrounded by wagon-wheel fences, the polarity between the Dutch Reformed Church and the Golden City Shooting Club is growing sharper by the day.

The question of whether to pray to the good Lord or blow the brains out of the next black taxi commuter has become crucial to the residents of the town, south of Johannesburg. They have witnessed three ambushes on their neighbours in the past week.

The slogan *Een boer, een taxi* is sprayed across the back of a signboard on the dust road leading to the poultry farm run by Anneline and Johan Jordaan. The Jordaans have been driving their little girl to and from the nearby Danie Theron Junior School for the past week. She used to catch the bus that was the intended target of last Friday's ambush.

"This kind of thing just makes people more militant," says Anneline Jordaan. "It makes them want to prove that there can be a rightwing show of strength as well. Our Greek and Portuguese customers say: 'Why don't you people do something about it?' And I say: 'South Africans are so confused. We've had the wool pulled over our eyes for so long now, we just don't have the full story'."

She feels her husband's AWB training, in which he was taught "how to defend my family against car attackers and the like", was extremely valuable.

"We can't rely on the police. Either they haven't got a van or they haven't got enough staff," says Johan. "We're so isolated here and there's no police station in our area."

The Jordaans say the entire community is security-conscious. Apart from fences and dogs, they've got radios and alarms in their cars and huge security spray lights on their property. "But even that is not sufficient for what we're facing."

Johan Jordaan recalls how they used to sit on the stoep in the evenings looking at the stars and listening to the sheep bleating. "This used to be a lovely rural area. Now we lie in bed at three in the morning and hear shots ringing out all over.

"In the olden days, when a black broke into your house he'd be on his own with a knife. Now it's three or four of them with firearms. There have been 10 burglaries in our immediate area in the last month. Just recently, the watchboy next door was stabbed and killed."

The Jordaans believe their problems began with the mushrooming of squatter communities at the nearby Orange Farm and Weilers Farm areas. "Terrorists can be absorbed into those communities without being detected. They just disappear among those shacks.

"Also the toll roads have diverted all the traffic through our area. It's like a bottleneck. Every second car is a kombi. Some taxi drivers buy chickens from us and they're very respectable, nice people. Not all of them are murderers."

Colin Shaw lives only a short drive away in his red four-by-four with desert dueller tyres. "I'll tell you my slogan," says Shaw. "One settler, one squatter camp." But then his bravado dissipates slightly. "No make that: One child, one squatter camp." Shaw ponders on that for a second or two and then bursts out. "No man ... Scrap the whole thing. You can't go around killing innocent people. It's just not Christian-like."

Shaw's nephew, Craig Lamprecht, survived the AK bullets that flew from the now notorious green BMW, but he is expected to be paralysed on one side of his body for life.

"The situation in this area has grown completely out of control. Violent racial incidents happen all the time around here and nothing gets reported," he says.

"The road is extremely volatile. Taxis are the main culprits. They often push cars off the road. They pull people out of their cars at stop streets and assault them. There are thieves and thugs and murderers living there at Orange Farm and they're allowed to do what they like.

"We will see to it personally that Apla pays the price for what it has done," says Shaw, and a moment later: "But who on earth is Apla? They hide behind their aliases and drive around in their cars shooting innocent people. Why don't they stand up and say: 'We are Apla,' so that we can come face to face in the streets?"

"Just when we thought that there was a light at the end of South Africa's tunnel, these Apla people come with their bad breath and blow it out."

ARG 26/3/93

Union slams attack on white workers

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SHARON SOROUR, Labour Reporter

THE militant white SA Iron, Steel and Allied Industries Union has condemned the "despicable" attack on white workers in Vanderbijlpark this week, demanding that the leaders and perpetrators "be called to answer".

Union general manager Mr Nic Celliers said the union, which saw the attack as a "premeditated onslaught against the white worker", would hold a mass meeting in Vereeniging on Monday to discuss white workers' safety.

Mr Celliers and AWB leader Mr Eugene Terre'Blanche would address the meeting.

Mr Celliers condemned the cowardly manner in which the attack was executed saying: "It leaves little doubt that the action was politically motivated and a pattern is enfolding, aimed directly at creating fear and panic among the broader white population.

