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THE DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1973

POLICE SAVE THE DAY

MANY A FRIGHTENED Durban-bound worker breathed a sigh of relief early today at the sight of policemen dotted around the city's sprawling townships to avert the threatened mass stay-away.

Police manned railway stations and patrolled African townships, which had been under a cloud of fear since grim warnings were circulated that people who went to work in Durban today would be beaten up.

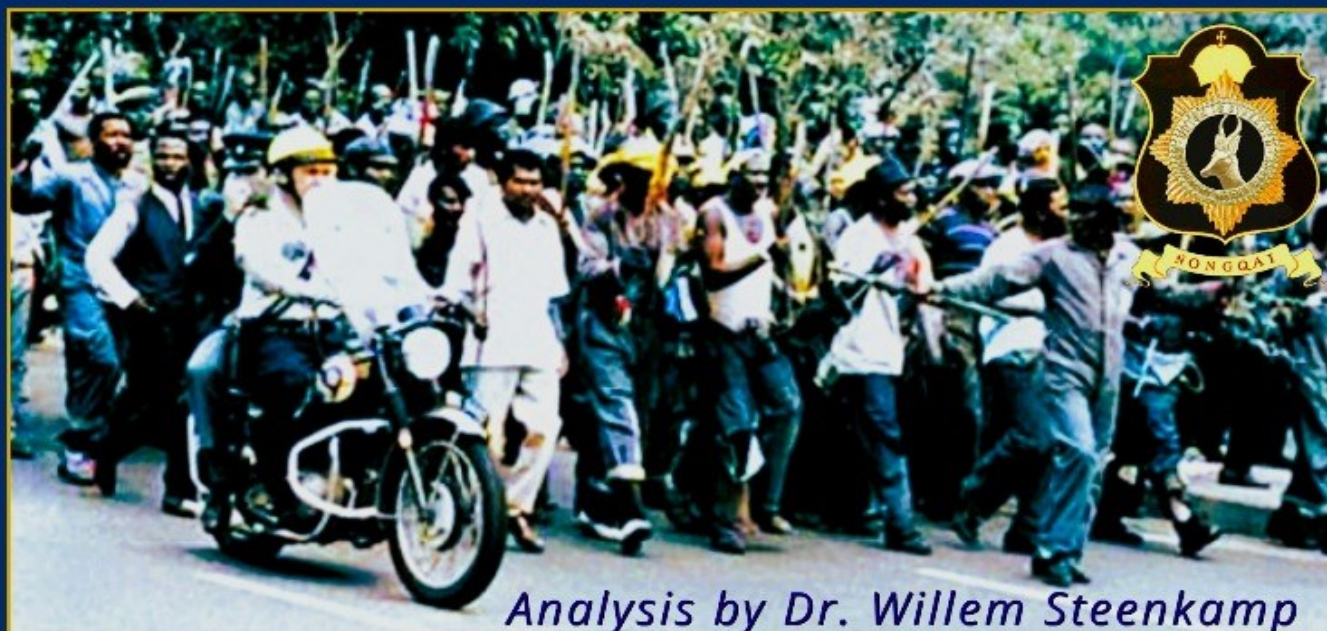
And when the workers return home tonight, amid more threats of intimidation and beatings, the police will be there again to protect them.

During the dark early morning hours there was a general lack of movement, but as the dawn broke the thousands of commuters swarmed to their respective railway stations and a late start to work.

The rush normally begins at 4.30 a.m. but today the movement only started after 5.30.

LEFT: Part of a convoy of 15 police jeeps which patrolled KwaMashu township early today giving protection to the community.

BELOW: A group of policemen keep a silent vigil in KwaMashu as inhabitants make their way to the station.



Analysis by Dr. Willem Steenkamp



The Widely Praised S.A. Police Handling of the 1973 Durban Strikes



EDITORS

The editor-in-chief of *NONGQAI* Magazine is retired Brigadier **Hennie Heymans** ("HBH") of the S.A. Police, who holds a Master's degree in National Security Studies and had represented the S.A.P. on the Secretariat of the State Security Council.

The editor of the **Ladies Edition** of *NONGQAI* is **Sarie van Niekerk** ("SvN"), herself a former police officer and journalist at *Beeld* newspaper.

The editor of *NONGQAI*'s digital publications and group operations manager is **Dr. Willem Steenkamp** ("WPS"), a retired attorney and ambassador who is a former member of the N.I.S. and D.F.A. Willem is responsible for *NONGQAI*'s YouTube channel and BLOG, plus our publisher, GREXPA s.a.

There are two sub-editors. Col. **Logan Govender** ("LG") is our lead historian on police officers of Indian descent. **Henning van Aswegen** ("HvA") renowned author formerly of the National Intelligence Academy, handles the intelligence desk.

Any opinions expressed by any editor (or by any other contributor), are entirely their personal responsibility, and should be attributed to them individually and **not to the editorial board, owners or publisher.**

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Die hoofredakteur van die *NONGQAI* tydskrif is afgetrede Brigadier **Hennie Heymans** ("HBH") van die S.A. Polisie, met 'n Meestersgraad in Nasionale Veiligheidstudies en wat die S.A.P. verteenwoordig het op die Sekretariaat van die SVR.

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Our goal is to collect and record our national security history for publication in the *NONGQAI* for future generations.

We publish the articles and stories as we receive them from our correspondents; we only correct spelling mistakes. It's important to publish the stories in the form and context that we received them from our correspondents. Policemen and Defence personnel have their own language and sub-culture. We are not a scientific or literary journal. We only work with historical building blocks, as in the oral tradition.

Ons doel is om die nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis in die *NONGQAI* aan te teken en só vir die nageslagte te bewaar.

Ons gebruik die artikels en stories soos ons dit van ons korrespondente ontvang; ons maak slegs die spelfoute reg. Dis belangrik om die stories te bewaar in die vorm en in die konteks soos ons dit ontvang. Lede van die veiligheidsmagte het hul eie taal en ons moet dit ook so aanteken. Ons is nie 'n letterkundige of wetenskaplike joernaal nie. Ons werk slegs met die boustene van die geskiedenis, in die orale tradisie.

