

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE RIOTS AT
SOWETO AND OTHER PLACES IN SOUTH AFRICA

MORNING SESSION:

25th NOVEMBER, 1976.

VOLUME 62

(Pages 3 180 - 3 255)

MR FLEDERMAN: M'Lord, first I would like to express my appreciation in Your Lordship's consenting to permit me to lead the evidence of these witnesses. The evidence that I will lead will be in support of the memorandum which has already been filed by Prof. Harvey van der Merwe who is Director for the Institute of Inter-racial Studies and the first witness I call will be Mr Meyer.

LAWRENCE LOUIS MEYER: sworn states:

MR FLEDERMAN: M'Lord, before we start, Mr Meyer made a statement and then he was persuaded not to give evidence (10) and he asked me whether I would give the assurance that there would be no action taken against him and guarantee that and I felt I could not do that, but I would ask Your Lordship just to emphasise that he has nothing to fear in coming here and that he need not fear any recrimination as a result of the evidence he is giving this morning.

CHAIRMAN: That is so. If he requires any protection, he merely has to say so.

MR FLEDERMAN: You have a statement before you.

CHAIRMAN: Would you like his name not to be mentioned? (20)

MR FLEDERMAN: Your full name is Lawrence Louis Meyer. -- Correct.

And you swear that the evidence you .. (intervenes)

CHAIRMAN: He has been sworn, but does he want his name not mentioned?

MR FLEDERMAN: No, no, he is quite happy for his name to be mentioned, it is just that he was persuaded for coming here this morning and your assurance will satisfy him. Now, you reside at 24, Bilston Road, Crawford, Cape Town. -- Yes, that is correct. (30)

And you have a son, Paul Meyer, aged 14, who is a Std. 6 pupil/...

pupil at Mountview School, Hanover Park, Cape. -- Correct.

Now you have your statement in front of you. Would you read paragraph 3 please? -- (3) On the 3rd September, my son went to school as usual, but the school was dismissed at about 12 noon and the scholars were sent home. What follows is what my son tells me. Shortly after 12 noon he went out of our house in Bilston Road to see what was happening in view of the turmoil. He went to the corner of Sheldon and Camberwell Roads and stood leaning against a lamp pole in Camberwell Road. (10)

Will you stop there please? M'Lord, there are diagrams prepared and if I could just hand them to the Commission, it will be very much easier to follow the evidence that will be led by this witness. So if I could just hand this in. If I can refer to this diagram, it sets out quite a few of the places that has been previously mentioned. You have the Alexander Sinton High School .. (intervenes)

CHAIRMAN: Well, we went on an inspection of this particular area.

MR FLEDERMAN: Now Bilson Road is a road - there is (20) Sheldon Road and then you live in the road a little to the north of that, in other words lower down on this picture. -- That is correct.

Right, you are going to say what was told to you and then evidence will be led of - direct evidence of what was seen. So if you will just carry on please.

CHAIRMAN: You say that your son was leaning against a pole.

MR FLEDERMAN: Against a pole and there is a pole marked - your son was leaning against a pole in Camberwell Road and if you look on that plan there is a pole marked there. Right? (30) -- Correct.

Do you see it? -- Yes.

Right. Now will you just carry on with your statement?

-- There were people all around him. A riot policeman standing on a stoep which we have measured and found to be 80 paces away, levelled a rifle at the crowd in my son's direction. It appears that as everyone thought, the riot policeman, to everyone's horror, fired and my son was shot through the abdomen. Paul fell to the ground, got up and ran into the house of Mrs May in Sheldon Road and collapsed on the floor. Mrs May's husband is a minister and the Mays are there-- (10) fore not prepared to come forward and give evidence. (4) Mrs May telephoned for an ambulance. The riot policeman ran looking for my son and pushed open the front door of the house belonging to Mrs Roux who is about 80 years old and hid a child in the house. The riot police then smashed open the door of Mrs Trim in Sheldon Road. (5) We had been sent home from work shortly after 12 o'clock and on arriving at my house I was told that my son had been shot by the riot police. I rushed out and found Paul lying on the floor in Mrs May's house. The riot police came in and two policemen ... (20) (intervenes)

Just stop there. Now what you are telling the Court is what you actually saw. You went to the house and you found your son lying on the floor. -- Correct.

