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THE CITIZEN

Jg..... Nr..... P. 3 Dat. 8 6 1 1 0 8

Judge: Abundantly clear ^{p10} Marion Sparg ³ is guilty

By CATHY STAGG
TREASON accused, Miss Marion Sparg yesterday admitted petrol-bombing three buildings where the PFP had offices, placing limpet mines in the toilets in three different police stations and causing a total of R73 068 damage.

Yesterday was the first day of her trial in the Rand Supreme Court on charges of treason, arson and attempted arson. She pleaded, and was found guilty, on all counts.

The State has presented all its evidence and



Miss Marion Sparg's mother, Mrs E A SPARG, leave the Rand Supreme Court during the lunch adjournment yesterday.

is expected to formally close its case today.

After formal admissions were handed in, as well as a statement Miss Sparg made to a magistrate and a letter she wrote to her mother, Mr Justice P J van der Walt asked Miss Sparg if she understood the indictment and if she agreed with the admissions. She said she did.

The judge said it was abundantly clear Miss Sparg was guilty.

Arson counts

The two arson counts refer to petrol-bombings of a house in Ivy Road, Norwood, and Oxford Galleries which is in the same building as the PFP's Offices at 240 Oxford Road. Both addresses are in Johannesburg.

According to a statement she made to a magistrate, Miss Sparg and two men she met while she was a reporter on the Sunday Times — Damian de Lange and Arnold Geyer — launched the attacks. There was R14 900 damage to the house, R3 000 to its contents. Oxford Galleries, which deals in Persian carpets, had R4 595's worth of damage.

The attempted arson count relates to President

Place, Jan Smuts Avenue, Parkwood. The petrol bombs did not ignite, but damage of R1 400 was caused to the PFP offices and R815 to Eric Intercoiffure hairdressing salon.

Part of the treason count deals with a limpet mine explosion at Cambridge police station in East London, where the damage to the building was R1 816 and R812 damage to a car.

Another explosion at John Vorster Square, Johannesburg, caused R38 500 damage. At the Hillbrow police station, where the limpet mine was set off in a controlled explosion, there was R7 630 damage.

According to the statement Miss Sparg made to a magistrate she placed the limpet mines in the toilets of three police stations on her own.

Arrested

Miss Sparg was arrested on March 10 and made the statement the next day.

She said Geyer and De Lange invited her to join a Marxist reading group. Other members were Justin George, Carl Niehaus, Jansie Lourens, Andre, Marlene and Cas, Sparg said in the statement.

After the petrol bomb attacks, Geyer left South Africa and she and De Lange followed by illegally crossing the border into Botswana on foot. They hiked to Gaborone where they discussed their past actions

with someone called Steve.

Miss Sparg said it was at this stage that she considered herself formally recruited into the ANC.

In September 1981 she moved to Lusaka where she met Reg September, then a member of the now defunct Revolutionary Council of the ANC.

She went to Angola early in 1982 for three months' military training. In August she returned to Lusaka and worked on the editorial staff of Voice of Woman, an ANC publication.

Operative

In March 1984 she asked Reg September if she could join the operative ranks of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the military wing of the ANC.

She was assigned to special operations.

She was given about R2 500 to return to South Africa and she entered the country using a passport in the name Mary Woods.

After renting a flat in Johannesburg, she went to East London for a week to see her parents.

She then went to Lesotho and after a few months returned to Johannesburg.

She needed to hire a car to go back to Lesotho and the ANC member who was to accompany her did not have a credit card. So Miss Sparg asked her sister, Debbie, to hire a car, saying she needed it to take someone to East London.

Door panels

Miss Sparg and the

TREFWOORDE

1 Stagg.. Cathy.

2 Geyter n.s.

3 Howe.

4 Joh. Vorster

5 ... R. M. ...

6 Sparg.. Marion

7 T. ...

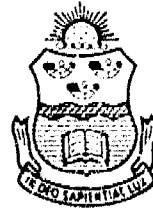
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INSTITUUT VIR EIETYDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat



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THE CITIZEN

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man, called Steve, drove to Lesotho where eight limpet mines were placed in the door panels of the car.

She went alone to the Cambridge police station where she placed two small limpet mines in the toilet next to the radio control room.

They then went to Port Alfred and spent a couple of nights at a resort.

Then Sparg returned to Johannesburg and put the material into a bag in the car. She and her sister returned the hired car and Debbie dropped her at her flat in Hillbrow, not knowing what was in the bag.

On March 4 Miss Sparg put two small limpet mines in a first floor toilet at John Vorster Square.

She also placed a large limpet mine on a wall dividing two toilets at the Hillbrow Police Station.

She contacted a man named John saying she had "gone on holiday" a code that meant everything had gone according to plan.



Miss JUDY SPARG,
— Miss Marion
Sparg's sister, out-
side court yesterday.

TREFWOORDE

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