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NONGQAI is 'n gratis aanlyn bewaarplek van herinneringe, historiese gegewens en ontledings rakende die nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis van Suid-Afrika. Dit dek van die heel onlangse tot die koloniale verlede van polisiëring, militêre ontwikkelinge, intelligensie en diplomاسie in die streek. Dit word gedoen met twee hoof oogmerke: om rou historiese gegewens en die insigte van werklike deelnemers, geboekstaaf in die tradisie van orale vertellings, te bewaar tot voordeel van toekomstige geslagte; en, tweedens, om aan veterane van die dienste en gewapende magte 'n platform te bied waardeur hulle hul verhale en foto's kan deel, vir die leesgenot van ou kamerade, vriende en familie. **NONGQAI** doen dit sonder om die verlede te verheerlik, en ook nie om die verlede weer te wil herleef nie. Ons wil help om die goeie in die verlede te koester, deur die geskiedenis sonder kwaadwilligheid te boekstaaf.

Die eerste **NONGQAI** het in Maart 1907 verskyn as die amptelike kwartaallikse tydskrif van die polisie van die kolonie Natal. Na die totstandkoming van die Unie van Suid-Afrika in 1910, en die daaropvolgende stigting van die Unie-weermag en die nasionale polisiemag in 1913, is besluit om die tydskrifte van die verskillende koloniale magte van voor die Unie, saam te voeg in een. Die naam **NONGQAI**, wat in Zoeloe beteken "die koning se wagte", is gekies vir hierdie saamgevoegde tydskrif, wat die tydskrifte van koloniale dienste soos *The Bandolier*, *The Qakamba*, *The South African Constabulary Journal* en *The Transvaal Police Magazine* vervang het. Die nuwe 1913-weergawe van die **NONGQAI** verteenwoordig dus al die uniformdienste van die Unie, insluitend die Polisie, Weermag en Gevangenisdiens.

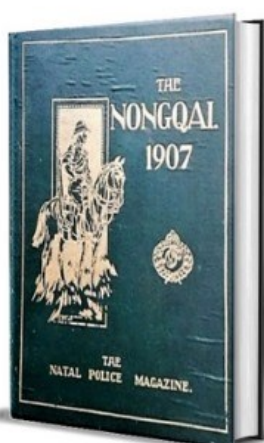
Nadat die Unie die Republiek van Suid-Afrika geword het, het die verskillende dienste geneig om hul eie tydskrifte te ontwikkel, soos *Paratus* vir die weermag en *Servamus* vir die polisie. Die oorgang in 1994 na 'n nie-rassige demokrasie het 'n einde gemaak aan daardie era, maar nie 'n einde aan belangstelling in die geskiedenis van daardie epogmakende tye nie. Brigadier Hennie Heymans het daarom die **NONGQAI** in e-tydskrif vorm laat herleef as 'n bewaarplek van data, herinneringe en ontledings oor die nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis van Suid-Afrika.

NONGQAI se tradisionele e-tydskrifte (standaard en vroue-edisies) word aan die begin van elke maand gepubliseer en word gratis op ons Blog www.nongqai.org en die ISSUU-platform gedra. Spesiale uitgawes, wat elk oor 'n spesifieke tema handel, word gereeld gepubliseer. Ons Blog-artikels daarenteen, verskyn deurlopend, en so ook ons video's op YouTube. Die beleid van die redakteurs van **NONGQAI** is om nie in te meng met die inhoud wat deur bydraers voorgelê word nie, behalwe vir eenvormige blad-opmaak en hersiening van spelling en grammatika. **Die inhoud is dus die verantwoordelikheid van elke individuele bydraende outeur; Nongqai, sy redakteurs en uitgewers aanvaar geen aanspreeklikheid daarvoor nie.** Die doel is om die voormalige deelnemers so outentiek en direk as moontlik te laat praat, sodat historici dit as bron van rou historiese gegewens kan gebruik in hul historiografiese evalueringe. **NONGQAI** self is dus ook nie 'n akademiese geskiedenis-publikasie wat aanspraak maak op wetenskaplike beoordeling of verifiëring van die inhoud wat sy vrywilliger bydraers op sy bladsye gedeel het nie.

NONGQAI, hetsy as tydskrifte of digitale media, is heeltemal gratis en toeganklik op ons web-blad: <https://nongqai.org> Dit kan aanlyn gelees word of as .pdf-dokumente afgelaai word. Die argief van vorige uitgawes verteenwoordig 'n skatkamer van historiese gegewens, foto's, persoonlike herinneringe en staaltjies, sowel as ontledings van belangrike nasionale veiligheidskwessies van die verlede en die hede – dit word bewaar op ons Blog, sowel as deur die Akademia Biblioteek.



NONGQAI is a free online repository of memories, historic data and analysis relating to the national security history of Southern Africa. It covers from the very recent to the very ancient past of policing, military developments, intelligence, and diplomacy in the region. It does so with two main goals: to provide raw historic data and insights from actual participants, in the tradition of oral history, for the benefit of future generations; and, secondly, to provide ex members of the services and armed forces with a platform through which to share their stories and photographs, for the reading pleasure of old comrades-in-arms, friends and family. This **NONGQAI** does, without glorifying the past, nor wishing to live again the past. It helps cherish the good in the past, recording history without malice.



The original **NONGQAI** magazine had started out in March 1907 as the official quarterly magazine of the police of the colony of Natal. After the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910, and the subsequent founding of the Union defence force and the national police force in 1913, it was decided to amalgamate the magazines serving the different pre-union colonial forces into one. The name **NONGQAI**, which in Zulu means “the king’s watchmen”, was chosen for this amalgamated magazine, which replaced the pre-union colonial services magazines such as *The Bandolier*, *The Qakamba*, *The South African Constabulary Journal* and *The Transvaal Police Magazine*. The new 1913 version of the **NONGQAI** thus represented all the uniformed services of the new Union, including the police, the military, and the prisons service.

After the Union became the Republic of South Africa, the different services tended to develop their own magazines, such as *Paratus* for the military and *Servamus* for the police. The 1994 transition to a non-racial democracy brought an end to that era, but not an end to interest in the history of that era. Brigadier Hennie Heymans thus revived the **NONGQAI** in e-magazine form, as repository of data, memories, and analysis about the national security history of Southern Africa.

NONGQAI in its traditional magazine format (standard and Ladies’ editions) is published at the beginning of each month and is carried on our Blog www.nongqai.org and the ISSUU platform. Special issues, each dealing with a particular theme, are regularly published. Our Blog posts and YouTube videos, on the other hand, are published throughout the month.

The policy of the editors of **NONGQAI** is not to interfere with the content of articles submitted and deemed publishable, except for uniform formatting and reviewing spelling and grammar. **The content is therefore the responsibility of each individual contributing author; the editors, owners and publishers accept no liability for it.** The objective is to let the former participants talk, as authentically and directly as possible, for historians to use as source of raw historic data in their historiographic evaluations of past events. **NONGQAI** itself thus isn’t, nor does it pretend to be, an academic history publication laying claim to scientific assessment or verification of the content its volunteer contributors had shared through its pages.