And then what happened? The riot police came in? -- They came in and picked him up by the head and feet. Paul screamed and they dropped him and said that he was an ambulance case. Paul was taken to Groote Schuur Hospital where he underwent an emergency operation as part of his bowel had been shot away. He was in ward C5. He was in intensive (30) care at one stage and not expected to live.

All right just stop there. Now, did anything happen after that? You later on came and made a further statement about his clothes. Is that right? -- That is correct.

Now what happened after that? -- Well, it was in the same week that I had a few friends; in particular my minister was with me and my pastor was with me there and an officer from the Lansdowne Police Station and one of the riot policemen which I recognised him, he came over to me and he said the captain of the riot police sent him over to me to ask me if I know anything about the shooting. I said to him well, (10) I know very little because I was at work and then he said well, the captain of the riot police told him he has got to tell me and my wife, the parents; that he ran and as he ran he was shot in the back with buckshot. And then through the alertness of my wife, she said but if you would kindly allow me to go and fetch his clothes that he had on that particular day and we showed him the back part where the bullet tore out. She said, could you explain that to me. He said well, Mrs Meyer, I am sorry, but this is definitely buckshot. I said well, if you could explain to me how the hole (20) is in the front of the stomach part, could he explain. And then he examined it very carefully on the floor of my dining-room and after a brief few moments, he admitted that it was definitely an FN rifle that shot him and not from the back. He was shot from the front.

Now you have the trousers there, have you? -- Yes.

Will you just exhibit them. -- Well, this is the grey flannel trousers and the .. (intervenes)

Just hold them up so that we can see the front. -- This is the front. (30)

And there is a small hole in the front. Can you just put your/...

your finger where the hole is, just indicate. -- That is the front part.

That is the front of the trousers just about where his stomach was.

CHAIRMAN: Isn't there a report of what happened to him in hospital? Because that would show where the wound was.

MR FLEDERMAN: His son was in intensive care, he has given evidence of that. Here are the trousers he was wearing at the time. It has a small hole in the front and a large hole at the back. This is the evidence that he has that his (10) son was shot. Now, I will then lead evidence of somebody who actually saw the shooting. So the trousers have a small hole in the front and turn them around now. There is a large hole at the back where the bullet came out. Now, how long was your son in hospital? -- Just over 2 months.

And what is his condition now? -- Well, fortunately for us, he is very well. Although he has got to go back the second week in January for another operation to fit the bowel and take the colostomy bag off.

That is all, thank you, Your Lordship. (20)

DR YUTAR: I am very pleased to hear your son is well, I hope he keeps that way. You of course were not present there that midday at Camberwell. -- No.

Have you any idea what took place that day? -- Well, very little. As I said in my statement that we were dismissed at 12 o'clock due to also unrest in town and the manager decided to send us home for our own safety and, well, I came home and then I found my sister-in-law told me what happened.

I just want to mention to you that on that particular day, at that particular place, round about that particular time (30) there was an awful lot of trouble in Camberwell Street and there/...

there were no fewer than 4 incidents on the 3rd September.
May I just read it to you? -- Yes.

What did your son tell you what took place that day? --
Well, I asked him about it when he gained consciousness when
he was still in hospital because I warned him on several
occasions not to take part in any of the marching or any of
the stone throwing and I do not allow them that. But he said
well, he went home, he came home and he heard there was some
sort of an unrest near to - that is Thornton Road where
Sinton High is in and as he went down there and he (10)
decided to go down this Sheldon Road and there he stood and
leaned at the pole and watching from the direction towards
Thornton Road.

But now he was standing in what street do you say? --
He was standing in - I just want to make absolute sure here -
yes, that is right, yes, he was standing here in ... (inter-
venes)

Where the pole is? -- Yes.

The pole is in Sheldon Road. -- Yes, it is in - no,
that pole is actually in Camberwell Road and not in (20)
Sheldon Road.

It is on the corner of Sheldon Road and Camberwell Road.
-- Yes.

Well, you know, a lot of parents tell their children what
they should do and should not do, but you know, children are
difficult, they do what they like. -- Exactly.

