



**HARARE** — Zimbabwe's Cabinet has decided not to proceed with proposals to force private business to cut trade ties with South Africa, diplomatic and business sources said yesterday.

They added that the decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting on Thursday, following widespread concern here and outside the country that such a move would be economically disastrous.

Influential business executives reported last week that they had been privately briefed by Government Ministers on plans to end trade links with South Africa, still Zimbabwe's major trading partner after more than seven years of black rule.

The proposal has not been reported in Zimbabwe, but gained massive publicity in South Africa and a warning

from the Pretoria Government that Harare would have to bear the consequences of whatever action it took.

Official media yesterday published a brief report quoting a Government spokesman as saying the public should not be swayed by false reports outside the country concerning possible sanctions against South Africa.

Zimbabwe openly backs international moves to induce racial reform in South Africa through economic sanctions, but has repeatedly said it is in no position to take such action alone.

About 10% of Zimbabwe's exports go to South Africa and more than 20% of its imports, many vital to industry, come from South Africa.

In addition, more than 70% of Zimbabwe's trade with other countries

uses South Africa network.

The source meeting had two high-level ties with South Africa and the use of the M imports and

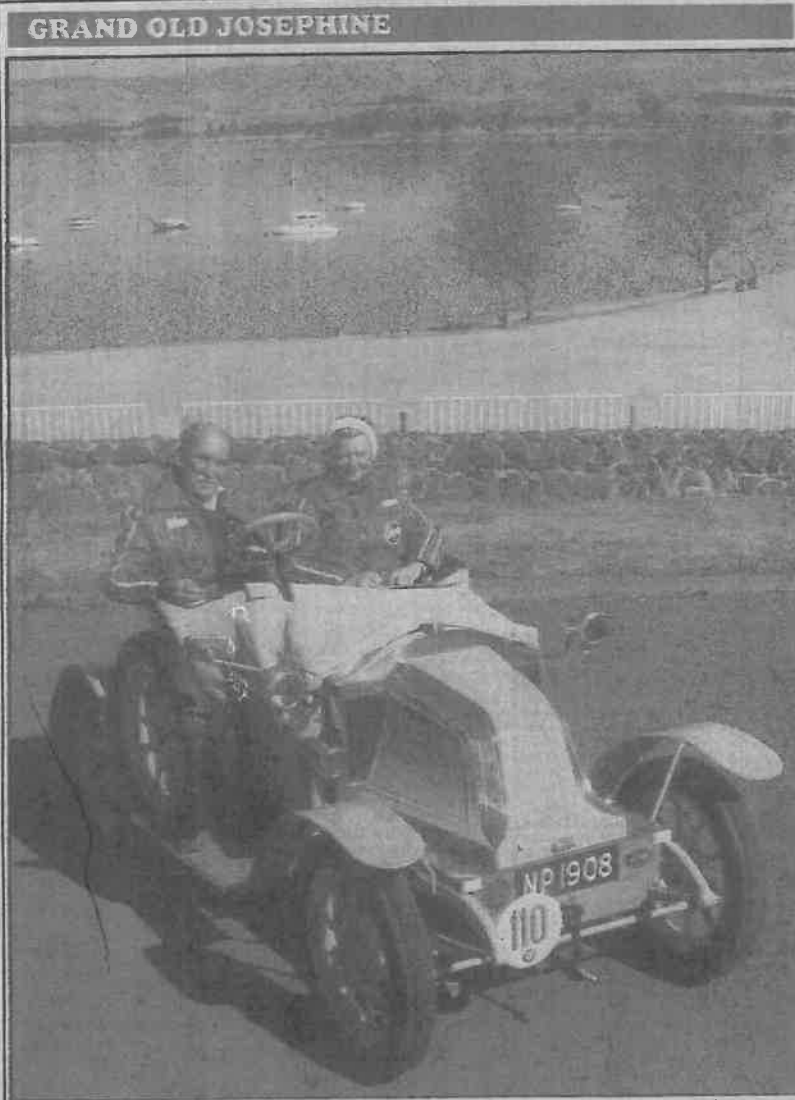
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# Police follow leads on blast 'mastermind'

# Diamonds looted

# in car bomb chaos



**GRAND OLD JOSEPHINE**

Josephine, a seven horsepower 1908 Renault, driven by vintage car club chairman Ian Thompson, accompanied by his wife Joyce, was one of a galaxy of grand old vintage cars which travelled to Midmar's Historical Village yesterday. The occasion was a reunion of pre-1908 vehicles, which was sponsored by the Vintage Sports Car Club of Natal.

Picture by Mike Matthewman

**MORE** than a R4 million worth of diamonds were reported stolen from two businesses during the chaos of the bomb blast in Johannesburg on Thursday.

