



Publikasie nr. 0 3 5 3	Datum 8.2.1992, 8.2.71	Onderwerp 329	Dokument 12730
---------------------------	---------------------------	------------------	-------------------

THE CITIZEN

Jg..... Nr..... P. 9 Dat.....

82 8. 28.7

# Veil of secrecy over explosives on Orange River bridge

CAPE TOWN. — Three men fled from a quantity of explosives planted on the rail bridge across the Orange River at Upington when they were surprised by a railways employee on Friday morning.

A wide-ranging search was launched in the area at the weekend and the airport outside the town, used daily by several South African Airways jet aircraft, was closely guarded.

A veil of official secrecy has descended over the incident. By mid-morning yesterday Railways Police public relations sources refused to confirm or deny extensive allegations about the matter.

They confirmed only that explosives had been found on the bridge about 1 km outside Upington on the De Aar line — which connects the South

African rail network to South West Africa — and that they had been removed on Friday.

Attempted sabotage is being investigated, sources said, but no arrests have been made.

"We are not commenting further, since

this could hamper the investigation," an official source said.

The Upington area is rife with rumours about the incident. A number of sources said a major search was launched in the area south of the river.

An air force helicopter was reportedly used and Defence Force units helped Railways Police. Several road blocks were mounted.

When a spokesman for the SADF was ask-

ed to confirm air force and army involvement, he said he could not do so since the Railways Police were commanding the operation.

Early this afternoon railways sources were asked to confirm Defence Force participation and a detailed summary of the allegations encountered were given.

The only response was a repetition of the limited confirmation given earlier. — Sapa.

TREFWOORDE

- 1 *Polisie* .....
- 2 *ondersoek* .....
- 3 *pl. stouwe* .....
- 4 *Spoorlynne* .....
- 5 *Upington* .....
- 6 *Orange rivier* .....
- 7 *Boue* .....
- 8 .....
- 9 .....
- 10 .....