NONGQAI is entirely free and accessible on the internet, where it can be read online or downloaded as .pdf documents. Its archive of past editions represents a treasure trove of historic data, personal recollections, and anecdotes, as well as analysis of important national security issues, past and present. This archive can be found on our Blog, and in the care of the Akademia Library.

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THE REASONS BEHIND THE WIDELY PRAISED POLICE HANDLING OF THE 1973 DURBAN STRIKES

by Dr Willem Steenkamp

(Political scientist & retired ambassador, lawyer, and intelligence analyst)

ABSTRACT & KEYWORDS: The informed, sympathetic, and restrained way the South African Police in Durban handled the massive 1973 labour protests there, was a determining factor in the peaceful and productive resolution of that situation. However, the background to, and determinants of the reasoned thinking that had motivated the widely praised Police handling of the 1973 Durban strikes have as yet not been properly analysed and recorded for posterity.

Many observers and academic researchers (especially on the left of the political spectrum) were seemingly mystified by the insightful, carefully calibrated conduct of the police in Durban. They perceived it to have been “mild” (seemingly to their apparent disappointment?) because it did not correspond to their own fixed negative assumptions about policemen at the time. Much of this stemmed from these observers not understanding (or being unwilling to admit) the true nature and origins of the labour protest on the one hand, as well as – on the other hand – not being willing to credit the police for their intelligence capabilities and situational awareness.

Be that as it may, it is generally agreed that the way the Police chose to respond to the situation was central to its peaceful, positive resolution. More importantly, it was also the catalyst for the then SA Government to appreciate the strategic importance of the labour issue in a national security context, given its potential for paralysing the country’s economy. This led the Government of premier John Vorster to urgently embark upon reforming the labour relations legislation so as to stay ahead of the curve, which steps were key in avoiding that (from 1973 right up to the end of the era of white government in 1994), the revolutionary forces on the Left ever could bring the country to a standstill by means of mass national strike action – not even at the height of the internal conflict during the tumultuous 1980s could they successfully organise a countrywide general strike .

In the 50+ years since the 1973 Durban strikes many actors on the left have, in revisionist manner, attempted to claim parentage to those events as if the SACP/ANC and their then sympathisers had inspired the Durban protests. They have also tried to ascribe the fact that the Police had not responded with brutality, as due to the Police supposedly having been “overwhelmed”.

In this article, the author identifies the real causes that ignited and drove the protests, as well as the key Police commanders (and their strategic motivations and intelligence-based insights), assessing these determinants in terms of the theories of “rational actor” and “political learning”.

The Durban policing successes is also compared to the calamitous consequences of less well led, less reasoned, and less disciplined SA Police actions, such as during the Sharpeville Tragedy, the 1976 Soweto youth unrest and the 2012 Marikana Massacre, thereby illustrating the determinative role of police action in how such mass protest events play out, plus what broader negative image consequences they can lead to for the government of the day.

KEYWORDS: 1973 Durban Strikes; South African Police; SAP Security Branch; Brigadier Theo Bisschoff; Colonel Karools Mouton; Colonel Frans Steenkamp; Sharpeville; Soweto youth unrest; Marikana Massacre.

AUTHOR: Dr Willem Steenkamp

READ TIME: 45 minutes

THE 1973 DURBAN STRIKES: BALANCING A ONE-SIDE HISTORICAL RECORD THAT IS MARKED BY REVISIONISM, POLITICAL AGENDAS, AND CONFUSION

South Africa has seen much revisionist re-writing of its history since the change of government in 1994 (which, to be honest, is not much different from similar tendencies in the rest of the world, throughout time, when those who won power retro-actively try to re-cast history in a light favourable to themselves...).

In the case of modern South Africa, this has for example happened with regard to the 1960 Sharpeville Tragedy, where nowadays the historic truth is suppressed that the SACP/ANC at the time had vehemently opposed the PAC's organisation of that protest (to the point of beforehand distributing pamphlets trying to dissuade the black public from participating in those protest actions). Similarly, the fact that the SACP/ANC had had no hand in the Soweto student unrest of 1976 (which was organised by the Black Consciousness Movement), is nowadays ignored as the ANC-led government perennially tries to take ownership of that event.

A further factor which has contributed (in the case of the 1973 Durban labour unrest), to the tendency to portray it as having been part of the SACP/ANC's "unstoppable march" to eventual power, is that many of those who have since written about the 1973 events were, back then, personally involved in the small fringe of Marxist-leaning activism in white student politics in Durban at that time. Consequently, there is in the public record a one-sided imbalance, due to a preponderance of writing on the subject having originated from this one particular ideological angle, but also due to a corresponding dearth of writing and analysis looking at those Durban events from the opposite angle – therefore, a textbook case of a "single story" by default dominating the public record.

This has left many who nowadays wish to find out what had actually transpired in Durban in 1973 with a confused picture as to what exactly had happened there, and – even more importantly – WHY it happened in that supposedly unusual manner.

Two examples of this self-serving latter-day revisionism will suffice to illustrate the point. Dave Hemson (who had been a leader among the small activist group of leftist students who had tried very hard to gain influence over the protesting workers at the time) wrote for the 50th commemoration in 2023 that: *"The police were armed and widely present; additional militarized police with battle experience in the then Rhodesia were flown in as reinforcements. Some marches were baton charged, others teargassed, some arrested and charged but over time the police were paralyzed by the human wave of strikes and abandoned enforcing the anti-strike laws".* (**Review of African Political Economy, June 2023**).

Grace Davie of Queens College, City University of New York, wrote: *"In the early 1970s, white university students helped change debate about low wages in South Africa by convincing workers to base their claims for higher pay on the Poverty Datum Line (PDL), an academic measure of the cost of living for average urban households. Founding members of the Student Wages Commission*

reached out to workers through propaganda, overcame workers' initial suspicions, avoided infiltration by police spies and eventually convinced dockworkers to attend meetings of the Department of Labour's Wage Board. Through a complex process of translation, statistics became a means of speaking back to the state. By winning media support and persuading workers to appropriate the PDL, the Wages Commissions created a less predictable and more fluid dynamic between employers and employees in the months leading up to the landmark 1973 Durban strikes". (Journal of Southern African Studies, Volume 33, Number 2, June 2007).

