

Swedish Cases

The Truth Commission Files

[Sweden Report]

In the Palme-report, we discussed South African links in the Palme murder. Here we will discuss some other activities against the ANC and anti-apartheid activists in Sweden:

1. The bombing of ANC mission in Stockholm:

On Monday 9 September 1986 at 14:15 hrs a bomb exploded in the Centre of Stockholm, in the building where the ANC had its office (Gamla Brogatan 29, 4th floor) in the attic. Three persons were present in the office at the time of the explosion: Mrs. Lindiwe Mabuza (the representative), Mr. Muhamed Hussein and Mr. Gabriel Marin.(employees). The explosion took place near an attic door, halfway between the third and fourth floor. The material damage in the staircase was extensive and the shock wave had blown the front door, at ground level, into the street. No persons were wounded nor killed, probably because the attic door was a safety-door, made out of metal with a kind of sand inside.

The police did a forensic research but couldn't determine the kind of explosives used, but estimated that it must have been between 300 and 500 grams. The detonation cord had been Swedish-made. Several persons were interviewed but nobody had seen anything. Mrs. Lindiwe immediately suspected the South Africans, but police inspector Sunne Tilström [video] suggested that the ANC organized the explosion herself, "because the ANC needed publicity..."

Sources: a video tape;file with police reports and newspaper articles, all in Swedish.

2. Two arson attacks on buildings of the Foundation "Brödet och Fiskarna" (Bread & Fishes) on Friday July 24 1981 and Friday August 6, 1982.

"Bread & Fishes" was founded in 1972. It started as a Christian group which wanted to run social activities in favour of the poor for humanitarian reasons only, but after some time "Bread & Fishes" became more politicised, inspired by members and leaders of the liberation movements. The group started to send money on a regular base to a village development project in Bangladesh. In 1973 "Bread & Fishes" send them for the first time 1 ton of clothes and sewing-machines. In 1974 the group started with its first delivery of second-hand clothes to the liberation movements in Southern Africa, first SWAPO, then ZANU and later , at the beginning of 1981 to the ANC also. Certain projects were done together with Sida (the Swedish development-aid organization).

"Bread & Fishes" started also to organize international working camps which drew the attention of the media. Both times (in 1981 and 1982) a fire broke out just after these working camps had taken place, at Friday nights in the premises at Malma Gärd, Västerås where the clothes were kept and some machinery to pack them. The first time it was a relatively small fire, the second time much more was destroyed. Mrs. Eva Helen Strimling, the president of the Foundation is convinced that the fires were the work of an incendiary, with the attention to sabotage the work "Bread & Fishes" is doing in favour of the liberation movements in Southern Africa. Personally she suspected pro-apartheid activists (right-wingers) with or without a direct involvement by South African agents.

Police investigated the fires. They didn't find any conclusive evidence, but the possibility that the

fires were set deliberately, couldn't be excluded.

Sources: File with a speech (in English), delivered by Mrs. Strimling and some newspaper articles, photographs and police reports (in Swedish). One tape with an interview with her in English.

3. One encounters some individual Swedish right wingers as members of South African army operations or hit squads , as mercenaries for extreme right-wing Afrikaner groupings as the AWB or as operators for SA spies:

- Heine Hüman (see the NIZA reports about "Dulcie September" p.3-4; the Palme-Report, p. 6-7)
- Bertil Olov Wedin (Palme-Report, p. 3-4; The report by the British Anti-Apartheid Movement Archives Committee, p.12-14/draft) - Swedish mercenaries in Lasse Berg's documentary film "Lieutenant Erik"
- Sven Helge Forsell (?) and Jan Olav Sydow, both involved in the attempted 1981 coup in the Seychelles (see NIZA's Seychelles-Report, Notes-1, p. 7,10)
- Nigel Barnett, who allegedly was once involved with SA "superspy" Craig Williamson.(see Palme-Report, p. 14).

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