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THE STAR

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# Night attack launched on

## Voortrekkerhoogte

# 4 roc kets hit big army base

### Staff Reporters

Four 122 mm rockets exploded in the Voortrekkerhoogte area, near Pretoria, at about 11 o'clock last night. A Defence Force spokesman said the attack was by terrorists.

A woman, whose identity is not known, was slightly injured in the attack, Defence Force officials said.

In the nearby Indian suburb of Laudium a young man, Zahed Patel, was shot and wounded by fire from an AK-47 automatic rifle.

Police combing the rocket blast area have found a rocket-launcher and are continuing their investigation.

### Roadblocks

Police, helped by the members of the Defence Force have set up roadblocks throughout the Transvaal.

The divisional commis-

### TREFWOORDE

- 1 Voortrekker
- 2 Hoogte  
Terrorisme
- 3 Vuurpyle
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- 6 Indiers
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Jung

# INSTITUUT VIR EIETYDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat



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sioner of police for the Far Northern Transvaal, Brigadier Jan Harmse, said motorists would be stopped and questioned on all main roads and cars would be searched if necessary.

"Roadblocks are a normal precaution in such circumstances," he told The Star.

In the Johannesburg-Soweto area, roadblocks under the command of Brigadier Theuns Swanepoel, head of the crime prevention unit on the Witwatersrand have been set up. Cars and people are being searched.

A spokesman for the Defence Force said today that the explosions had been caused by a terrorist attack with 122 mm rockets presumably of communist origin. The rockets could be described as "area weapons," he said.

The explosions were small and little damage had been done.

Major-General Vic Verster, head of the Riot Squad, confirmed today that police investigations had been started to apprehend the terrorists.

Large groups of heavily armed policemen in camouflage uniforms

mounted roadblocks at the entrances to the nearby black township of Atteridgeville - Saulsville from early today.

Soweto has also been cordoned off.

A spokesman at police headquarters in Pretoria said today that AK-47 and 9 mm cartridges had been found near the scene of the shooting of the Laudium youth.

He had apparently been parking his father's car when the shots were fired, apparently from the bush near the main road leading to the Voortrekkerhoogte residential and military area.

Residents in the Laudium area reported seeing the rockets in the air shortly after they had been fired.

## Stalin organ

At a roadblock on the Soweto highway outside Johannesburg, Star photographer Mr Graham Gainsford was detained by police after taking pictures of the roadblock scene.

The arrests of The Star photographer was confirmed today by Brigadier

Swanepoel who said Mr Gainsford would be questioned about his activities in the area.

The 122 mm rockets used in the attack are the same size as those used in the "Stalin Organ" rocket-launcher, used by Cubans in the Angolan war. The shells come in two varieties — the long and the short versions which weigh 77.5 kg and 45.8 kg respectively.

According to Jane's Weapons Systems the rocket-launchers are made by the Soviet State Arsenals.

The rocket attack is the latest in a series of suspected terror attacks in South Africa.

Major incidents this year were:

● The explosions at an electricity sub-station near Durban on April 21. Two main transformers at the station were seriously damaged in the blasts which were believed to have been caused by limpet mines.

● In a series of incidents, apparently related to the Republic celebrations in May, the East London police station was attacked with hand grenades, railway lines were

bombed in Johannesburg and Durban, power lines were cut in the Free State and police clashed with terrorists in the Ciskei.

● On May 27 a Defence Force recruiting office near the centre of Durban was shattered by a bomb. No one was injured.

## Party offices

● Explosions rocked three Progressive Federal Party offices around Johannesburg. Newspaper reports named a former Rand Daily Mail journalist, Mr Arnold Geyer, as being responsible. He is believed to be visiting his wife in West Germany.

● On June 12 an East London policeman's home was attacked with hand grenades, and a small section of railway line on the Richards Bay track was blown up.

● On June 6 the Durban Cenotaph was damaged in a powerful bomb blast.

● On July 21 two major power stations in the Eastern Transvaal were sabotaged with limpet mines. Damage was

caused at the Arnot and Camden power stations. A sub-station near Pretoria was also damaged in explosions on the same day.

● On July 27 TNT was used to devastate two motor showrooms in Durban.

● On August 6 several people escaped serious injury when a terror bomb exploded in East London's Central-square. The blast, heard throughout the city centre, went off within metres of shoppers and diners in a restaurant. Several people were injured by flying glass.

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## Shoppers

● On August 8 10 people were injured when a bomb blast ripped through Port Elizabeth's crowded Constantia Centre in Main Street, North End. None of the injured was reported as being seriously hurt. The bomb exploded just as supermarkets were closing and the last shoppers were leaving.

● On several occasions bomb attacks were made on railway lines, but damage was mainly slight.

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