



Publikasie nr.
01 01 91 0

Datum
81/10/81/14#21216

Onderwerp nr.
329

Dokument nr.
11761

81 3. 14

THE CAPE TIMES

Jg..... Nr..... P...12... Dat.....

Terrorism alert

THE ROCKET attack on Voortrekkerhoogte is another indication that urban guerilla warfare has come to the Republic, although remaining on a relatively low level of intensity. Nevertheless, this is the Ulster road with all its horrors, even if it is still on a much less pervasive and dangerous scale. Unlike the East London and Port Elizabeth bomb explosions, which were acts of random terrorism aimed at soft targets and could have killed or maimed civilians, the rocket attack was directed at a military installation, without much success. Ironically enough, it appears, the only casualty at Voortrekkerhoogte was a civilian — a domestic servant — and there has been minimal damage to military property. The relatively low toll in these recent incidents has been a matter of luck rather than design. It is more necessary than ever that citizens should remain vigilant at all times, particularly in areas where crowds of people congregate, and that they should be on the lookout for bombs and timing devices in public places, concealed in rubbish

containers, flower pots and the like. If Port Elizabeth and East London are any guide, the underground organizations responsible no longer care if civilians or children are hurt or killed by these devices. A new phase has begun.

It is likely that there will now be a stepping-up in the frequency of terrorist acts. This development should be kept in perspective. Even if the campaign reaches an Ulster-style intensity of itself it can hardly affect the power situation or overturn the government. Terror campaigns do have a retrogressive effect, however, tending to confirm the obdurate in their views and entrenching conservative attitudes and emotions. The lines of political conflict become more clearly drawn. It is up to the good sense of the moderate South African majority in all groups to head off violence and to begin making the adjustments which everyone knows are inevitable. It is up to the government to stop providing ready ammunition for subversives, as in the merciless evictions and arrests at Crossroads.

TREFWOORDE

1. Redaksioneel
2. Voortrekker
3. Hoogte
3. Stedelike
4. Terrorisme
4. ANC
5. Nuropyle
6. Aanvalle
7. Dalktreffer
- heid
8. Begroting
9. Verandering
- 10.