Now, I just want to read to you that - what
happened that day in Camberwell Road. M'Lord, I read from
EXHIBIT 155, page 35, 3rd September. U verstaan Afrikaans? --
Ja. (30)

Nou 12h59: Daar vergader 'n klomp oproerige Kleurlinge

in Camberwellstraat, Athlone. Twee traanrookgranate gebruik om oproeriges uiteen te dryf. Geen arrestasies. Geen beserings aangemeld nie. Then at 13h00, one o'clock, just one minute later: Poog oproerige Kleurlinge om 'n voertuig te Camberwellstraat, Athlone, te beroof. Vier rondtes donshael gebruik om hulle uiteen te dryf. Geen arrestasies. Geen beserings aangemeld. Dan die derde geval: 13h26: Oproerige Kleurlinge gooi met klippe in Camberwellstraat, Athlone. Een rondte donshael gebruik om hulle uiteen te dryf. Geen arrestasies. Geen beserings aangemeld. En dan weer 13h40: Oproerige (10) Kleurlinge keer terug na Camberwellstraat, Athlone en gooi met klippe. Een rondte donshael gebruik om hulle uiteen te dryf. Geen arrestasies. Geen beserings aangemeld. So there was quite a lot of activity there, quite a lot of rioting in that street that day. You would agree? -- Yes, I will agree at that time more or less at 2 o'clock I arrived home and I found things had more or less settled down.

Yes, that is what the police say too in effect. -- That is the time I came home.

The last incident I referred to is 13h40, so I can (20) understand. Where is your son today? -- He is at home, the district nurse is still attending him.

Still attending to him. And I understand he was attended by Dr Madden. Is he still at ...? -- Well, I do believe so.

No further questions.

MR FLEDERMAN: No further questions.

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.

MR FLEDERMAN: Mr April.

JEFFERY DAVID APRIL: sworn states:

MR FLEDERMAN: M'Lord, would you be kind enough to also (30) give Mr April the assurance that he will not be prejudiced?

He/...

He was terrified to come here this morning and it was only after I assured him that Your Lordship would confirm that he had nothing to fear, that he agreed to come and he then only came very late.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, I give that assurance that there is nothing for him to fear.

MR FLEDERMAN: You have a statement in front of you which you gave me. Now would you read paragraph 1 please? -- I am an adult male residing at "Shamara", Nico Avenue, Crawford, and am employed as a collector salesman with Galaxy Melodies (10) of Woodstock. I am 40 years old.

Now (2) we come to the vital day when there is a lot of difficulty and disturbance round Thornton Road and the Alexander Sinton High School. Now you have a copy of this diagram in front of you. -- No, I haven't got a copy. (A copy is given to the witness.)

CHAIRMAN: The date was? The same date?

MR FLEDERMAN: The same date, yes. Now, would you read paragraph (2) please? -- On Friday, 3rd September, 1976, at about 12,30 I was standing in Camberwell Road, Crawford. (20) This was about 200 paces from Thornton Road.

Now would you just stop there. You have got a diagram in front of you. You were standing in what road? -- In Camberwell Road.

Fine, you were standing in Camberwell Road. Now where were you actually standing in Camberwell Road? -- Almost on the corner of Camberwell Road and Sheldon Road.

So you were standing in Camberwell Road just round the corner from Sheldon Road. -- Ja.

Right. Now would you deal with paragraph (3). You (30) were standing in Camberwell Road just round the corner from Sheldon/...

Sheldon Road and you see a pole marked on the diagram. -- Yes.

Now is that roughly the position where the pole was? -- Ja.

Right, now would you read paragraph (3) please? -- There were a crowd of people at the intersection of Thornton and Camberwell Roads and on the other side of Thornton Road there were the vehicles of the riot police.

Now this was the situation while you were watching. -- That is right.

Right, now would you deal with paragraph (4). -- Leaning against a pole about 10 paces from me was a boy by the name (10) of Paul Meyer and he was facing down Camberwell Road towards Thornton Road.

Now you said about 10 paces away. Now how do you arrive at that distance? -- Well, the pole, I was standing almost on the corner of Sheldon Road and Camberwell Road and this pole was just slightly opposite me, it was about 10 paces on the other side of the road.