"Attacks on whites in public places, on their way to work and intended attacks on schoolchildren seem to be related and appear orchestrated."

The union found it strange that the "apostles of human rights" remained silent on these events, "while they often create a furore in the media about petty things such as the admittance of all races at holiday resorts."

Mr Celliers said the attack in Vanderbijlpark was a "blatant violation of one of the basic rights of the worker and the union is apprehensive that more are to follow."

Tvl 'most dangerous' for SAP

(278) CT 27/3/93

PRETORIA. — The Transvaal is the most dangerous province for the SAP with the highest number of police murders recorded on the East Rand, in Alexandra, Soweto and the Vaal Triangle.

Statistics released yesterday showed 11 policemen died while on duty in the Witwatersrand alone this year compared to seven in the same period last year.

Altogether 32 police deaths were recorded from January 1 to March 15 this year. Thirty police deaths were recorded in the same period last year.

Police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Bruce said 226 policemen and women, were killed in the country last year, compared with 65 in the US.

He said most policemen in the US were shot with small calibre firearms. In South Africa, most were killed with heavy calibre AK-47 assault rifles.

Meanwhile, the SAP said yesterday policemen and women killed either while on duty or because they were SAP members will be remembered tomorrow at a service at the SAP Memorial at the Union Buildings here.

Law and Order Minister Mr Hernus Kriel will lay a wreath, as will Police Commissioner General Johan van der Merwe and Transvaal Administrator Mr Danie Hough. — Sapa

'Killers want us to bail 'em out of jail!'

Cllrem 28/3/93.

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By FRED KHUMALO

Knocking on doors to collect the cash

RESIDENTS of eKwandeni, near Hammarsdale, are being forced to raise R36 000 towards bailing out 18 members of a "people's court" charged with murder.

But the residents of the informal settlement outside Mpumalanga township are not keen on the idea of securing the release from prison of "these people who will be murdering us tomorrow in the name of justice and order in the area".

The 18 people are part of a group of 20 arrested for the February 21 murder of Jabulani Sithole.

Two members of the people's court are out on R2 000 bail each, but the rest are behind bars as their families have failed to raise bail money.

Crack down

"Now the ones that are out are going around with their friends, knocking on doors and asking us to contribute money towards the bail," said a resident.

Residents claim members of the "people's court" are above the law and have gone unpunished when caught breaking into people's houses.

Residents have reported the matter to the KwaZulu Police in Mpumalanga and they have promised to crack down on the "people's court".

Jabulani Sithole was murdered at 3.45 pm in full view of the township, allegedly by members of the "people's court".

Sentences at the "people's court" range from a few lashes with sjamboks for minor offences such as theft, to death by stabbing for murder or rape.

It is not clear what Sithole's "crime" was.

The "people's court" has been blamed on the existence of a group of youngsters who call themselves "comrades" who have taken upon themselves the responsibility to maintain "law and order" in the settlement.

While Mpumalanga burned as a result of Inkatha-ANC violence four years ago, eKwandeni remained unscathed.

Now that Mpumalanga has returned to relative peace following the burying of the hatchet between the ANC and Inkatha – thanks to ANC chairman Meshack Hadebe and his Inkatha counterpart Sipho Mlaba – residents are guarding the peace jealously.

ANC chairman Meshack Hadebe said it was sad to see people trying to stir trouble in peaceful eKwandeni. He added that youngsters who called themselves "comrades" were not engaging in their activities with the blessing of the ANC.

"These perpetrators of shameful deeds are criminal elements who benefit from disorder and chaos," said Hadebe.

He said the ANC did not approve of "people's courts".

Hadebe urged people to report to the ANC branch executive committee any incidents of harassment.

He said people should not pay money to people who were not sanctioned to collect funds from the community by the ANC.

"It is on very rare occasions that we appeal for funds from the community. Only people hand-picked by the executive committee and carrying letters signed by us can collect funds," he said.

The local ANC branch executive committee was due to have a meeting with the community on the "people's court".

DUST IN THE EARS

Day of unity now divides

There was a sad twist to the Sharpeville or Heroes' Day commemoration services which took place in several parts of the country last week.

