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**LONDON BOMB SPARKED BY VOORTREKKERHOOGTE ROCKET
ATTACK:TRC TOLD**

The apartheid government was striking at both the African National Congress and the British government when it bombed the liberation movement's headquarters in London in 1982, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty committee heard in Pretoria on Tuesday.

Former police commissioner General Johann Coetzee told the committee the blast was aimed at breaking the morale of the ANC and demonstrating disapproval at the British government.

Coetzee and seven other policemen are applying for amnesty for bombing the ANC headquarters in London on March 14, 1982. They others are Craig Williamson, John McPherson, Roger Raven, Wybrand du Toit, John Adam, James Taylor and Eugene de Kock.

Coetzee, who was head of the security police at the time, said the apartheid government was not happy about Britain allowing the ANC to have headquarters in London.

He said former law and order minister Louis le Grange told him the government had decided to carry out a symbolic attack on the ANC's offices in London.

He said he presumed from Le Grange's remarks that the decision to attack the ANC had been taken by the full government at the time.

"We were informed that the (South African) government had decided to demonstrate to the British government that there were serious risks involved in continuing to allow the ANC to operate from the United Kingdom," he said.

Coetzee said the decision to attack the ANC in London followed a series of ANC bombings of targets in South Africa.

He said a rocket attack on the then Voortrekkerhoogte military base near Pretoria in August 1981 was a significant event because it had a psychological effect on the government by striking at the heart of its military forces.

In the same way by attacking the ANC headquarters in London, the government knew it would not stop ANC attacks against South Africa, but the blast would have a powerful psychological effect on the organisation.

He denied there was any attempt to kill ANC executives in the attack, adding this would have made the operation too risky because of the diplomatic implications.

Coetzee said the main purpose of the attack was to strike at the ANC, but a secondary motive was to demonstrate to the British government that South Africa disapproved of its support for the ANC by allowing its headquarters in London.

Coetzee said police identified two British citizens who entered South Africa in March 1981 as ANC collaborators and took part in the rocket attack on Voortrekkerhoogte.

In documents accompanying his amnesty application, the British subjects were identified as Nicolas Heath and Bonnie Lou Muller (alias Bonnie Heath).

It was later found that they accommodated ANC members in their home in Pretoria, which was used to launch the rocket attack on Voortrekkerhoogte.

"The London operation was in fact South Africa's response to the heavy involvement of British subjects in the ANC's attack on Voortrekkerhoogte," Coetzee said.

Coetzee said Le Grange's plan to bomb the ANC in London was opposed by the police commissioner at the time, General Mike Geldenhuys, on the grounds that it was too risky to send serving policemen to Britain, which had efficient anti-terrorism forces.

Coetzee said Le Grange insisted the plan go ahead and personally chose security policeman Brigadier Piet Goosen and Williamson to lead the mission. Goosen then chosen English speaking policemen to form the team.

Before the team left on their mission, Goosen arranged with Coetzee that the password "the egg can be laid" would be given once it was safe to carry out the operation without endangering lives.

The hearing is being attended by former foreign minister Pik Botha, who has been notified that he is an implicated person, and former law and order minister Adriaan Vlok.

Also attending are the daughters of Joe Slovo, whose wife Ruth First was killed in a parcel bomb attack in Maputo in 1982. Williamson and Raven have applied for amnesty for the incident.

The hearing, which is due to run for two weeks, continues on Wednesday.