And that distance have you measured it? -- Yes, I have.

So you have actually paced off the distance you were standing from him. -- That is right. (20)

Now paragraph (5). -- As I was looking down towards Thornton Road, I saw a riot policeman move into the bottom of Camberwell Road and raise his rifle and point it in the direction of Paul.

Now, if you would just stop there. You saw a riot policeman move into the bottom of Camberwell Road. Now is that near the intersection of Thornton Road? -- That is right. From the opposite side of the field.

In other words - H'Lord, I am leading a little bit - there were the riot police on the field who had been dealing (30) with the various disturbances. -- That is right.

And/...

And the riot police were on the field between the Hewitt College and Alexander Sinton. -- That is right.

And your evidence is you saw a policeman move from that field and into the bottom of Camberwell Road just on your side of Thornton Road. -- That is right.

Now there is an 'X' marked on the plan. Is that the position which you indicated? -- Yes, that is the position.

That is where you saw the riot policeman. -- Yes.

And how far away did you say that was? From where you were standing. -- From where I was standing? (10)

Yes. -- It could have been about 200 paces.

So he was about 200 paces. -- Ja.

From where you were standing Thornton Road was about 200 paces? -- Ja, Thornton Road.

Now will you read your next paragraph? The riot policeman was about how far away from you? -- Is that paragraph (6)?

At the bottom of paragraph (5). -- The riot policeman was .. (intervenens)

Just so you are not confused, you said that Thornton Road was roughly about 200 paces from where you were. Then (20) the riot police moved out of Thornton Road to the spot marked X. So he was a little bit nearer to you. -- That is right.

Now how far away was the riot police from where you were standing roughly? In other words the riot police was not in Thornton Road, he had moved slightly into Camberwell Road. -- From the time when he fired the shot?

Yes. -- Well, that could have been about 170 or 180 paces.

Have you measured that distance? Have you paced it off? -- I measured the distance from the pole to where the riot policeman was. That was 150 paces. (30)

Now what happened after that? Would you read paragraph

(6)? -- To my horror the riot policeman fired and Paul who was standing by himself against the pole, fell to the ground with a loud scream.

Now at that stage what was the situation in Camberwell Road? Was anything happening? -- No, there was nothing really actually happening in Camberwell Road. All the disturbance was at the top of Thornton Road mostly.

When you say the top, you mean the part of Thornton Road bordering on the field? -- That is right.

Now read the next paragraph. -- (7) At the time (10) Paul was standing by himself although there was a youngster near him.

He was standing by himself. Was he doing anything? -- No, he was just leaning up against the pole.

Was he throwing any stones? -- No, not at all.

Was he saying anything? -- No.

Right, so he was by himself leaning against a pole and you say there was a youngster near him. -- Ja.

And were there people on either side of Camberwell Road? -- Ja, there were people around. (20)

On either side of Camberwell Road. Right now paragraph (8). -- The police were not at the time being taunted in any way and they did not give the crowd in Camberwell Road any instructions to disperse.

Then, what did you see, paragraph (9), what did you personally see after that? -- Paul, on being struck, gave one scream and bent down and then ran across the field into Sheldon Road.

Right, and paragraph (10) please. -- A group of riot policemen, probably 6 or 7, came running down Camberwell (30) Road looking for Paul. They followed the blood stains across

the field and went running around the corner into Sheldon Road to find him.

And then paragraph (11). -- I understand that Paul was taken to Groote Schuur Hospital in a critical condition.

Did you ever examine this pole afterwards? -- Yes, I did.

And did you see anything? What did you see? -- There is an indent in the pole where the bullet struck the pole.

There is an indent in the pole where the bullet struck the pole. -- Ja, after the bullet passed through him.

That is all, thank you, M'Lord. (10)

DR YUTAR: I just want to ask you one or two things. There was a crowd of people in Camberwell Road? -- Yes, not really a crowd, they were scattered.

And when you say a crowd of people, first of all, who were the people? -- Just the ordinary people that gathered to watch the disturbance on the corner.