33 years ago the black community was united in its grief following the massacre of 69 defenceless people in Sharpeville. But now some 70 km south of Johannesburg, remembering this tragedy only served to show how divided the black community is.

At the time when both the PAC and ANC were banned, the Black Consciousness Movement used the occasion to promote black unity. For almost ten years the black community shared common grief.

Sadly, party political differences over the commemoration of this tragic event began to show in the early 80s.

Both the ANC and the PAC seemed set on claiming Sharpeville day as their day. The fight is still continuing and is even stronger today.

With elections around the corner, political organisations are likely to use such commemorations to test their strength at the polls.

Following the unbanning of the PAC and ANC in February 1991, differences over this day have become more pronounced. Pleas by non-aligned church leaders, business people and ordinary people for political organisations to bury their differences on this day and hold joint rallies, have not been heeded.

1 dead, 2 hurt in Alex taxi feud

Star 2/9/3/93

(278)

Crime Reporter

One man was killed and two others were seriously injured in renewed taxi violence in Alexandra, near Sandton, on Saturday, police said.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Lieutenant Janine Smith said the same gunmen, allegedly members of the Alexandra Taxi Association (ATA), were responsible for the two attacks on Saturday.

The three victims were Alexandra-Randburg-Midrand-Sandton Taxi Association (Armsta) members, said Smith. She said the shootings were linked to an ongoing taxi war in the township which had claimed a number of lives in the past year.

In the first shooting, a group of men opened fire on an Armstra member at about 6 am.

The man, who has not been named, was taken to hospital in a critical condition.

Smith said that about five minutes later, the gunmen opened fire on two more Armsta members in nearby Wynberg.

One of the men was shot in the back and died at the Alexandra Clinic. The other was rushed to Johannesburg Hospital in serious condition. Police have not released their names.

Several spent 7,65 pistol cartridges were found at the scene of the first shooting.

At the scene of the second shooting, police found five spent Makarov pistol cartridges.

Smith said the SAP did not know what sparked off the shootings, but police believed it was part of a war between the two rival associations.

Cops deny woman's claim

Sowetan 29/3/93

■ POLICE BURGLARS Soweto mother says men posing as police stole R1 000:

By Joshua Raboroko

A SOWETO mother claimed that policemen raided and ransacked her house and stole R1 000 in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Mrs Evelyn Mbatha (55) of 490 Magogo Street, Rockville, said she became frightened when the policemen pointed firearms at her during the raid.

"I was afraid they would shoot me," she said. "They broke down my fence, doors, wardrobe and ransacked the house without any explanation."

Police denial

They left after allegedly taking R1 000 from her wardrobe. The money was her grandchild's school fees.

In a statement to *Sapa*, Soweto police denied they had carried out a raid on Mbatha's home.

"The police deny that it was an official raid from the SA Police," said Soweto police spokesman Major H P Oosthuisen. He said the occupants of the house on Saturday reported a group of men claiming to be policemen and clad in camouflage uniforms swooped on the house between midnight and 2am. The raid lasted two hours.

The residents said the invaders looted the house and did not identify themselves.

Oosthuisen said police raids normally lasted 10 minutes and police were required to identify themselves.

He said police on Friday found a camouflage uniform and ammunition at the Baragwanath taxi rank in Soweto. This had sparked suspicions that there were people roaming the township with camouflage uniforms, posing as policemen.

Oosthuisen reiterated a call by district commissioner Brigadier I J Pretorius to report all raids to the police.

KwaMhlanga roadshow a success

■ Stars entertain revellers at the Lion Lager festival:

By Elliot Makhaya

THE Lion Lager Roadshow at KwaMhlanga Stadium in KwaNdebele on Saturday was an unqualified success.

Staged by Steve Promotions, the festival attracted thousands of music lovers from many parts of the country.

The festival saw five-star performances by Mzwakhe Mbuli, Lucky Dube, William Mthethwa and Rebecca Malope. Poet, singer and dancer Mzwakhe, now an international star, was making his first appearance in KwaNdebele. He made an impact.

The well-behaved crowd was also entertained by the likes of Spokes H, Mercy Pakela, Winnie Khumalo, Pure Magic and Roots Dedication.

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ER Indaba to be held soon

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Sowetan 29/3/93.

■ Violence to be addressed:

By Tsidi Thinane

A THREE-day peace summit is to be held on the East Rand from April 2 to 4 to look at violence and political intolerance.

The summit is part of ANC PWV region's "programme of action" aimed at curbing violence in townships.

Two similar summits were held at KwaNdebele and the Vaal by the organisation. "The new wave of political violence presently ravaging the country is cause for concern," the organisation said in a statement. "In the PWV region alone, more than 90 people have died in politically motivated violence since the beginning of the year — the lowest in the past two years."

Gunmen kill ANC branch organiser

STAR 3/3/93

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By Brian Sokutu

Police are investigating the killing on Sunday evening of ANC Moroka branch organiser Peter Monyai who was shot dead in Soweto by unknown gunmen.

Soweto police spokesman Major Joseph Ngobeni said yesterday members of the Soweto Murder and Robbery Squad were investigating.

According to ANC PWV regional spokesman Vusi Gunene, Monyai was shot dead at 5.50 pm on Sunday shortly after he left his home with his four-year-old daughter. Four gunmen stopped him in Chiawelo, Soweto, demanding his car keys. As he handed over the keys, the men shot Monyai dead in front of his daughter.

Monyai's car was later recovered about 3 km from the scene.

"He will be greatly missed by all who knew him," Gunene said. The ANC PWV has extended its sympathies to the Monyai family.

Kriel attacks ANC 'criminals'

Sowetan 30/3/93.

■ Minister reminiscent of PW Botha:

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

A FINGER-WAGGING Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel launched a scathing attack on the ANC and its leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, in Parliament yesterday.

Breathing heavily and sounding much like former State President Mr PW Botha, Kriel said it was the "misguided pride" of Mandela and Inkatha's Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi that was perpetuating the violence in the country.

"Misguided pride is keeping the leaders of the warring factions in South Africa apart and this is the cause of the violence that has led to the death of thousands of people," Kriel said.

The Minister said joint control of the security forces would not be an automatic panacea for the raging violence but better control over the ANC's military wing would.

Africa in brief

ANC organiser shot dead (278)

AN African National Congress organiser in Soweto, Mr Peter Monyai, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on Sunday night when he was on his way to visit friends in Chiawelo. Soweto

Soweto police spokesman Major Joseph Ngobeni confirmed the incident. 30/3/93

The ANC PWV region said in a statement yesterday Monyai left his home in Moroka, Soweto, with his four-year-old daughter at about 5.30pm. Four gunmen stopped him in Chiawelo, also in Soweto, and demanded his car keys.

Probe into killing of theft suspect

S Sowetan 31/3/93 278

■ **BAD PROCEDURE** Three witnesses injured in apparent police mix-up:

POLICE HAVE opened murder and attempted murder dockets following the shooting by police of a man inside a stolen vehicle - which was being driven by a policeman.

David Mbuli, suspected of car theft, was killed and three witnesses were injured in Orlando, Soweto, in an apparent police mix-up.

Members of the Soweto Flying Squad shot at a reportedly stolen minibus driven by a policemen, accompanied by another policeman, who were transporting the suspect and the four witnesses to the police station.

Major General Braam Strauss, deputy Regional Commissioner of Police of the West Rand and Soweto, has ordered an investigation.

Colonel Tienie Halgryn of the Soweto police said a minibus, which had been reported stolen, was recovered by the police in Diepkloof on Sunday afternoon. The vehicle had been taken in Diepkloof by men armed with AK-47s.

The police took the vehicle to the investigating officer at the Diepkloof police station. The officer and a colleague then drove the vehicle to Orlando. The officer arrested a suspect and also fetched four witnesses to take down their statements. He used the stolen minibus to transport them.

The Flying Squad saw the vehicle later and a radio check showed that the vehicle had been reported stolen.

They switched on their vehicle's blue lights and siren to try to bring the minibus to a standstill.

The driver failed to stop and the Flying Squad members opened fire, Halgryn said. Mbuli was killed and three of the witnesses - Eugenia Suso, Jonneth Matiwane and Nomalungelo Khunuywe - were injured. They are all in a stable condition.

Halgryn said the correct procedure when a stolen vehicle was recovered was to impound it immediately in the police's stolen vehicle camp.