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**Rand DAILY MAIL**

JOHANNESBURG, MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1982

**MORNING FINAL**

*Ed. We flew back from Botswana today via Jo'burg - and here's the front page story! A late continuation*  
Jedite

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# Rocket HQ traced

## Whites set up farm as attack base

By EMIELIA JAROSCHEK

**WHITE** agents infiltrated South Africa to set up an isolated farmhouse as a base from where five ANC insurgents launched their audacious 122mm rocket attack on Voortrekkerhoogte military base last August.

A Rand Daily Mail investigation followed the trail of the group to the luxury farmhouse Mooiplaas near Pretoria, also used as an HQ by the ANC men and as a hideout during the manhunt that followed.

An unsuspecting Pretoria businessman leased the house to Britons Nicholas Francis Henry Heath, 33, and Bonnie Lou Muller, 27, who slipped into South Africa to front the plan, giving false home addresses to the authorities.

Two other white agents — Briton David William Hedges, 37, and Belgian-born Guido Luciaan van Hecken, arrived in South Africa to buy transport for the operation.

A fifth white linked to the attack is a former South African, Dr Edward Wethli of Canada, whose truck was used by the insurgents.

All the whites were out of South Africa by August 12, when the attack was launched.

Security Police confirm the ANC attackers — all black South Africans based in a Mozambique military camp — also got away.

The Mail investigation led to the five-bedroomed farmhouse on Mooiplaas, secluded amid bluegum trees, only 600m from the Erasmus police station and 250m from the launch site.

Heath and Muller rented this house at R500 a month — and the ANC men moved in as well, posing as labourers

● **Launch zone**



**A COUNTRY PLOT ...** Behind the facade of this luxury five-bedroomed farmhouse on Mooiplaas, the tenants set up a base to launch the rocket attack.

Picture: RAYMOND PRESTON



Where terror paid rent and farm hands plotted

Crime Reporter

## Procter: Gooch is England's best bat

By RODNEY HARTMAN  
Group Man on Tour

SPRINGBOK captain Mike Procter yesterday hailed Graham Gooch as "the best batsman in England" following the SAB English XI captain's superb century on the third day of the four-day "Test" at the Wanderers in Johannesburg.

"England can't have a better opener and I reckon it will be impossible for them to keep him out of their Test team. They just can't afford

fight-back after they had been forced to follow on 250 runs behind the Springboks' first innings total of 400 for seven declared.

At close of play he was undefeated on 104.

With six hours' play remaining and Gooch's side 169 for one, 81 runs are still required to make South Africa bat a second time.

DAVID CAPEL reports that South Africa's cricket authorities want an urgent meeting with the SABC and

Mr Joe Pamensky, president of the South African Cricket Union, said he was not happy with the gates on Friday and Saturday.

About 8 000 fans were watched the game on Friday and about 20 000 on Saturday.

Mr Pamensky said "an economical solution" that suited all concerned would have to be found.

Transvaal's director of cricket, Dr Ali Bacher, also expressed concern at the small turnouts.

trees, only 600m from the launch site.

Heath and Muller rented this house at R500 a month — and the ANC men moved in as well, posing as labourers and domestics and caching weapons in the house as they plotted the attack.

Heath and Muller lived there until two days before the attack.

The owner, Mr Gerhard Basson, told the Mail the house was left in a shambles, with damage to the floor and ceiling where armaments were apparently cached.

A Pretoria man who drove the black insurgents around told the Mail at a secret meeting how he was approached by one of the ANC men, a former school friend.

In August he began to suspect the men were planning an attack on a military base.

On August 11, the five insurgents carried their Soviet Grad P rocket launcher piece by piece along 250m of dirt road and set it up in the veld — only to abort the attack when a passerby became curious.

On August 12, armed to the teeth with rifles, pistols and grenades, they set it all up again — and that night 122mm rockets smashed into the military base 7km away, wounding a black woman and damaging homes.

A Laudium youth was shot and wounded as the insurgents eluded pursuers and fled back to Mooiplaas.

There they lay low for days as a massive manhunt went on, with roadblocks and air and sea exit checks.

They waited for the hue and cry to die down before making their escape from South Africa.

Security Police confirmed details of the Mail investigation.

They said Van Hecken and Hedges handed over three cars bought for the operation to the ANC.

They left for Swaziland on June 26 last year. Van Hecken is now lecturing at the University of Maputo.

