

ADELAIDE

The further particulars to the indictment (p.81) allege that during 1984 to 1985 Adelaide Youth Congress (AYCO) and the UDF organised and intimidation, riots and violence occurred.

The state led no evidence of any political activity in 1984. It started in March 1985.

During March 1985 hundreds of pamphlets issued by the UDF Khotso-house, Johannesburg (exh ABA.3) were distributed in the Black townships of Adelaide. These pamphlets called for a national stay-away on 28 March 1985, that day to be a "national day of mourning in solidarity with the people killed in Crossroads, Vaal Triangle, Fort Beaufort, Uitenhage and all over the country". The pamphlet sets out a story of terror informing the public that "innocent people in Uitenhage were ruthlessly gunned down simply because they protested against the ever increasing cost of living". At the funeral of six of these innocent people the police again opened fire and shot down people who were peacefully marching to bury their friends. Forty-three people were killed and hundreds were wounded. In respect of this massacre by the police on the community the people of South Africa are saying this Government has gone too far this time. This is the tenor of the pamphlet. There is no evidence that the stay-away was observed as called for.

During March/April 1985 slogans appeared on the walls in Adelaide, "Viva ANC", "Viva UDF", "Viva AYCO", "Viva Mandela", etc.

In April 1985 each evening crowds gathered in the streets shouting and singing about Oliver Tambo. Black policemen moved out of the township. Before this the police had been popular. The crowd had never before acted against the police.

The school situation seems to have influenced what happened in Adelaide. The state led no evidence on it and the evidence of the defence witness Nkayi was so false that we can place no reliance on it whatsoever. As COSAS is not alleged in the indictment as amplified by further particulars to have been responsible for the unrest in Adelaide we need not deal with that organisation in detail. It is interesting to note that a number of persons served on both the executive of COSAS and the executive of AYCO.

During the night of 11 April 1985 attacks were launched on the houses of two constables by a group of approximately 500 people singing "Tambo come and free us" and shouting "Botha's dogs, come out", "Viva Tambo", "Viva UDF", "Viva ANC", "Viva Mandela" and "Botha voetsek". The constables defended themselves and help arrived. One attacker was killed and others were wounded.

On 12 April 1985 approximately 400 pupils marched and sang freedom songs ("We are guerillas") at the Amaguinca Senior Secondary School, shouting "Viva Tambo", "Viva Mandela" and that they were working for the UDF. The school was closed indefinitely by the inspector. On 15 April 1985 these scholars marched again and the same pattern of behaviour ensued. This time the Gcobingaba Junior Secondary School was visited by the marchers and joined them. On 16 April 1985 the police acted and after a warning dispersed the crowd with tear-smoke.

During March/April 1985 the community council of Adelaide resigned. It was not replaced. A committee of ten, later of six, was formed in the township and in charge were the chairman of AYCO (22 years old) and another youth of that organisation.

The youthful activists had taken over.

The defence attempted to push the formation of COSAS and AYCO beyond the violent events of April 1985. This submission is supported by the fact that in that period no COSAS slogans or presence was evident. There were AYCO slogans however.

The evidence of constable Springbok was that Monde Nkonki and Joseph Botha were amongst his attackers on 11 April 1985. They were arrested that same evening and were charged. Nkonki testified that

he was on the executive of AYCO and Botha was its vice-president. This indicates AYCO involvement in the attack if AYCO existed at the time.

We need not reach any conclusion on this issue because even if AYCO did exist when the unrests started there is no evidence that AYCO was affiliated to the UDF or had any connection with it. There is also no evidence of any UDF organisational presence in the township. The presence of the pamphlets (exh ABA.3) and some slogans about the UDF cannot prove that the UDF was responsible for the unrest in Adelaide.

There is no evidence about the reasons for the resignation of the community councillors of Adelaide. We do not know of any violence directed at them. We do not find that their resignation had any connection with the UDF or its campaign against Black local authorities.

DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985-1989

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