Police said they were also investigating complaints by other shopowners that their businesses had been looted after the blast, SABC TV news reported last night.

Meanwhile police say they strongly suspect that the person who planned the blast opposite the SADF's Witwatersrand Command also masterminded the 1983 Pretoria blast which claimed 19 lives and injured 217 people, and the double explosion outside the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on May 20 this year in which four policemen died.

According to reports on Thursday, the Diamond Exchange Building was one of 120 buildings badly damaged.

Mr John Daneel, a merchant at the Diamond Exchange, was reported as saying that he spent 20 minutes on his hands and knees looking for diamonds which lay strewn around his office after the blast.

He was sitting in his eighth floor office with his back to the windows when "two walls of glass and the ceiling fell on me", he said.

Mr Daneel received a head injury and also cut his fingers while looking for the diamonds.

Treasurer of the Diamond Club, Mr Michael Ellis, said he was behind his desk on the fourth storey and "dived to the floor", cutting himself, when the explosion went off.

A spokesman for the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria said that "people in the know" were of the opinion that Mr Johannes Mnisi, an alleged member of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, was responsible for planting the bomb.

He said the Pretoria and magistrate's court blasts bore the "same trademark" as Thursday's blast.

Initial investigations showed the explosive device used in the Wits Command explosion was larger than the one used in the Pretoria blast, the mass of which was estimated at between 35 kg and 50 kg of high explosive.

The type of explosive used on Thursday has not yet been determined.

The size of the blast and the nature of the damage would tend to indicate the bomb exploded inside the vehicle, an El Camino pick-up truck, the police spokesman said.

Had it gone off underneath or next to the vehicle, a larger crater in the road surface would have been expected, said the spokesman.

A woman's statement that she had seen a man place a small package next to the car minutes before the explosion would be investigated.

"That is second or third-hand speculation. However, all leads and angles will be fully investigated," the police said.

A spokesman for Ster-Kinekor theatres said a full assessment of the damage to the Ster City cinema complex would be completed early next week.

"Until then, we cannot say how long the complex will be closed."

## R1,3 m paid out to Langa victims

**CAPE TOWN** — The Department of Law and Order had paid out R1,3 million plus costs in settlement of claims arising from the incident at Langa, near Uitenhage — a payment totalling more than R3 million.

A spokesman for the Minister, Brigadier Leon Mellet, said in a statement the Minister was prepared to acknowledge this and that the settlement payments with the exception of three had been accepted.

However, because of reports that



**Dr VAN ZYL SLABBERT**

## 'Macabre end to talks if ANC is responsible'

**CAPE TOWN** — If the ANC was found to be responsible for the Johannesburg car bomb, Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert said yesterday, he would view it with the deepest disappointment and disapproval.

It would be a most macabre homecoming from the Dakar initiative, he told a Press conference at the Idasa headquarters shortly after arriving in Cape Town yesterday.

Airport personnel intercepted Dr van Zyl Slabbert when he arrived at Jan Smuts Airport from London yesterday and whisked him on to his connecting flight to Cape Town.

Security at the airport was tight with groups of policemen and police women, some with sniffer dogs and metal detectors, searching people entering the international arrivals hall.

Dr van Zyl Slabbert also said that if it was the ANC's official view that violence was the only political action possible, "there is no real benefit in negotiating further".

He said: "It is imperative to establish this and ask them 'is this now really (wragtag) what you want?'"

"I want to know what the official position is.

"We never ducked the issue of violence and never condoned it," Dr van Zyl Slabbert said. — Sapa.

## Attorneys in Supreme Court:



### Coetsee to approach Rules Committee

**CAPE TOWN** — The Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, has asked the Rules Committee of the Supreme Court to advise him on the restructuring of the legal profession, which could result in attorneys appearing in Supreme Court for certain matters and enable the public to approach advocates directly.

In an announcement at the start of debate on his budget vote in the House of Assembly yesterday, Mr Coetsee said that in matters of this nature he usually consulted the professions.

"However, because both groups' interests are affected and it would take

restructuring of the profession could be to the greater advantage of litigants.

The division of the profession increased litigation costs excessively, said the Minister.

The simplest Supreme Court matter carried the costs of at least four legal representatives (advocates and attorneys) and a concomitant duplication of documentation and costs of consultations.

Mr Coetsee said there was no question of attorneys being inferior to advocates.

Many possessed the same academic qualifications as advocates and had



### Blaikie-John

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money was recovered.

Mr Hlela told a city regional

apparently remained in the car during the incident. According to Mr Joseph Cebek-

store manager and took off him. He said he had been forced to rob the store by Mr Cebek-

## Inkatha members accused of murder

**Witness Reporter**

A CALUZA woman has claimed that members of Inkatha were responsible for the death of her husband, according to her statement before a city inquest court magistrate yesterday.

