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Pretoria News

Jg..... Nr..... P..... Dat..... 13 MAY 1997

OUR CORRESPONDENT REPORTS FROM CAPE TOWN

# ANC owns up to its part in causing 'struggle' deaths

Report submitted to TRC accepts responsibility for some 'excesses', but says organisation sought to avoid civilian deaths

'Odious debt' system mooted

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# INSTITUUT VIR EIETYDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat



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01715

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13 MAY 1997

**F**ormer ANC president Oliver Tambo personally approved the car-bombing of the SA Air Force headquarters in Church Street, Pretoria on May 20 1983 in which 19 people died and more than 200 were injured.

This admission was made by the ANC in a 139-page document presented to the TRC in Cape Town.

The report also contains some details about 15 ANC members executed for spying or mutiny and about nine members publicly executed in Angola for crimes of murder and the rape of Angolan women.

It gives some background detail of deaths in its Angolan camps, at least seven of which were the result of a severe beatings, and describes conditions in these camps and the response of the leadership to problems.

The ANC's report, in which it responds to questions by the commission following its first submission during the political parties' special hearing last year, was presented by ANC deputy president Thabo Mbeki.

He was leading a 20-member delegation which included party heavyweights such as national chairman Jacob Zuma, acting secretary-general Cheryl Carolus, Defence Minister Joe Modise, his deputy Ronnie Kasrils, Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa, Transport Minister Mac Maharaj, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Penuel Maduna, Justice Minister Dullah Omar and SA Communist Party secretary-general Charles Nqakula.

The report includes 33 pages of responses to questions and requests for elaboration by the TRC.

It deals with "necklacing" murders, operations by the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), civilian targets, its use of landmines in border areas and allegations of "excesses" against its cadres and captured agents and what steps were taken to prevent such

excesses.

The ANC repeated its earlier insistence that its leadership had strongly condemned some of the methods chosen to kill alleged informers and collaborators, particularly necklacing - burning victims with a petrol-filled tyre.

"The extent to which the National Party has consistently tried to use the phenomenon of 'necklacing' to damage the ANC and divert attention away from their own atrocities has always raised the suspicion that they were involved in some of these incidents," the ANC report stated.

It also provides details of ANC structures and personnel between 1960 and 1994, and gives an operations report of MK and of its department of intelligence and security.

Included as appendices are a list of hundreds of MK operations in which very brief details of dates, places and events are provided; a list of about 100 incidents of "armed action" - including several bomb attacks on Wimpy Bars, amusement arcades and snack bars in 1988 for which responsibility is either uncertain or specifically denied - and case studies of 12 agents of the apartheid government uncovered by the ANC.

South Africans among the 12 who are still living are identified only by their "travelling names", but the ANC said it would provide the commission with their real names if it wanted these for specific investigations.

The ANC said it was not possible to give a detailed account of every MK operation, as requested by the TRC, but that

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more details would be available in amnesty applications.

This included the Ellis Park car-bomb in 1988.

"We did not keep records of this nature, mainly for security reasons," the report stated.

Although entirely accurate statistics would probably never be known, it was evident that MK had acted with "great restraint", the ANC said.

In the course of the armed struggle, it had sought to avoid civilian injury and death and had committed itself to international norms, but mistakes had been made.

The report stated that, as outlined in its original submission, the ANC took collective responsibility for all bona fide MK operations, and extended condolences to the families of those killed.

South Africans who benefited under apartheid should be made to pay reparations to victims, according to the latest ANC report to the TRC.

The ANC proposes that the doctrine of "odious debt" could be applied to ensure those who benefited directly from apartheid contribute to a fund from which reparations could be made to victims.

In its report the ANC believed firmly reparations were necessary. "Unless there are meaningful reparations, the process of ensuring justice and reconciliation will be flawed."

Reparations could include special pensions, educational grants, medical aid, erecting memorials and establishing a museum in memory of those who had suffered injustices.

Available resources would never be sufficient to provide reasonable reparations, the ANC said.

"Nonetheless, there is widespread recognition that there are individuals and strata both within our society and abroad, who have directly benefited from the system which was sustained by apartheid repression."

The TRC should consider recommending the application of the "odious debt" doctrine to help mobilise resources for reparations.

● South Africa's apartheid government attempted to block all ANC communications and actively used "disinformation" against the liberation movement, the ANC report to the TRC.

"No effort was spared to discredit and demonise Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), and certain attacks on civilian targets portrayed as the work of MK were carried out by the regime, such as the KwaMakutha massacre," according to the report.

The South African security forces learned these "false flag" operations from other African liberation wars, including those of Zimbabwe and Swapo, it said.

The ANC cited the 1988 hand-grenade attack on the home of Allan Hendrickse, leader of the Labour Party, as one such operation.

"It appears this case remains unsolved," said the report.

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