On the other hand, directly after the strikes the Institute for Industrial Education (the brainchild of activist Durban academic Rick Turner, who had inspired his students to set up the Wages Commission) had investigated the labour protests in depth and published a report coordinated by one of those students (Gerhard P. Maré) in 1974, which back then had stated:

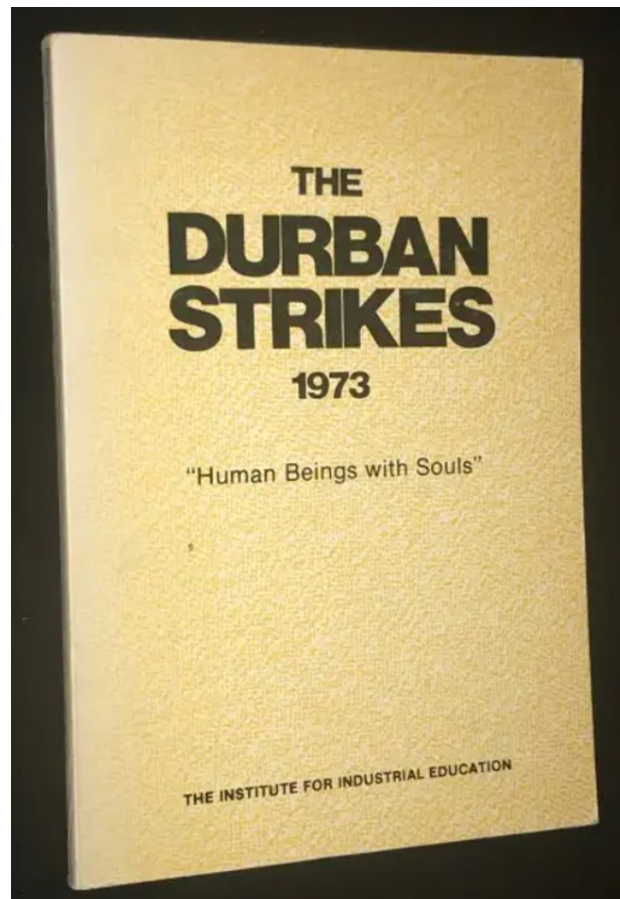
"African workers had previously struggled to use the trade union and strike weapons of the industrial proletariat, but had failed, both because of repressive State action and because of certain crucial social factors, in particular, the fact that many of the workers were unskilled labourers and easily replaceable by the large numbers of unemployed. The Durban strikes are different in two important ways.

"Firstly, the State did not intervene in strength. No force was used against strikers. The arrests that were made were of groups of workers marching through the streets who were fined minimal sums, and no violence was used to force workers back to work. Secondly, the strikes were largely successful. The workers did not have their initial demands satisfied, but nearly all of them did gain appreciable wage increases...

"The strikes either came about through some quite complicated underground organisation (of which there is no evidence), or else they came about as a result of a large number of independent decisions by unofficial leaders and influential workers in different factories."

In the booklet Maré explained the origins of this Social Sciences-based study as follows:

"Foszia Fisher and Karel Tip and other members of the Staff, and the Academic Advisory Panel of the Institute for industrial Education... Lawrence Schlemmer, of the Institute for Social Research at the university of Natal, gave us all manner of advice and assistance. Alec Erwin, of the Department of Economics, and Eddie Webster, of the Department of Sociology contributed many helpful comments on the original manuscript... This study was originally designed and initiated by Richard Turner, of the Department of History and Political Science at the University of Natal, but restrictions placed upon him by the government at the end of February, 1973 made it illegal for him to take any further part in the study, We regret that we are not permitted to associate his name with this publication, Two other participants, Halton Cheadle and David Hemson, have also since been banned and, can, likewise, no longer be associated with this publication." This "pre-revisionism" study conducted and reported by the then core group of Leftist campus activists themselves, can therefore be seen as a much more truthful account of what had actually transpired in 1973 than the latter-day revisionism highlighted above.



A thread running through most of the academic writing on the 1973 Durban strikes and the role of the Police in relation thereto, is that the restraint shown was supposedly “surprising” and somewhat of a “mystery”.

Julian Brown, for example, wrote in ***The Durban strikes of 1973: Political identities and the management of protest*** (Cambridge University Press, 2018) that: “*I argue that – somewhat surprisingly – the state and employers did not automatically use violence to repress the strikes in Durban.*”

Similarly, Geoffrey Wood of the Department of Sociology at Rhodes University stated in an article entitled “***The 1973 Durban Strikes – of Local and National Significance***” that: “*The state’s reaction was surprisingly muted. Although riot police were flown in from Pretoria and a strong police presence was visible in the townships, almost no violence occurred. Indeed, it seems that police hardly ever interfered in disputes.*”

The **Wikipedia** entry on the 1973 Durban strikes contains the following sub-heading:

“Insufficient Explanations: The Mystery of 1973

The wave of strikes proved to be a puzzle for many: government, the media, unions, and social scientists, among others. What was difficult to explain was the fact that after a prolonged period of union-bashing which was more successful than not, a resurgence would take such a sudden and dramatic form.

While government officials such as the minister of labour and others announced that agitators had orchestrated the entire episode, other government agencies such as the police admitted that they had not detected the presence of specific groupings pulling the strings...

Wikipedia (on role of Police): The police were present throughout the duration of the strikes. However, they rarely intervened and were reportedly told to use only minimum force when required. For the most part, strikers were described as "generally good-natured" and non-violent. ... It is noted amongst scholars that if police had intervened, matters would have escalated and become dangerous. Employers and members of parliament insisted that "agitators" were responsible for causing the strikes. Marais Viljoen, the Minister of Labour, blamed the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), the Black Workers' Project (BWP) and the Trade Union Council of South Africa for the labour disputes and made reference to how agitators were planning on taking down the State. Despite this, police claimed there to be "no evidence of an organisation behind the strikes."

Modern-day **Artificial Intelligence (AI) bots** are also not exactly in accord with each other about the role of the Police in the 1973 Durban labour protest actions, nor on how the strikes unfolded.

Chat GPT states: "The South African Police (SAP) played a significant and complex role during the **1973 Durban Labour Unrest**, a major turning point in the history of South Africa's labour movement... The SAP's role in the 1973 Durban strikes was one of **surveillance, intimidation, and selective repression**, but not full-scale violence. Their relatively restrained response marked a shift in how the apartheid state dealt with African labour — partly because the scale of the unrest showed that repression alone was no longer a sustainable solution."

Taking a different tack, X's **GROK AI** gave a much more nuanced reply to the self-same question about the role played by the Police.