Mrs Filidah Buthelezi told the court that several men wearing balaclavas and wielding firearms stormed into her house on the night of April 4, demanding to know which political organisation they belonged to.

The men then claimed the Buthelezis belonged to the United Democratic Front and started to assault Mr Buthelezi. When Mrs Buthelezi tried to intervene, she was forced into the bathroom of the house where she was also assaulted.

After the men left the house, she found her husband lying on the passage floor bleeding profusely. She rushed to her neighbours for assistance, and when they returned to the house, her husband was dead.

The police have not made any arrests in connection with the killing.

# I admitted to Berg murder after S.A.P torture, says youth

**Witness Reporter**

A LESOTHO youth told the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg yesterday that he knew nothing about the murder of Berg hiker Mr Phillip Janse van Rensburg in March this year, but was tortured by the South African Police until he made a confession.

The youth, who may not be named, said he was assaulted, given electric shocks and had a bag pulled over his head until he related what he had heard about the murder from a former accused turned state witness during interrogation.

The youth is one of three Lesotho citizens charged with the murder of Mr Janse van Rensburg, the attempted murder of his hiking companion Mr Laurence Lombard, and robbery with aggravating circumstances.

Mr Janse van Rensburg was allegedly beaten and thrown over the edge of the Drakensberg earlier this year after the camp where he and Mr Lombard were staying was attacked.

The other two accused, Mr Lipitsa Lebetla (21) and Mr Motlalepula Mabetha (33) have also alleged that they were assaulted by the police.

Their allegations were made during a trial within a trial to determine whether written confessions made by the accused shortly after their arrest were admissible as evidence.

The State, which closed its case in

the trial within a trial yesterday noon, claimed that the confessions were made freely and voluntarily. The police denied the allegations against them.

During his evidence, the youth said "The police said I must admit I killed a white man but I refused. A white policeman went away and came back with a bag which he put on my head. He held it tight around my neck and I could not breathe."

"I again denied that I killed a man and they went and fetched a man who may not be named, and he asked how he killed a white man in my presence," the youth said through an interpreter.

"They then asked me if I still wanted to kill a white man. I did not want the hood back over my head and kicking and hitting me again."

"I admitted having killed the man because... I was afraid I would be assaulted again. I told them that the story (the youth) had told me."

The court also heard that the relationship between the SA Police and Lesotho police was very poor. "There are no problems with the going into Lesotho."

Mr Dorian Paver appeared for the State, and Mr Adrian Rah, Mr S. Collett and Mr Nishan Maben appeared for the accused.

## Changes to provincial legislation

**Witness Reporter**

CHANGES in provincial laws, to be decided by the parliamentary standing committee for Natal in October, are advertised today for public comment.

Interested parties may inspect the draft legislation at room 10 or the law administration offices at the Natal Provincial Administration on the corner of Boshoff and Longmarket streets.

The laws to be amended or repealed are the Commissions Ordinance (1966), the Water Services Ordinance (1963), the Horse Racing and Betting Control Ordinance (1957), the Roads Ordinance (1968) and the Nature Conservation Ordinance.

Many other defunct appropriation and part appropriation ordinances as well as private legislation, much dating from 1910, are to be repealed.

## Soldier watched countdown to blast

PRETORIA — A soldier has described how he saw the person who primed the "bakkie bomb" near Wits Command run to safety seconds before the bomb exploded, injuring 75 people.

Lance Bombardier At Viljoen told the army newspaper *Uniform* he was guarding the South African Defence Force building on July 30 when he saw the man park the bakkie 12 metres from him and start walking away, without having switched off the engine.

"The man walked five steps and suddenly started running."

"About five seconds later I heard a tremendous blast and realised there had been a bomb in the bakkie."

Lance Bombardier Viljoen rushed after the man, who had disappeared into the badly damaged Ster-Kinekor cinema complex, but was ordered back by an SADF officer.

He said the man wore blue denim trousers and a white "butcher's" jacket.

"I told my friends 'look at that silly guy, he is locking his door but the engine is still running'."

"I accepted, however, that the vehicle was probably difficult to start."

African National Congress operative Mr Johannes Mnise was identified by the South African authorities as a prime suspect.

Police said yesterday no further news about the investigation into the blast was available. — Sapa.



Professor CAREL BOSHOFF

## Boshoff: we trek alone

PRETORIA — Carel Boshoff, Minister of Education, said that the Government's opposition to a government-sanctioned programme of power sharing which threatened to erode the Government's "culture" was a "trek alone".

He said yesterday that the Government had decided to go it alone because of the Government's "culture" which threatened to erode the Government's "culture".



'Academics

## Stolen car exports: