



Two of the victims injured in yesterday's car bomb blast in central Johannesburg are removed from the scene on stretchers by ambulancemen and paramedics.

Malan warns ANC host states

PRETORIA — Defence Minister General Magnus Malan last night issued a warning to South Africa's neighbouring states. He said: "Those who continue to give accommodation to terrorists and thus allow the export of revolution to South Africa, bring relations in South Africa to a crossroads."

"They do not keep to the rules of the game. "I address the so-called Frontline states who are deaf and blind to our message concerning permanent facilities to terrorists."

"I say to President Kaunda of Zambia — where the ANC has a head office — and to President Chissano of Mozambique — who allows the presence of a military and political HQ of the ANC. I hold them and their Governments responsible for terrorist activities."

General Malan said the South African Government reserved the right to protect its area and the life and possessions of its inhabitants.

He said those who supported talks with the ANC — especially Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert and the Progressive Federal Party's Mr Colin Eglin — owed South Africa an answer for the blast.

In Cape Town the State President, Mr P.W. Botha, condemned the blast. He called it a "dashingly and callous act" committed by terrorists under the control of "Godless communists".

He said he rejected with contempt the methods of terrorists and expressed his sympathy for the people who were injured.

Mr Botha said he would deal with the incident and "with other matters" when his Budget vote came up in Parliament.

Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetzee told the House of Assembly yesterday the ANC had claimed responsibility for the bomb.

However, in a statement released in Lusaka yesterday the ANC said it could neither confirm nor deny it was responsible. Information was being awaited and a statement would be issued today, the ANC said.

Over 68 injured in massive blast

JOHANNESBURG — Scores of people were injured — but miraculously no one was killed — when a massive car bomb exploded outside the military headquarters of the Witwatersrand Command in central Johannesburg yesterday.

By late last night the number of people injured stood at 68, made up of 32 blacks, seven coloureds and 29 whites. Four whites were admitted to the Johannesburg Hospital where they were reported to be in a satisfactory condition.

Many of those taken to hospital were treated for minor injuries or shock and discharged. Defence Minister Magnus Malan said it was "unbelievable" that no one had been killed and that more people were not injured, as the blast occurred during school holidays near cinemas where children were likely to attend morning shows.

The force of the blast blew a 1.5 m-deep hole in the road behind Wits Command in Quartz Street at about 9.45 am. The explosion shattered windows in offices and flat blocks four kilometres from the scene. A hole was blown into the wall of the eight-cinema Ster City complex and hundreds of bricks littered the pavement.

A top-level military delegation which arrived at Wits Command early yesterday afternoon included General Malan, the chief of the Army, Major-General Bert Wandrag and the head of the police counter-insurgency unit, Lieutenant-General Kat Liebenberg.

At least nine window frames were damaged and glass blown out of many more at Wits Command and the roof at the corner of one of the buildings in the complex was blown off, causing the ceiling to collapse.

The blast occurred in the heart of Johannesburg's diamond cutting district and many of the buildings — with tight security and strengthened glass — were badly damaged.

A building housing a bank and a number of diamond cutters and merchants across the road from the blast, the Nedbank Centre, had all the windows in its nine storeys blown out — most of it was safety glass.

A number of glazing companies are expected to be working around-the-clock for several days to repair the damage.

A restaurant in the Ster City complex, Mike's Country Kitchen, was destroyed. Trees in Quartz Street were burned and had branches blown off.

The truck believed to have carried the bomb was reduced to a small charred pile of blackened metal. There was a small patch of blue paint to be seen through all the black.

A number of pigeons died in the blast and photographers from both the local and foreign Press spent a long time taking pictures of one that remained intact lying near the hole in the road.

At least three other restaurants were damaged and are not expected to be open before the weekend.

Top-level group inspects the scene

RESTAURANTS and cinema closed

Car bomb



ABOVE: Police were quick on the scene of yesterday's bombing. They cordoned off the blast area with barbed wire and members of the public were kept well clear. In the foreground are two vehicles wrecked in the explosion.