GROK AI (X): "The South African Police (SAP) played a significant but restrained role during the 1973 Durban Labour Unrest, a series of strikes involving over 60,000 black workers demanding better wages and working conditions. The strikes, which began on January 9, 1973, at the Coronation Brick and Tile factory and spread across various industries, were illegal under the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act of 1953, which prohibited black African workers from striking. Despite this, the SAP's response was notably measured, contributing to the largely peaceful nature of the protests.

"The SAP was quickly mobilized to maintain public order, as the scale of the strikes—eventually involving around 100,000 workers by March—caught the government and employers off guard. The police were present throughout the strikes, but they rarely intervened directly and were instructed to use minimal force. **This approach was based on accurate intelligence and situational awareness, which helped prevent the escalation of tensions.** For instance, at the Coronation Brick and Tile strike, 1,500 workers marched peacefully, and the police presence did not lead to significant confrontations. Scholars note that had the police adopted a more aggressive stance, the situation could have escalated dangerously.

"The SAP's professional and judicious handling of the unrest was widely praised in contemporary media. The Natal Witness reported the arrival of SAP units in camouflage gear as "shock troops," but emphasized their calm and non-repressive conduct. Similarly, the Natal Mercury commended the SAP for its restrained approach, noting that it avoided heavy-handed tactics despite the illegality of the strikes. Only 353 arrests were made by the end of 1973, a relatively low number given the scale of the protests, further highlighting the police's minimal intervention.

"This restraint was not universal, however. Later in 1973, at the AA Western Deep Levels mine, police violently suppressed a smaller strike, resulting in 12 deaths, indicating that the SAP's

approach varied depending on the context and perceived threat. In Durban, the peaceful nature of the strikes, combined with the SAP's strategic decision to avoid provocation, allowed workers to negotiate wage increases without significant violence. This contributed to the strikes' success and laid the groundwork for the resurgence of black trade unionism, eventually leading to the formation of major unions like the Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU) in 1979.

“In summary, the SAP's role in the 1973 Durban Labour Unrest was primarily one of containment through presence rather than active repression. Their restrained approach, guided by effective intelligence, helped maintain public order while allowing the strikes to proceed largely peacefully, marking a significant moment in South Africa's labour history.”

As will be shown below, the manner in which the Police managed the 1973 Durban strikes was in fact neither surprising nor a mystery – it actually was a textbook example of what modern Business and Political Science would describe as “Rational Action” (the theory that humans typically will, in reasoned manner, choose the most beneficial course of action open to them) and that the restraint showed was also a consequence of another theory, namely that of “Political Learning” (which postulates that humans learn from past mistakes).

What assessments by left-leaning authors that the Police action was “surprising” and a “mystery” illustrates, is a lack of knowledge about both the true determinants of the unrest as well as about the intelligence capabilities and situational awareness that the Police possessed (plus, an ingrained prejudice on the part of such authors whose default assumptions didn't allow them to credit the Police with the level of sophisticated insight and empathy that in fact marked the thinking and actions of the Police).

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED, FOR WHAT REASONS, AND GUIDED BY WHOM?

BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The Labour Situation at the time

During the first half of the seventies much of Durban's Black labour force consisted of Zulu-speaking migrant workers from the interior of the province of Natal. They were mostly housed in employer-provided hostel compounds, within which traditional *indunas* exercised considerable influence. It was also part of the traditional societal fabric of the migrant worker pool that most labourers who worked in a particular industry (and thus residing in a company-associated compound) would hail from the same region and clan in the interior. For example, the workers of Durban's municipal sanitation department (manning the refuse removal trucks) practically all came from the same clan in Southern Natal, whilst those working the “night cars” in turn came from a neighbouring clan. Speaking the same language, sharing the same culture, and then mostly hailing from the same clans per industry, ensured that the famously effective African “bush telegraph” did its reputation proud during the labour unrest in 1973, with information passing between different hostels, industries, geographical locations and individual workers with lightning speed – also to workers residing in townships outside the hostels.

The migrant workers were mostly unskilled manual labourers, for example working as stevedores on the docks or as porters in the municipal market, who could easily be replaced by employers.

Typically, these migrant workers were traditionalist in outlook, and practically all were still firmly part of the social structure into which Zulu males were organised from birth – one could stop at any filling station in the province (as well as in the Zulu-dominated areas beyond) and ask any pump attendant to which Zulu regiment he belonged, and he would unhesitatingly be able to state his affiliation. Thus, the Zulu royal family and the views of the king, his prime minister and indunas carried great weight. Importantly for the events to unfold in 1973, so did the typical Zulu male cultural norms and warrior ethos, which prized manliness, discipline and dignity and which insisted upon respect.

There were industries that required skilled workers, such as machine operators and the like, where trained and experienced workers could not as easily be replaced by employers as they could those essentially rendering merely manual labour. This applied to sectors such as textiles and those requiring licensed drivers for vehicles, for example. These kinds of posts were typically occupied by workers, Black and Indian, who were locally resident on a permanent basis in the townships around Durban – not by migrant labour.

What was the Industrial Relations system in place by law in South Africa in early 1973? At the outbreak of the Durban strikes in January 1973, Black workers did not enjoy the right to unionise, nor to go on strike. The official system then in place made provision for the establishment of sectoral Wages Boards under the auspices of the Department of Labour, which would periodically review and determine minimum wages applicable to different industrial sectors, which determinations the employers (and employees) then had to abide by. However, at that time this system was functioning less than optimally, with long delays between determinations unfortunately being common.

The Political Situation in Natal in 1973

In terms of popular support (or rather, lack thereof) the SACP/ANC found itself at a low point in Natal at the beginning of the 1970s. Its public action campaigns against, for example, the pass laws had attracted few participants. The sabotage attempts by its military wing, MK, had fizzled out (the operatives having been arrested), and in the province the movement was internally divided about the wisdom of resorting to armed struggle, which had been opposed by the former ANC President Chief Albert Luthuli and leading local communists such as Rowley Arenstein. However, small activist cells still existed, particularly in academic circles, with Rick Turner prominent, striving to inspire those among his students who showed leftist leanings to engage in concrete activism.

Given the communist ethos of promoting proletarian revolution among the working class, it was logical that – considering the prior failure of the SACP/ANC's attempts at mass mobilization and armed struggle – there would be an attempted shift to increased emphasis from their side on prioritising worker-focused action. It was thus evident to activists (and to the State's intelligence community) that the labour terrain potentially held great strategic importance, since the demographics of the country dictated that the successful mass mobilisation of black workers in the cause of a communist-inspired revolution, could indeed paralyse the country's economy and bring the white-governed state to a fall.

Again, however, there was at the time no consensus among leftist activists in Durban as to how to go about this. Rick Turner, understanding the reality of migrant worker importance in the equation and comprehending their traditionalist outlook, believed that the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) of the Zulu king's prime minister, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, was an unavoidably necessary tool with which to reach and cultivate these workers. However, more fundamentalist Marxists among the ranks of activists in Durban saw Buthelezi as a reactionary and a threat to the SACP/ANC. As was

eventually shown in the 1994 elections, the IFP was indeed the dominant Black political force in the province, especially so among hostel dwellers, and communism as such was anathema to these traditionalist Zulus.

From the IFP side, there was an obvious political incentive for them to be publicly seen as instrumental in achieving the betterment of the wages of their followers and thus the IFP worked hard to facilitate this, but they were simultaneously also aware of the need not to harm the economy through sanctions and unreasonable industrial action, which would in Buthelezi's view hurt Blacks more than Whites. Nevertheless, at the time of the Durban strikes in 1973 many employers held the erroneous belief that it was Buthelezi who was behind the strikes (he was, in fact, out of the country, on a trip to the USA), thereby illustrating the fact that the then-reigning public perception was that the traditionalist IFP was the main local political force, and not the SACP/ANC.

Anti-government Activist Aspirations at the time

Because the SACP/ANC's mass mobilization campaigns and armed struggle had failed to gain traction, by the early seventies their focus in the Durban area had indeed shifted to trying to instigate labour activism. This was initially mostly directed at the local textile industry, which at the time employed about a third of all Black industrial workers in Durban and surrounds. What these mostly non-Zulu Leftist activists found, however, is that the workers were not interested in unionisation, nor in communist ideology. Their concern was their wages. Therefore, the angle of approach adopted by the Left was to promote the formation of mutual benefit societies (akin to stokvels and burial societies) instead of unions, and to launch among student activists the Wages Commission, which had as priority their Poverty Datum Line project. This latter strove to exploit the research and data processing capabilities available to students, to determine factually what kind of information to present to the Department of Labour's Wage Boards, for the purpose of determining sectoral minimum wages (from the political perspective, though, this project would serve the Activist Left as a means with which to **conscientize** the workers about just how unjust their wages were and to **polarize** them against the system purportedly exploiting and oppressing them, with a view then to more easily **mobilizing** these conscientized, polarised workers into action aimed at bringing the system down).

SAP-SB Concerns and Preparations in the run-up to the 1973 Labour Protests

On the part of the Security Branch of the SA Police (SAP-SB) the potential for Marxist activists to target the Black labour force because of its clear potential to be developed into a key strategic tool, was well understood. The SAP-SB, tasked with maintaining a stable environment for economic and constitutional development, thus had four primary goals in the strategic arena of industrial relations:

- Because of Black labour's strategic importance, to avoid that Marxist activists capture the Black labour corps (for which, above all, good intelligence was needed);
- To avoid that activist organisations achieve substantial standing with Black labour (for which it was necessary to ensure that the white activists not receive any recognition or credit for any improvements in working conditions achieved);
- To facilitate (when tense situations arise that could easily be exploited by activists to foment discontent), that the necessary remedial action be promptly taken by employers and government – the top two such stability-threatening situations being unfairly low wages and a dysfunctional Industrial Relations system (the SAP-SB, from their perspective, therefore

saw equally as much need for fair wages to be paid as any activist did, and furthermore understood the essential need for the State to have a functional Industrial Relations system in place);

- The SAP-SB's last goal was that, in dealing with industrial action by Black workers (and whilst ensuring the maintenance of public safety and protection of property), that the Police take no unnecessary actions that would antagonise workers, create martyrs (and mediatic funeral events) and serve to feed the Activist Left's very capable propaganda machine – such as had, for example, happened in the case of the Sharpeville Tragedy little more than a decade earlier, leading to untold damage to the image of the Police and the State.

The Police's actions in the run-up to and during the 1973 Durban strikes (as informed by the local SAP-SB command), were thus not based on knee-jerk reactions but were rationally calculated to serve the State's best interest – exactly in the manner of “rational action” theory in Economics and Social Sciences, which postulates that human beings are likely to follow courses of action that best serve their fundamental interests. Having learned from the Sharpeville Tragedy, the way in which the Police chose to handle the 1973 Durban Strikes also conforms to modern “political learning” theory, which postulates that humans learn from the consequences of costly past mistakes.

As we shall see, the conduct of the Police in Durban is thus not such a “mystery” as pretended in some circles, nor was it an aberration. Instead, it is entirely logically explicable as having been both rational and the product of learning – this insight is, of course, predicated on the condition that those proffering judgements do not simply assume that the police were irredeemably dumb brutes, incapable of learning and of rational action...

The SAP-SB country-wide had been well aware of the strategic importance of the labour relations field, as well as of increasing efforts at the beginning of the 1970s by SACP/ANC orientated campus activists to target this potentially mighty weapon. The 1968 student unrest in Europe, particularly in Paris, had also made clear that university campuses could become hotbeds of revolutionary activism. For those reasons the SAP-SB (not to mention the Bureau for State Security, which then actually had primary responsibility for intelligence gathering about student activism) had made a concerted effort to set up reliable intelligence-gathering networks on every campus. Serving SAP-SB officers (but undeclared as such) enrolled as students, whilst other officers openly studying on campus served as official liaison between the SAP-SB and university administrations.

In the case of the University of Natal, to my knowledge the SAP-SB had had at least seven of its officers deployed there as enrolled students at the start of the seventies. One such *bona fide* SAP-SB student at Howard College and who eventually graduated, eventually going on to a Master's degree, was then-lieutenant Hennie Heymans (today **NONGQAI**'s editor) who had at that time been designated by the then SAP-SB CO in Durban, Col Frans Steenkamp, as the official liaison between the SAP-SB and the Natal University Durban's administration.

The identities of the other (undeclared) SAP-SB officers who were enrolled at the University of Natal in the run-up to the 1973 Durban Strikes have not become public knowledge and I will continue to respect that – but lest I'm suspected of making this up, I can mention that I personally know that one of them had resided in Room E.69 of the William O'Brien Residence for a time...

The depth and breadth of this kind of SAP-SB campus penetration can be judged by the intelligence presence on the Student Representative Council of Witwatersrand University in 1973, in the case of which the names of some of those officers involved have since emerged into the public domain.

On the photo below it can be seen that the two vice-presidents, as well as the treasurer of the council, were in fact intelligence officers (Arthur McGiven, Derek Brune and Craig Williamson) with their colleague Karl Edwards playing a leading role as well on the Wits campus. These are only the State intelligence operatives whose true roles have since become public knowledge and does not include sources and agents cultivated and managed by them, nor the ones who have to this day remained un-identified...



It should also be considered that, in the specific case of the University of Natal, the student body and faculty in general were quite conservative. As Bill Guest wrote in *STELLA AURORAE: THE HISTORY OF A SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY*: "For the most part the white student body as a whole was much more conservative than liberal in character, there being constant wrangling over whether to maintain a central affiliation to NUSAS".

Up to 1965 the vice-chancellor (rector) of Natal University had been Prof EG (Ernie) Malherbe, who had been head of South Africa's wartime intelligence during WW2, and many lecturers also had served in intelligence structures prior to turning to academia. Malherbe was strongly conservative about key issues, such as being against the admission of non-white undergraduate students. He

was succeeded by Prof Owen Horwood, who served as rector from 1965 to 1970 and then became a government cabinet minister.

Horwood, whose wife was a sister of Rhodesian prime minister Ian Smith, was succeeded by the British surgeon Prof Francis E. Stock who was serving as rector when the 1973 Durban labour protests erupted. Bill Guest wrote of Stock (who was an establishment figure who, before coming to Durban, had been commodore of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club and who received a CBE from the late queen at the end of his term as Natal University rector) that Stock: *"...is also shown up for his overly cautious political stance and for his opposition to the admission of black undergraduate students to whites-only universities."*

Thus, whilst there were activists such as Dr Rick Turner among the faculty, the university as a whole and particularly its top administration was conservative and were cooperative with the SAP-SB, maintaining formal liaison channels with it. Grace Davie's earlier-quoted statement that the Durban Student Wages Commission *"avoided infiltration by police spies"* is thus mere wishful thinking on her part...

A very pertinent concern of the local Police stemmed from their institutional memory of the combative male Zulu culture, the public order consequences of which had been dramatically experienced in the region as recently as 1949 and 1960. The Police command was very much aware of and fully understood the powder-keg nature of discontent boiling among proud Zulu men who felt disrespected and exploited, knowing how it had exploded into mayhem during the 1949 Durban anti-Indian Pogrom and the 1960 Cato Manor riots.

On 13 January 1949 an Indian shop-owner had assaulted a Zulu youngster. News of this had spread rapidly via the bush telegraph and ignited a pent-up wave of anger amongst the Zulu population against Indians in general, fed by a sense of being disrespected and exploited by them. Six days of carnage followed, leaving a total of 142 people dead and a further 1,087 injured. A total of 247 houses, 58 shops and one factory were completely destroyed and more than one thousand houses, over six hundred shops and two factories were damaged.

What the local Police in 1973 knew had to be avoided above anything else, was a repeat of such a violent outburst of pent-up anger and resentment.

The press clippings below illustrate what the history of 1949 had demonstrated to the Police about how destructively Zulu anger could explode, and thus the need for carefully considered and appropriately calibrated action.



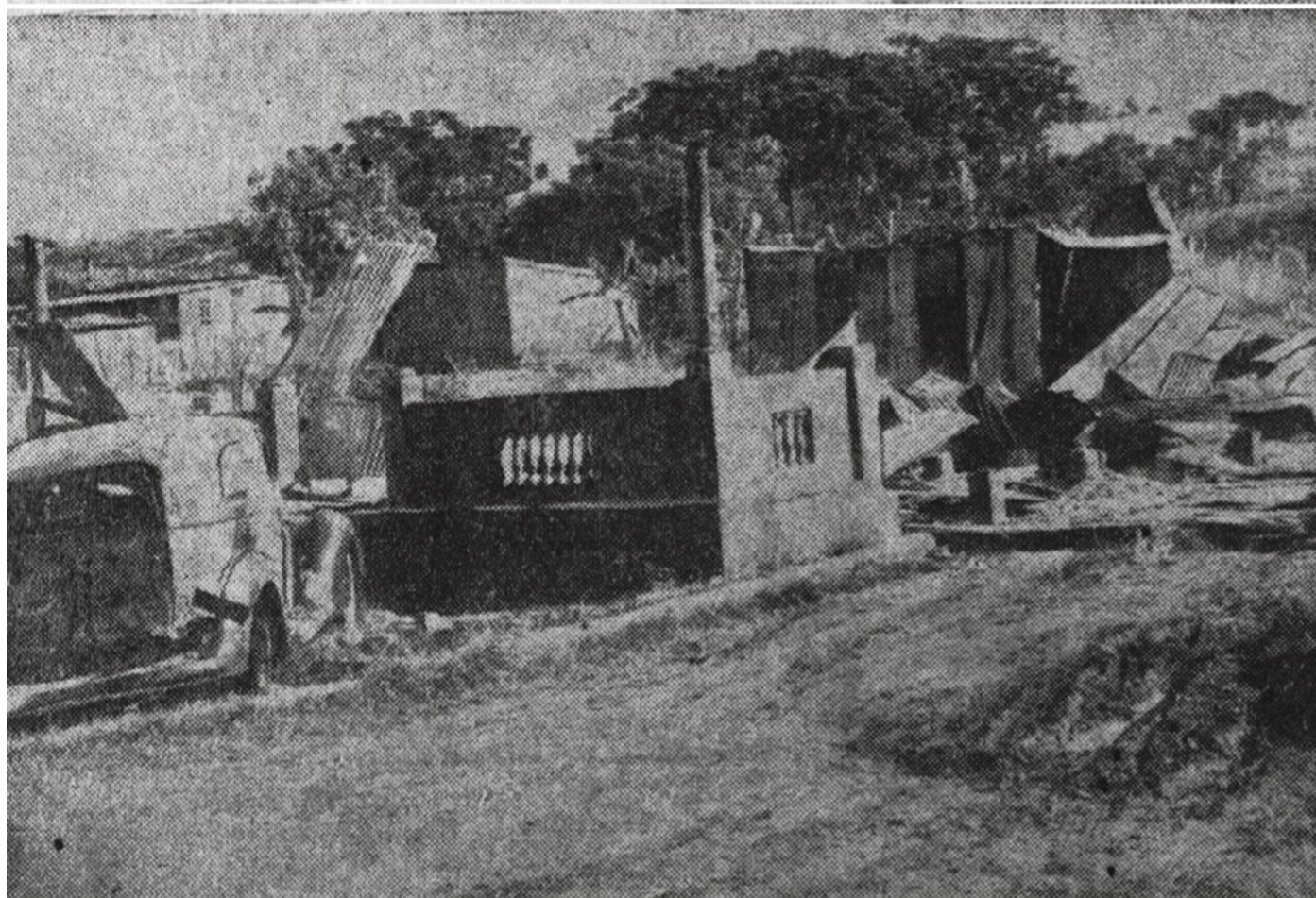
ARMoured cars patrolling Durban and the city environs helped to bring calm to the town during the day. A lorry load of Naval detachments is seen on the far side of the street.