Dr Wethli left South Africa for Mozambique in May — and his truck was driven back for the operation by Heath and Muller, who had travelled to Maputo.

Meanwhile the South African Government is seeking the extradition of Heath and Muller from Britain.

But extensive investigations have failed to trace any of the three Britons. Both Scotland Yard and the British government gave negative responses.

Heath and Muller, who travelled as Mr and Mrs Heath, gave a non-existent British address to South African authorities.

Hedges gave his address as 19 Queenswood Gardens — a block of flats — in London. But Flat 19 at the block is owned by a Mr Knight and there is no record of a tenant called Hedges.

● The Rand Daily Mail has learned that the South African Government called in the British and Belgian Ambassadors to protest at the involvement of their nationals in the rocket attack.

● **Launch zone graphic — P2**

● **Anatomy of the plot — P7**



**THE LAUNCH SITE . . .** This is how police found the Soviet Grad P 122mm rocket launcher after the night attack on Voortrekkerhoogte, lying in the veld only 250m from the isolated farmhouse where the five ANC insurgents lay in hiding — while a massive manhunt was raised.

# ANC London office wrecked by powerful 4,5kg bomb

By **BRUCE STEPHENSON**  
London Bureau

LONDON — A bomb destroyed the London office of the African National Congress yesterday morning.

The 4,5kg bomb blasted away the entire back wall of the ANC building, injuring one official.

The office is in a terrace house in Islington, North London.

"Whoever did this had very little thought for human life," said Detective Inspector Hilton Cole of the London Anti-Terrorist Squad, as bomb disposal experts and sniffer dogs scoured the devastated area for clues.

This is the first time the ANC has been attacked inside Britain.

The attack coincided with a demonstration in Trafalgar Square, organised by the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the UN special committee against apartheid, following their three-day conference calling for sanctions against South Africa.

Detective Inspector Cole said the bomb exploded shortly after 9am.

"The bomb was about 4,5kg of explosives, placed at the rear of 28 Pantan Street. The rear of the building has been practically destroyed and extensive damage has been caused," he said.

"It was a hefty bomb, but we have no indications at this stage of the type or where it could have come from.

"The school at the rear of the building had its windows

blown out, but luckily there was nobody about."

Police are looking for a man seen leaving the area shortly before the bomb exploded.

The ANC's claim that South Africans were responsible was pure speculation, said Det Inspector Cole.

Police are questioning a 28-year-old Zulu, Mr Vernet Mbatha, who was slightly injured by flying glass inside the ANC office.

Mr Mbatha, a researcher for the ANC, was sleeping on the second floor at the time of the blast.

Mr Francis Melli, ANC director of external publicity, told reporters:

"The South African regime is responsible for this. They stand and fall by their record of terrorism.

"There was no warning, and we did not fear anything like this over here. It is indicative of their mentality."

Dr Brand Fourie, director-general of the Department of Foreign Affairs, replied angrily to the ANC's accusations last night.

He said: "Why should we defend ourselves against all the groundless allegations put out by these groups?"

"These groups hammer each other and then blame South Africa.

"We cannot reply to all these nonsensical accusations."

A spokesman at the South African Embassy in London, replying to ANC accusations in the blast, said: "South Africa does not condone terrorism of any kind."

People in the area at the time thought there had been a gas explosion.

During normal office hours there are 10 ANC officials inside the office, and because of

the Trafalgar Square rally most of the staff would have congregated at the Pantan Street office yesterday afternoon.

The leader of the ANC outside South Africa, Mr Oliver Tambo, was expected to attend the sanctions conference, but did not arrive.

ANC officials said both Mr Tambo and Swapo leader Mr Sam Nujoma had been detained in Africa by developments following the Maputo conference of Frontline leaders.

The ANC is expected to call a Press conference this morning to give further details of the blast.

About 7 000 chanting demonstrators carrying banners denouncing South Africa marched from Hyde Park corner to Trafalgar Square in the largest rally of its kind in recent years.

English cricket star Ian Botham, who is reported to have turned down R450 000 to join the rebel cricketers now in South Africa, sent a message of support to the rally.

er suspected cases were being treated and 10 were under observation.

A Coega man died of the disease last week.

The head of health services in the area, Dr Koos Meyer, said yesterday the settlement and its 80 residents had been placed under quarantine and about 15 houses had been treated for fleas, the rat-borne carriers of bubonic plague.

The settlement is expected to remain under quarantine for up to 10 days. — Sapa.

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## R300 for a real lifesaver

LOS ANGELES. — For R300 Americans can add a jacket to their wardrobe that will deflect not only rain and wind but bullets, knives and fire.

Mr Abraham Silbershatz, who for several years has made bulletproof clothing for police and military use, is unveiling his latest line — 10 styles of lightweight jackets and bulletproof vests that for the first time are priced within reach of the mass market.

Wearing a bulletproof jacket "Gives you some kind of insurance to have in the back of your mind, the same kind of mind that tells you to put a double lock on your door even though you may not have been robbed," Mr Silbershatz said. "And it gives you sufficient protection against the elements."

Each garment comes with a R500 000 insurance policy that will be paid if the jacket or waistcoat is penetrated and the wearer killed. — Sapa-AP.

## Plague claims more victims

TWO more suspected cases of bubonic plague have been admitted to hospital in Port Elizabeth, bringing the number of people treated for the disease to 18, the SABC reported yesterday.

The outbreak was first reported at a missionary settlement at Coega, near Port Elizabeth.

Authorities said three suspected cases were hospitalised at the weekend.

The condition of one of the patients was fair and the other two satisfactory. Five other

## Editor keeps The Times waiting

By **BRUCE STEPHENSON**  
London Bureau

LONDON. — The Times was still waiting for the editor, Mr Harold Evans to resign last night amid rumours that he is demanding R900 000 to step down.

The power battle for control of the world's best-known newspaper quickened

as a group of journalists issued a statement welcoming a change of editor.

The Journalists Of The Times (Jott), an organisation which claims to represent the majority of Times journalists, said there was concern that the "gradual erosion of editorial standards within might leave us with no paper worth saving."

Despite an announcement by the owner of the Times, Australian Press baron Mr Rupert Murdoch, that terms had been agreed for Mr Evans' departure, Mr Evans said he was expecting to edit today's paper.

One senior journalist at the Times said yesterday: "The rumour among the staff is that Harold Evans is getting a

golden handshake of £500 000 (R900 000)."

But another said: "I understand he has been offered £250 000 (R450 000) but is holding out for £500 000."

Mr Charles Douglas-Home, editor designate of the newspaper and formerly Mr Evans's deputy, said he expected to take over "when the chair is vacant."

## plotted

Crime Reporter

HIDDEN among bluegum trees and surrounded by ramshackle cowsheds, the farm Mooiplaas provided the perfect shelter — and the launch zone — for the insurgents behind the Voortrekkerhoogte rocket attack.

Mooiplaas, near Pretoria, is only a few minutes away from the military base.

The owner, Mr Gerhard Basson, rented it unsuspectingly to two people he described as an "average couple" — now known to be Nicholas Francis Henry Heath, 33, and Bonnie Lou Muller, 27.

Soon they had five innocuous-seeming labourers around the place . . . two gardeners, a cook, a cleaner and a labourer.

The truth: the five were ANC insurgents.

They slept in one of the six bedrooms alongside a Soviet Grad P rocket launcher.

Unperturbed as military aircraft and helicopters flew over the farm every few minutes, the "labourers" tended the garden and household, keeping their Russian AK47 rifles, Makorov pistols and handgrenades safely tucked away.

The sprawling farm remained a safe haven for four days as police combed the countryside after the attack on August 12.

No-one could have expected the attackers to be lying low in comfort, in a roomy white house 250m from the rocket launch site — and only 600m down the road from the the Erasmia police station.

Surrounded by rolling lawn, the house is carpeted and wallpapered. It has a tiled American kitchen, telephone and built-in cupboards.

It was luxurious shelter for the bush-hardened men.

Now — eight months after the attack — an air of tranquillity and seclusion pervades the deserted farm.

Long grass and weeds have taken over around the dilapidated outbuildings that go with the farm.

For R500 a month the insurgents obtained an ideal hideout.

It was so strategically placed that the ANC men had to plod only 250m up a bumpy dirt road to set up their launcher within eye range of the Voortrekkerhoogte military base 7km away.

and about 20 000 on Saturday. Mr Pamensky said "an economical solution" that suited all concerned would have to be found. Transvaal's director of cricket, Dr Ali Bacher, also expressed concern at the small turnouts. The Wanderers stadium can hold 27 000. See Page 15 and Back Page

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