BELOW: Another of the vehicles damaged was a Vryheid-registered saloon. Natal traffic police were unable to trace the owners last night.

Blast the 11th on Reef this year

YESTERDAY'S blast was the 11th explosion on the Reef this year. A total of four people had been killed and 24 injured prior to the car bombing.

- At the Sanlam Centre, Johannesburg, a limpet mine exploded on January 3, injuring three people.
- The OK Bazaars in Eloff Street was bombed on January 9. No injuries.
- On March 16 a bomb exploded in Sandton. No injuries.
- A mine exploded on a Soweto railway line on April 8. No injuries.
- On May 5 two blasts occurred at the city Civic Centre. No injuries.
- Two massive explosions at Cosatu House on May 6. No injuries.
- Two people were injured on May 10 when a bomb exploded at Roo-depoort Station.
- On May 19 a mine exploded in the Carlton Centre. No injuries.
- Four policemen were killed and 15 people were injured after two car bombs exploded in quick succession outside the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on May 20.
- On July 8 four people were injured when a limpet mine exploded at the Village Main Hotel in Johannesburg. — Sapa.

Condemnation from opposition parties

CAPE TOWN — Both the Conservative and Progressive Federal parties have condemned yesterday's explosion.

Speaking in the House of Assembly, Mr D.S. Pienaar (CP Potgietersrus), said his party regarded the planting of the bomb as a "cowardly terrorist deed" and saw it as proof of the threat to carry its campaign into white residential areas.

In a statement, Mr Peter Gastrow (PFP Durban Central), and chairman of the party's Federal Executive, said he condemned the blast outright. Mr Gastrow, who accompanied the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa group to the Dakar talks with the ANC, said the blast played into the hands of those who were trying to discredit "Dakar". — Sapa.

LONDON — A London court heard yesterday that of one of the four white men charged recently with conspiring to kidnap members of the African National Congress was a former member of the South African "special services".

There was tight security at Lambeth Magistrate's Court when the four — Frank Larsen (53), a psychologist based in Zimbabwe, John Terence Larsen (27), a computer technician, Jonathan Richard Whyte (28), unemployed, and Evan Dennis Evans (48), a sub-postmaster in North Wales — were further remanded in custody.

They were making their third appearance in court charged with conspiring together and with others to kidnap members of the ANC over a nine-month period between October 1, 1986, and July 10 this year.

A second application for bail by Mr Evans, the man said to have served in the South African "special forces", was rejected and he will next appear on August 27.

The two Larsens and Mr Wheatley made no application for bail and were remanded to August 13.

Mr Evans was arrested at Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Squad at his home in North Wales a fortnight ago, while the Larsens and Mr Wheatley, who shared a flat in Aldershot, Hampshire, were detained in the London area a week previously.

He said police had found at Mr Evans' home a document from Frank Larsen with a list of names of prominent ANC members and plans to put them under surveillance and kidnap them.

Mr Bibby said there was a "South African connection" in the case.

Police had recovered forged passports and the identities of the two Larsens were still being investigated by the police.

The prosecutor said Mr Evans had spent a considerable time in the Rhodesian forces and then when Rhodesia became independent in 1980 he moved to South Africa and joined the forces here.

Mr Bibby said Mr Evans had returned to Britain in 1985 and the South African had approached him to obtain explosives to blow up a member of the ANC. He was not prepared to go along with this.

Mr Bibby said police had recovered a tremendous amount of documentation in connection with the case and this was still being examined. — Sapa.

ANTI-WRINKLES

Exclusive from PAYOT — poules for wrinkles, dehydrated with GALVANIC — high frequency professional beauty

R45

ENQUIRIES: Tel 94

SLIMMING

8 treatment course

R120

Stanbic shares frozen as pull-out talks start

Govt plans