

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

After 29 years of exile, the Women's League of the ANC was launched on Thursday 9 August by prominent South African women at the ecumenical centre in Durban. Speakers at the launch said the ANC Women's League will 'spearhead the struggle for the emancipation of women within the ANC and throughout South African society'.

BBC MR (Sapa) 11.8.90

The ANC Women's League comes from a long and proud tradition of women's struggle for liberation. One of the earliest women's protests took place in the Orange Free State (OFS) towns of Bloemfontein, Winburg and Jagersfontein in 1913. During that year, women held demonstrations outside government offices to protest against having to buy monthly residence permits allowing them to stay in urban areas. These protests quickly spread throughout the OFS and eventually led to the permits being withdrawn.

At that time, the ANC constitution only allowed women to be 'auxiliary members' of the organisation. Shortly after the OFS protests, the Bantu Women's League (BWL) was formed. The BWL launched a number of anti-pass campaigns in 1918 which served to politicise African women. Indian women, who had been brought to South Africa as cheap labour for Natal's sugar plantations, also waged their own struggles against taxes that they were forced to pay. However, it was only in the late forties and fifties that women's participation in the liberation struggle really became a force to be reckoned with.

During the 1930s, particularly at the All African Convention in Bloemfontein in 1935, the call was made for the formation of an African women's organisation. In 1941, the ANC's national conference amended the constitution to give women and men equal status as members. The conference also resolved to revive its women's section to ensure the active participation of women in the ANC campaigns. At the ANC's conference in 1943, it was resolved to set up ANC Women's and Youth Leagues to complement the work of the ANC.

During the forties more and more women began moving from the rural areas into the towns, mainly finding work as domestic workers. A limited number of women found employment in factories and were introduced to the trade union movement. These women included Lilian Ngoyi, Francis Baard and Bertha Mashaba. Times were hard in the 1940s, mainly because of the effect of the Second World War. Women generally had to queue for basic foodstuffs sold from vans in the townships. These queues facilitated women's organisation as queue committees were formed in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

At first the queues dealt with food supply and distribution only. But the Cape Town Women's Food Committee had links with the Communist Party of South Africa (SACP) and trade unions and, by the end of the 1940s, it was demanding that all South Africans should be given the vote. However, most organised women's activities in the forties

took place through church organisations. It was only in 1948 that the ANC Women's League was launched, aimed at dealing specifically with the needs of African women. Thousands of women became volunteers in the 1952 Defiance Campaign, defying apartheid laws and being sent to prison alongside men.

The Defiance Campaign opened activists' eyes to the power of women. Shortly after the campaign ended, women working in the ANC Women's League, the trade union movement, SACP, the Congress of Democrats, SA Coloured People's Congress and the SA Indian Congress met in Port Elizabeth to discuss the formation of a national, non-racial women's organisation. From that meeting, the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) was launched in Johannesburg on April 17 1954 with Ida Mtwana and Ray Alexander as president and secretary. A Women's Charter was adopted at the launch, which was attended by 146 delegates representing 230 500 women.

(It) being a federal structure, women did not join the FEDSAW directly but became members via their organisations affiliating to the federation. Shortly after FEDSAW's launch, women became involved in the Bantu Education boycott initiated by the Congress Alliance. However, the government announcement in 1955 that all African women would have to carry passes by January 1956 brought with it the biggest women's protest this country has ever seen.

On October 27 1955, the Transvaal branch of the Federation led by Bertha Mshaba and Helen Joseph organised a protest against the extension of passes to women outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria. Some 2 000 women braved fierce harassment to take part in the protest, each carrying their own copy of the FEDSAW petition. In March the following year, some 1 500 OFS women in Winburg were issued with reference books. After consulting with the ANCWL, whose president was now Lilian Ngoyi, the women said they had been tricked into taking the books... From then onwards in most major towns, women's marches were held to protest against passes. These included marches by domestic workers, cleaners and factory workers.

These protests culminated in the 20 000-strong women's march to Pretoria's Union Buildings on the day that is now known as National Women's Day — August 9. But this was not the end of the campaign. Protests, demonstrations and marches continued throughout 1956. Two women were killed in Lichtenburg in clashes with police. In Standerton the pass-issuing team's arrival was marked by a 100 per cent stayaway in the township... In the Marico district in the Eastern Transvaal, bitter battles with police left a number of people dead. In Zeerust in the Western Transvaal, only 76 women out of 4 000 accepted passes. As a result of the protests, thousands of women countrywide were arrested and imprisoned. In 1958, the ANC leadership ruled that no more women should risk arrest...