What was the disturbance on the corner? Who took part in it? -- Well, when I came there, there was not really actually disturbance at that time, because I believe this all happened earlier with the students. (20)

But you saw Paul Meyer being shot. -- Yes, I saw Paul Meyer being shot.

At that time or just before was there a disturbance on the corner? -- I believe before that time there was a disturbance on the corner.

But not at the time of the shooting. -- Not at the time of the shooting.

And did you see the disturbance yourself? -- No, when I came onto the scene, when I came into Camberwell Road after I had parked my car at home and walked around the corner, (30) there was not really disturbance, people were just running up

and/...

and down, but there was no real disturbance that I saw in Camberwell Road.

And you saw nobody taunting the police. -- No. It could have happened perhaps before I came on the scene, but not while I was there or afterwards.

But when you came everything was quiet. -- Yes, quiet, sort of settled down.

Why do you say that you did not hear the police give any instructions to the crowd to disperse? -- I never heard them giving instructions. (10)

If everything was quiet, why was there any need to give them instructions to disperse? -- Well, I was asked if they gave instructions to the people to disperse, but at the time, as I say, when I came onto the scene, I heard no instructions from the police for the people to disperse.

Well, you heard me put the 4 incidents to the last witness, the father. -- Ja.

Now I have reserved the 5th one for you, it is on page 35. It happened on the 3rd, 12h35: 30 Kleurling jeugdigen beroof 'n afleweringswa te Hanover Park, Athlone. (20)

1 rondte RI rondte gevuur. Een Kleurling man, 17 jaar, ernstig gewond en aangehou. Did you know that this young lad who you say was doing nothing, was actually arrested and is being charged? -- Who was that?

Paul Meyer. -- No, I did not know that.

And that the case has not yet been disposed of, they are waiting for his complete recovery. -- I see.

You did not know that? -- No. Did this happen in Hanover Park?

Yes. -- Oh, I see. (30)

Now tell me, why should the police just shoot at a youngster/...

youngster who was standing up against a pole doing absolutely nothing? -- That is what shocked me.

And specially when he is standing far away from the crowd who had congregated together. -- Well, that is how I saw it.

That is how you saw it. And are you surprised to hear for the first time that there is actually a charge pending against this youngster? -- Ja, this is the first time I hear about it.

CHAIRMAN: Is this the same man that you are speaking of? Because is this Hanover Park? Is this at Hanover Park? (10)

-- This that was read now, I believe that happened in Hanover Park, but this .. (intervenes)

DR YUTAR: How far is that from Camberwell Road? -- That is very far from Camberwell Road.

Very far. Do you know what they did there? -- In Hanover Park?

Yes. -- No, I do not know.

This incident refers to Paul Meyer. I know it is not Camberwell Road and I did not read out Camberwell Road.

MR FLEDERMAN: M'Lord, through you, it is not only in a (20) different place, but it is a different aged boy. Do you know how old this boy is? -- I believe he is 14 years old.

You believe he is 14 and the other one is 17. That is all, thank you, M'Lord.

DR YUTAR: Just an estimate, I never said he was aged 14, just an estimate. If you look at the trousers, it might have been worn by an adult, not so?

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.

MR FLEDERMAN: Mr Nodada.

HERBERT NODADA: sworn states: (30)

MR FLEDERMAN: You reside at Guguletu and you work for the South/...

South African Mutual in Darling Street, Cape Town. -- I am.

You are an adult male, yes, and you are residing at Guguletu and you work for the South African Mutual in Darling Street, Cape Town. Is that right? -- Yes.

Now paragraph (3) would you read that please, and would you read it slowly and read it loud, speaking into the microphone there. -- On Thursday, 12th August at approximately 5,30 a.m. I was in a crowd of people near the Nyanga railway station. My working hours are from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. and I normally catch the 5.10 a.m. train from Nyanga. On this (10) particular morning I was unable to do so as on approaching the station there were certain Africans who had put barrels across the road and who were preventing people from going to work. They were arguing .. could you read me that one?

They were arguing and endeavouring to persuade us that we should not go to work that particular day. -- Yes.

This took place in a street NY 3 very near a shop which is right next to the station. -- Yes.

Now was there any violence at that time? -- No.

