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South Africa

Lost Sheep

Many an Afrikaaner has right-wards out of South Africa's ruling party and into the newspaper headlines. When Afrikaaners stray leftwards it is much odder and more dramatic. The most wanted man in South Africa at the moment is Mr Hein Grosskopf, the Afrikaaner son of a university professor and nephew of an appeal- court judge. The police suspected him of carrying out two bomb attacks in the name of the outlawed African National Congress. The most recent of them claimed three lives in the town of Krugersdorp, near Johannesburg.

As a school boy Mr Grosskopf was a brilliant debater and a voortrekker (a sort of boy scout), and he was elected junior mayor of Johannesburg in 1981. Now he has a price of R50 000 (\$23 000) on his head. Ordinary Afrikaaners simply cannot understand why one of their tribe would work for the ANC. Some say it must have been for money. But--- if the police are right to accuse him – Mr Grosskopf would not be the first Afrikaaner to take up the “arms struggle”.