On June 18 1959, 2 000 women from Cato Manor squatter camp near Durban marched to the local government of

WOMEN'S LEAGUE RELAUNCHED

ficial's office to tell him of their grievances against beer halls. Led by Dorothy Nyembe, Florence Mkize and Gladys Manzi, their protest was met by vicious police attacks. This sparked off protests throughout Durban's townships and for two weeks women and police clashed as beer halls were picketed or burnt to the ground... By the end of June, women in Natal's rural areas took up the struggle against the authorities. Their focal point of anger was the dipping tanks for cattle, which women were forced to fill and maintain without being paid. About 20 000 women were involved in these rural protests and approximately 1 000 were arrested. However, heavy fines and long prison sentences served to demoralise protesters and, by September, the rural



uprisings subsided. In 1960, police shot 69 anti-pass demonstrators dead in Sharpeville. Soon afterwards, the government declared the first state of emergency and banned the ANC.

As the ANCWL was FEDSAW's strongest affiliate, the federation was severely affected by the banning. During the sixties, much of the ANC's energies were spent building its underground structures. The Women's and Youth Leagues became sections of the ANC. By the seventies, organisation, which was primarily black consciousness in outlook, began developing inside the country. Women's

committees were established within the SA Students' Organisation (SASO), while community women's organisations began to re-emerge. Mainly young people took the lead at this stage, especially from 1976 onwards. However, it was only in the eighties, with the semi-insurrectionary period between 1984 and 1986, that community organisations, including women's structures, really flourished. It is this powerful history that women will carry with them when they meet in Durban over the weekend to relaunch the ANC Women's League. *New Nation 10.8.90*

The launch of the African National Congress Women's League on Saturday would herald a new era of women's rights in South Africa, said the league's task force member, Frene Ginwala. Ginwala, a lawyer, historian and long-time exile who was based in the ANC's London office, is home after 30 years to help organise the launch. More than 400 delegates from women's organisations in the democratic movement will meet in Durban for the launch. The league will be an autonomous body within the ANC. Its decisions will not be referred to the national executive committee for approval, Ginwala explained. August 9 had been chosen as a date for the launch as it symbolised the women's struggle against oppressive laws... The day was declared National Women's Day by the ANC to honour women's role in the struggle against apartheid. Ginwala said the league would initiate a campaign for a Charter for Women's Rights. 'We will go around the country listening to women, hearing what their problems are and seeing how many of these problems are directly attributed to apartheid and how many are gender-related,' she said. 'There are men who are politically backward. The league will help to enlighten them and advance their politics so they see oppression for what it is. They must realise they should concern themselves with the oppression not only of blacks, but of all people — including women.' Ginwala said the Women's Charter would eventually be a constitutional instrument. The ANC was against the exploitation of women, especially African women who were the most oppressed and exploited group in the population presently. 'The ANC says women are not going to be liberated as a by-product of the liberation struggle. It acknowledges that the question of women would have to be addressed in its own right.' Gender oppression had a material base, economic factors and was propped up by the cultures of all groups in South Africa.

'The ANC has therefore committed itself to taking affirmative action to ensure women's participation in its structures,' Ginwala said. 'It is also giving consideration to the establishment of a national commission which will monitor policies of women and enforce affirmative action within the ANC. The commission will embark on an education programme to promote an understanding of the origin and effects of gender oppression. The ANC will formulate a national policy on the emancipation of women and the promotion of women's development,' she said... *South 9.8.90*

The Pretoria Church Street bomb which killed 19 and injured more than 200 in May 1983. Police agree the motive may have been to disrupt 'talks about talks' due to resume in Pretoria tomorrow between President FW de Klerk and ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela...

City Press 5.8.90

Inkatha Members Storm Trains

Soweto train commuters were attacked with knobkerries, sjamboks and pangas by men, alleged to be Inkatha members, who stormed the trains yesterday. Witnesses told *The Star* the incident happened at the Ikwezi and Inhlanzani stations at about 6pm. The attackers allegedly told commuters they were looking for 'mzabalazo people' — people of 'the struggle' who sang slogans in trains.

Several of the injured were treated at Baragwanath Hospital. Most of them were ferried to the hospital by ambulances. It was not known whether anybody had been killed at the time of going to press. One commuter, Sarah Morake, said: 'The large group of Zulu warriors entered the train at Ikwezi station looking for mzabalazo people. They were armed with sjamboks, kerries, knives, pangas and guns.' She said the 'impis' had started attacking people indiscriminately. 'Many people jumped out of windows while the train was moving, to escape, I simply sat and resigned myself to death. I saw men run like children and leave their parcels behind...'