It was about 05h30 in the morning. -- Yes. (20)

What was the situation? Was there any violence? Was there anybody throwing stones? -- Nobody was throwing any stones.

Could you see at all at that time? Was it dark or was it light? -- It was dark but there were lights in the street next to us.

And there is a shop nearby. -- Ja.

Now without reading this, will you just tell the Commission exactly what happened? -- Yes. When I came to the station to catch the train, the 05h10 train, I saw people standing (30) there. So as I saw them standing there, I went to them and they/...

they said I must not go to the station because that day nobody was to go to work. There were .. (inaudible) .. in front of us so as I stood there while the people were trying to talk to them not to prevent people from going to work.

CHAIRMAN: They were trying to prevent them from going to work?

-- Yes. So as we were standing there, two shots were fired from the side of the station across our heads. Nobody ran(?) away (witness speaks very indistinctly) and I heard another shot but this time I felt pain in my leg and then I dropped on the ground. These other people ran away. When I (10) shouted, nobody looked, nobody came and helped me out. I tried to crawl up to my house because my house is not far from the station. So eventually I saw 5 or 6 policemen coming to me. Then they picked me up and they took me back to the station right across at the side of the station. There there was a police van waiting. They put me into the van, they drove me on the other side of the Guguletu Police Station. There was an ambulance waiting. They transferred me to the ambulance. Then I was taken to the Conradie Hospital.

MR FLEDERMAN: Where you were well treated. -- I was well (20) treated.

Just one question. At the time you had the shot in the leg, what were the conditions? What was happening? There were certain men, you said, trying to prevent others going to work. -- Yes.

Was there any fighting, any struggling or any shouting? -- No, there was no fighting, there was just talking, there was no fighting, not trying to do nothing.

And what did you want to do? -- Who?

You. -- I wanted to go to work. (30)

You wanted to go to work. -- Yes.

All right. Now you got to the Conradie Hospital. We will just cut it a little bit short. What happened to you in the Conradie Hospital? -- Nothing happened to me. I am afraid I do not understand.

What injuries did you have and what treatment did you have? -- Oh, I see. I had a bullet wound in my back leg, that was a piece of lead and after a few weeks I was done a skin graft here.

A skin graft. -- Yes.

You had a bullet wound in the back of your leg as a (10) result of which it was necessary to have a skin graft. -- That is right.

How long were you in hospital? -- About 7 weeks or so.

And what is your condition now? -- Still at times not so good.

Can you walk well? -- I can walk well, but sometimes.

Can you run well? -- I cannot run well.

And this happened on the 12th August. -- Yes.

That is all, thank you, H'Lord.

DR YUTAR: You were one of those who wanted to go to (20) work. -- Yes.

And there were many who did not want to go to work and were preventing others from going to work. -- I cannot say there were many those who did not want to go to work, but I only saw a small chap, very young, I do not know who he was and he was talking to another one. He is the one who told us that nobody must go to work.

You say there were certain Africans who put barrels across the road. -- There were.

How many? -- What?

(30)

How many Africans were there putting barrels across the road/...

road? -- I cannot say how many were they because the barrels, when I came there, were already there, but the cars were already there. So that is all I saw is the people who were -- the boy who was trying to prevent people from going to work. I just saw one boy who was talking to another man but I had to stand there and listen otherwise there is no use for me to go otherwise.

I want to read from your statement. -- Yes.

You say: On this particular morning I was unable to do so, as on approaching the station there were certain (10) Africans who had put barrels across the road and who were preventing people from going to work. They were arguing and endeavouring to persuade us. Now how many were they? -- I cannot say how many were they.

More or less. -- Well, there was just one boy that day, I do not know his friends, but the spokesman was one.

One spokesman. -- Yes, but I do not know how many of his friends he has got.

How many were there? 5, 10, 20, 30? -- No, they cannot, there must have been -- if there were other boys, there (20) must have been or so 5, because a lot of people were wanting to go through but he was talking to these other people and said they should not go to work.

And how were they stopping the others from going to work? -- They were standing there, but the others were trying to talk to him not to prevent people from going to work. So I was standing there, we were all standing there, nothing was going on.