Another passenger said she heard shots being fired as soon as her train stopped at Inhlanzane station. 'I am lcky I was not in the mzabalazo coach,' she said. Police could not confirm the incident last night.

Star 26.7.90

UNREST HIT SQUADS

CCB Disbanded — Members Now in SADF

It might have been a coincidence, but the South African Defence Force's notorious Civil Co-operation Bureau was disbanded on Tuesday night, hours before the Harms Commission of Inquiry into politically motivated murders resume early yesterday. The disbanding is also less than a week before the government and the ANC meet next Monday. The commission was announced by State President FW de Klerk in a Government Gazette dated February 2 this year, largely as a result of pressure from the public.

Announcing the scrapping of the CCB, SADF chief General Jannie Geldenhuys said following the Minister of Defence's announcement on February 26 that all the activities of the secret group had ceased, a process of 'rationalisation' had begun. He said aspects directly related to the Harms Commission would only be dealt with after the judicial process had been completed. Members of the special forces — of which the CCB was one — had been transferred to the SADF 'where the processes regarding the final disbanding will be completed,' Geldenhuys said in a statement.

And now the alarm bells are ringing. There are fears there were certain CCB activities that would never be exposed, especially those that took place outside the borders of South Africa. The CCB's foreign activities

were not included in the brief of the commission. Colonel Joe Verster, managing director of the CCB, has admitted that the group had its own bank accounts in foreign countries. The accounts were used to buy arms and technology. This was corroborated by Mr Pieter Botes, a former regional director for Swaziland and Mozambique in an interview with *Vrye Weekblad*, the Afrikaans weekly that first broke the news of alleged government-sponsored death squads.

In his reaction to the announcement, Dr Max Coleman of the Human Rights Commission said the government and the SADF should assure the public that the structures would be dissolved and that all its members were 'totally disarmed'. Disarming the CCB members would make sense, but it would make more sense if Harms's brief could be extended to cover evidence of external operations of the CCB and the main players were restricted to base.

De Klerk's sincerity could be tested if he widened the brief to allow evidence from abroad because, besides pernicious activities, evidence of arms deals, cash stockpiles and arsenals (all paid for with taxpayers' money) could emerge ... *Sowetan 31.7.90*

More Questions Than Answers Are Left

... Working until dawn yesterday to prepare additional heads of arguments after the previous night's surprise announcement, counsel for the Webster Trust, *Vrye Weekblad* and others, advocate Eberhard Bertelsman SC and advocate Martin Luitingh, presented 18 questions about the CCB's disbanding. 'What does the term "operationally disbanded" mean? Is it thereby intended to convey that each and every CCB project inside and outside SA has been discontinued?' counsel asked. 'Is it intended to convey that none of the CCB's functions have in fact been abandoned but that the operations which the CCB was engaged in, have been transferred lock, stock and barrel to the army?'

Have some of the CCB's tasks been taken over by other units in Special Forces? What has become of those projects which were "tans van stapel gestuur" (currently being launched) as General Eddie Webb (head of the CCB) testified on March 6 before the honourable commission?'

The advocates wanted to know whether all members of the CCB had been transferred to the army and whether that included people like the CCB's management director Joe Verster. 'Does this mean that the army accepts Verster's refusal to obey a lawful command, namely to produce the CCB's project files?'

Maggie Friedman, who was present when human rights activist David Webster was assassinated last year, allegedly by CCB members, said, 'We still do not know about the names of more than 200 CCB members and numerous CCB projects' ... *Daily Mail 27.7.90*

Murders Outside SA Must Be Investigated

Members of the Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) may be implicated in the Webster and Ribeiro murders, according to new information uncovered in official investigations. The *Saturday Star* has established that there is a link between an affidavit given to the Harms Commission this week by an unknown potential new

witness and information already in its possession. The statement made by a CCB member, relates to previous information and investigations by the commission's officers which, in turn, may implicate a member of the CCB in the murder of Johannesburg academic Dr David Webster ... His affidavit referred to both the murder of Dr Webster in May last year and Mamelodi doctor Mr Fabian Ribeiro and his wife, Florence, in December 1986. His evidence is being assessed by the commission and further witnesses may be subpoenaed to testify.

The contents of the affidavit apparently relate to information gathered by the commission on the possible involvement of CCB members in both murders...

Star 14.8.90

RIGHT-WING REACTIONS

Cold-Blooded Killing of Children

Conjuring up frightening echoes of mass-murderer Barend Strydom, several whites in the Free State this week went on a spree of racially motivated terror and murder. They turned some black schools into 'happy hunting grounds', murdering at least two schoolboys and injuring several other children.

In the farming town of Senekal a schoolboy was injured and other children hurt when stones were hurled at them from a passing bakkie. In Kroonstad a schoolboy died and another was injured when two white men, wearing khaki outfits, opened fire with shotguns at a playground in Maokeng township. Taylor Ntsuku (17) a pupil at Dr Cingo Secondary School, was shot dead while playing with Tote Molokoane (16) during break. Tote was seriously wounded. The most chilling of the attacks took place in fiercely conservative Senekal, where young white occupants of a known bakkie have been fingered as being culprits. At 2 pm on Monday schoolboys Andries Nkala and Elias Bohlale, pupils at Mmasechaba Primary School, finished prayers and began their daily walk home. From behind them a cream Ford Courier bakkie came speeding down the gravel road as 10-year-old Maria Nyofane was also leaving the yard ... The bakkie was driven by a young white man in his early twenties. He sat alone in front. In the back were two white youths between 15 and 17 years old. As the bakkie passed Maria, one of the youths at the back threw a stone at her. It hit her lower abdomen and knocked her down. She remained there, crying, as the vehicle sped by. It drove at great speed towards 13-year-old Andries and 11-year-old Elias, by then a small distance away from their school. Andries walked slightly ahead of Elias. Another stone was thrown from the back of the bakkie. It hit Andries, opening a big hole in the right side of his head. As he fell some brain matter spilled out and splattered his friend's legs. Blood gushed from the wound. Andries lay on the side of the dirt road, unseeing and unmoving. Panic-stricken Elias raced the 500m back to the school and straight to the headmaster Isaac Masdole. He related what happened and the principal immediately rushed with Elias to the spot where Andries lay.

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Mr Masole, headmaster of Mmasechaba Primary School and some of his staff put Andries in a van and drove to the farm Holland where his father, Johannes Nkala, is a farmhand. Says Mr Masole: 'Andries was still alive, but unconscious. He was in a very bad way. We told the owner of the farm, Theo Ferreira, what had happened and he telephoned the police. He said we should take the child to the doctor, which was some 22km away. The doctor tried to resuscitate him, and ordered Andries to be taken to the hospital.'

Andries was immediately admitted to Senekal Hospital and given a blood transfusion and oxygen. He was also put on a drip and was to be transferred to Bloemfontein immediately. When the ambulance arrived he was already dead. He died a horribly cruel death... Four other schoolchildren, all pupils of Porotong School, were also attacked by young whites travelling in the bakkie.

An egg vendor crossing the road to drink from a tap was very lucky to escape unhurt. A stone hurled at her from the passing bakkie missed, landing inches away. The residents of Matwabeng, Senekal's black township, are angry that 'boers' have made them fair game. They are angrier at what they believe is a 'ganging-up' of whites against them. Apparently, there have been suggestions in white circles that Andries was hit by a stone kicked up by the bakkie's wheels.

Says one man: 'Could the old man whose collar-bone they broke also have been the victim of a stone kicked by the same bakkie? Was Maria Nyofane also such a victim? Were the pupils of Porotong also hit by stones kicked up by the same bakkie? And are those people who saw the stones being thrown at them lying?' Others see no way the case will be solved 'unless senior policemen like generals and brigadiers' from outside the Free State are appointed as investigators. They say Senekal is a right-wing town where whites often side with each other against blacks.

Police say Andries Nkala's death is being investigated and certain leads are being followed. In the meantime the black community is hitting back at white Senekal. On Thursday a consumer boycott of the town began, and was accompanied by a work stayaway which was observed to a degree.

The police were quick to react. Operating from the small office of the municipal police at the entrance to Matwabeng, they sent in several vans with men armed with teargas and rubber bullets. The teargas and rubber bullets were fired intermittently at groups of residents who stood at street corners. It is alleged that no warnings to disperse were given. Youths retaliated by barricading streets with burning tyres. At nightfall, all the lights went out in Matwabeng.

● Police have confirmed the Maokeng shooting, and say the men who fired the shots claim they had been pelted with stones. A docket of murder and attempted murder has been opened. *Sunday Star 29.7.90*

Weapons Found After Right-Wing Arrests

Police investigating white rightwing violence have arrested another three men — one a policeman and another a former policeman — on the West Rand.

Reports said plastic explosives, M26 hand grenades used by the SADF, and fuse wire had also been found. The three men are Mr Johann Heydenrych, 27; former policeman Julian van Eeden, 27; and Warrant Officer Pieter Bekker, 35, of the West Rand unrest unit. They are to appear in court, apparently today, on charges of illegal possession of firearms. One of the accused is believed to have been in contact with fugitive right-wing leader Piet 'Skiet' Rudolph, wanted by police in connection with theft of weapons from the SADF and at least one terrorist explosion.