Do you know that the police were there to help those who wanted to go to work, to go to work? Did you know that? (30) -- I do not know that.

And in any event the police did treat you well and they got you to hospital as soon as possible. -- That I must admit.

And you were well treated at the hospital as well. -- That I must admit.

You of course intend to institute an action against the police for damaged. -- Pardon?

You want to sue the police for damages. -- No.

You do not know, well, that is what you say in your statement. -- Oh, yes.

Who wrote your statement? -- I wrote myself, but (10)
I do not know exactly whether I am going to do it or not, but I haven't taken the action yet.

You say you wrote it yourself. -- I wrote it myself but I haven't taken any action yet.

You had great difficulty in reading it, you know. -- Pardon.

You had great difficulty in reading your own statement. -- Well, maybe I am nervous. (LAUGHTER)

That is all, thank you, M'Lord.

MR NGO: You say you normally catch the 05h10. -- Yes. (20)

In the morning at Guguletu Station. -- Yes.

This 05h10 train are there a lot of people in that train in the morning? -- Yes.

The early goers-to-work. -- Yes.

Hundreds of them. -- No, but it is a lot of people.

A lot of people. -- Ja.

Some get in through the windows because of the number, not so? -- That I cannot say.

You never saw them get in through the windows into the train? -- No. (30)

Now this morning you - how many people wanted to go to work/...

work? The usual number, a lot of people. -- There were a lot of people.

A lot of people wanted to go to work. -- Yes.

Now how many people would it take to stop many people wanting to go to work? -- At the time?

Ja, a lot of people wanting to go to work, about 200 or 300. -- I cannot say how many people would it cost to stop other people from going to work.

How many people were there that particular morning who tried to stop you people from going to work? -- I noticed (10) one boy but I cannot say he was all by himself.

Right. So you want us to believe that one man can stop a lot of people wanting to go to work? -- Well, I do not say you must believe, but I am telling you what I saw.

So you saw, say 1 or 5 people at the most. -- Well, I think so because if the spokesman was one, maybe some others were just standing and watching if people are forcing them as to go through.

How many people - do you know how many people actually did go to work? Or to get to the station, let me put (20) it that way. -- No.

You do not know? -- No, none of the people who were standing there.

Got to the station? -- No.

In other words, the people who tried to stop the people from going to work, succeeded. -- Well, I cannot say they succeeded, because after that I did not know what was going on because I was already in pain.

Now why do you think anybody, the police included, would shoot when there are a lot of people who cause some (30) trouble, say commotion. Now, according to you there was no/...

no commotion so the police just shot. -- I do not know why the police acted like that.

But they did shoot? -- They did fire two shots above us and the third shot was fired and I felt pain in my leg.

Now when they shot these two shots above you, why would they shoot many people, because I do not suppose they would not shoot people wanting to go to work, they would shoot at people who tried to stop them from going to work. Not so? -- I think so.

So it is apparent and clear that there must have (10)
been a lot of people who tried to stop us going to work. --
That may be so. I do not know.

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.

MR FLEDERMAN: M'Lord, I call Josephine Peters.

JOSEPHINE PETERS: sworn states:

MR FLEDERMAN: M'Lord, all the affidavits are included in the memorandum filed by Prof. Van der Merwe, but the evidence I am leading is a slightly fuller affidavit when I saw her personally. It is among the pages, but this is slightly fuller than the one that is already before the Commission. (20)
You have got your statement there, have you? -- That is right.

Now - jy wil liewers Afrikaans praat. Sal jy die eerste paragraaf lees asseblief. Hoe oud is jy? -- Ek is 20 jaar oud.

Goed, nou lees die eerste paragraaf. -- My naam is Josephine Peters. Ek woon by No. 44, 7de Laan, Belgravia, Athlone. Op Woensdag, 1 September, om vieruur het my ma, my suster, Sandra Peters, 11 jaar oud, na Roykers se Winkel in Klipfonteinweg gestuur. Daar was geen tekens van moeilikheid waar ons woon nie en alles was stil. Tien minute later het William Brandt, 14 jaar oud, adres 35, 7de Laan, (30)
Belgravia, vir ons kom sê dat Sandra in die kop geskiet is deur/...