Eastern Province Herald 3.8.90

Warning of Violence from BSB

Right-wing violence is inevitable if the government continues along its current course, Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder said yesterday. Speaking on Capital Radio, Van Tonder said that unless the government called a white general election or a 'whites-only' referendum before concluding any deal with 'opposition movements', it would be acting unconstitutionally and should expect an unconstitutional reaction. He said an armed campaign could be won because the Boers were a majority in their own territory.

Van Tonder faced a number of hostile phone callers from Natal and the Eastern Cape, both of which would be left out of the intended Boerestaat. He based his claim to the old Transvaal, Orange Free State and Vryheid on the grounds that they were one-time Boer republics which were internationally recognised.

Van Tonder said blacks could remain in a future Boerestaat but they would have to exercise their political rights in new, consolidated homelands.

Daily Mail 27.7.90

CP Leader: 'Forget Non-Racism'

Conservative Party leader Dr Andries Treurnicht yesterday called on black, Indian and coloured people, who 'have pride in their own freedom' to forget about non-racism and to 'open their eyes to their own heritage and culture'. Opening the Natal CP Congress at Illovo Beach near Durban last night, Dr Treurnicht said the people of SA should forget about an open, non-racial democracy as this was just another name for a tyranny of numbers. 'The CP will help to develop nations such as the Zulus, the Vendas and the Xhosas and not suppress them,' he said.

The CP would also 'stand in the way of abdication' by the present government, he said, and demanded that State President FW de Klerk call an election. The ANC and SACP had not made any real concessions to President De Klerk. 'Mr (Nelson) Mandela has no problem reconciling peace talk and war talk. He talks peace while he builds up his armed forces,' Dr Treurnicht said. The government was either 'absolutely naive' in attempting to save SA from black majority rule, or it had already agreed to surrender power to the ANC or SACP and was now only playing for time.

'What we are witnessing for possibly the first time in history is a Western leader voluntarily negotiating himself, his people and his party out of power. The new SA is a joke, it is becoming the graveyard of the white nation'... *Citizen 4.8.90*

White Threatens to Disrupt March

Violence could erupt in Welkom if a march by a coloured civic association takes place next month. The right-wing movement, Blanke Veiligheid (BV), has threatened to disrupt the march by members of the Bronville Civic Association.

The march, scheduled for August 18, has been approved by the Welkom City Council. The city's chief magistrate, Mr Koos Seaman, said yesterday he would decide this week whether to allow the march, organised to protest against tariff and service charges increases by the city council. 'We won't allow the march to take place,' BV spokesman, Mr David Naude, said yesterday. 'We have warned police there will be bloodshed and that they should get ambulances ready' ... 'We in BV are against this type of march. It is intended to be provocative and serves no purpose.'

Welkom's Town Clerk, Mr Chris Rademan, confirmed that the city's management committee had approved the march, subject to certain conditions. These included:

- Permission for the march has to be obtained from the chief magistrate.
- It has to be peaceful and adhere to traffic regulations; and
- The organisers have to accept liability for any damage to property during the march ...*Citizen 30.7.90*

MILITARY MATTERS

SA Armed And Trained Iraqi Army

The Iraqi army almost certainly used South African weapons in its invasion of Kuwait yesterday. Most Iraqi artillery gunners — central to yesterday's military action — have been trained by South African experts who would also have supplied maintenance, spare parts and ammunition.

According to military experts based here and in the Middle East, the South African arms producer Armscor sold enough heavy artillery to Saddam Hussein's army in the 1980s to balance SA's budget. Most of the exchanges involved SA's G5, said to be the world's most advanced heavy artillery system, with a firing range of 42 km and a highly sophisticated fire control computer tracking device.

Press reports from the mid-eighties allege a direct exchange of at least 100 G5s for \$1-billion worth of oil ... Military experts claim that SA was doing such a brisk Gulf War trade in G5s, that it depleted its own reserve just when it needed it at the time of the Cuito Cuanavale battle in Southern Angola in 1987.

Iraq now has an arsenal of 450 heavy artillery launchers, and Associated Press reported last week that much of this force had been moved to Kuwait's border. 'It is highly likely that the G5s are in Kuwait,' says Helmoed Heitman, SA correspondent for *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 'It's the best gun they've got, and it's fairly mobile too.'

'We know,' says Al J Venter, the Africa/Middle East correspondent for the *International Defence Review*, 'that SA has been supplying Iraq with G5s since at least 1981. What came out of the Angolan war was battletested, and ideally suited to the Gulf War, so Iraq latched on to it.' Venter says that 'originally both

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