Early yesterday evening the police clashed with a mob of Natives in Commercial Road and a fierce fight took place before they were dispersed. It was still later in the evening that the situation took on an uglier turn.



HE joined the rioters, caught in the madness that infects a mob. But for him there will be no more such moments of wild excitement. For him, this is the end.



Frightened Indians returned to their homes from the bush and other places of refuge this morning to find scenes like this. It was here that impis surged into Booth Road, assaulting and smashing as they went. In many cases, occupants failed to escape and were killed.

The Police's awareness of what mob psychosis could lead to was reinforced by the 1960 riots in Cato Manor (then a shanty suburb of Durban) during which nine policemen on an illicit liquor patrol were murdered by an incensed mob, when a Shebeen Queen (i.e., owner of an unlicensed township speak-easy selling home brews) riled them up by falsely accusing the policemen of having assaulted her and disrespected her dignity.



The tragedy that befell their police colleagues at Cato Manor was to play an important role some two months later at Sharpeville, when a crowd of some twenty thousand who had surrounded the isolated police compound there and who were pressing in, taunted the trapped officers that the same fate as at Cato Manor was in stall for them...

Suffice it to say, the Durban police commanders in 1973 were very much aware of how volatile mob psychosis could be, when proud traditionalist Zulu men rightfully felt aggrieved about disrespect and exploitation. The officers in charge well understood that the situation wasn't at heart a Eurocentric ideological contest about capitalism versus Marxism, but a much more culturally driven and thus very potent anger rooted in traditional values and self-esteem, fed by the practical realities of blatant exploitation and bureaucratic inefficiency.

Above all, the police commanders understood that it would be largely in their hands, whether a peaceful and just solution could be arrived at, or a repeat of 1949 and 1960 would be ignited – which

would play directly into the hands of the leftist activists circling the fray to seize upon any such opportunity...

The Size and Mission of the SA Police Force and its Security Branch in 1973

According to UN data, when viewed globally the average number of policemen per thousand of the population is three officers; in Argentina, for example, it is 7.98/1000; in France 4.22; Italy 4.56; Greece 5.07; the Netherlands 2.95; and in the New South Africa it is 3.5).

So, in the “Apartheid Police State”, what was the number of policemen that the SAP had at its disposal, per thousand of the population? If we take 1970 as a basis (when South Africa consisted of the present Republic plus modern-day Namibia), then the South African ratio of policemen per thousand of the population was only **1.379** per thousand. The only other countries on earth with figures anywhere near as low as these that I could find are Haiti and Lesotho, and then Finland (none of which can in any way be compared to South Africa). Thus, it is easy to prove that South Africa during the seventies, when it was frequently described as a “police state”, was in fact one that was hugely deficient in the number of police it maintained...

In addition to the already substantial population of the RSA plus SWA/Namibia who had to be “protected and served” (as per the SAP’s motto), it must also be remembered how enormously vast the extent of territory was that had to be policed by the SAP in those years – at that time it was the 13th largest territory on earth, larger than the territory of all the following European countries combined: Spain + Portugal + France + Italy + Belgium + Netherlands + Germany + Luxembourg + Switzerland + the Czech Republic!

The national borders that had to be guarded were 6,434km long – 2.5 times the distance between London and Moscow. The coastline extended for 4,912 kilometres...

The mission statement adopted by the SAP was: *“We undertake, impartially and with respect for the laws and norms of society, to protect the interests of the country and everyone therein against any criminal violation, through efficient service rendered in an accountable manner.”*

The Security Branch of the SA Police (initially known as the “Special Branch”) had been founded prior to the Second World War. Its function was to investigate political activity conducted outside the legal framework provided by the constitution (for example, through political actors employing violence such as physical intimidation, sabotage, and terror to promote political ends), as well as crimes aimed at undermining the security of the state, such as espionage and treason. Upon having investigated such alleged crimes, the SAP-SB had to prepare dockets of evidence for the consideration of the attorneys-general in charge of prosecutions, who would then present such cases to court for adjudication. At no time in its history did the SAP-SB exceed 3,000 men.

During its initial years, when South Africa found itself at war with Nazi Germany, the SAP-SB was focused upon investigating radical right-wing activism that supported Nazism and/or undermined the country’s war effort. After WW2, with the advent of the Cold War, the focus shifted to countering communism, which ideology had been outlawed in South Africa (as it had been in places like Australia, as well). The era was dominated by the Cold War communist threat to the West, and in parallel saw the advent of rapid decolonisation, which in Africa gave rise to increasing demands by the indigenous populations for political rights (which the National Party government that came to power in South Africa in 1948 was unwilling to concede within a unitary state). The resultant conflict led many in Black ranks to see their only hope as being allied with the USSR and conducting an

armed struggle aimed at establishing a Marxist people's republic. This found expression in the alliance between the SACP and ANC, and the formation of MK as its armed wing, which immediately launched a sabotage campaign and which actively planned guerilla warfare against the white state.

What motivated SAP-SB members (as still first and foremost policemen) was not any notion of going out on behalf of government to impose by force the ideology of the day such as Apartheid, but rather to protect the population they were sworn to serve against what they saw as a very real existential threat, namely the imposition of a Marxist people's republic by means of a revolution, instigated extra-legally by local communists and their allies serving as proxies for the USSR.

As reflected in the segments quoted earlier, the SAP and its SB had been generally portrayed as brutish killers and torturers. However, the statistics prove that, between 1960 and 1990, only 67 people died in SAP-SB detention from all causes, the vast bulk of which were natural – only a handful of cases had caused suspicion. For context, this figure of 67 needs to be compared to:

- 474 Australian Aboriginals who died in police custody there, during a similar 30-year period.
- The 214 prisoners who in the year 2019 alone had died in the custody of the new S.A. Police Service.
- The “approximately 900” MK members who, according to the TRC, perished abroad under the care of the SACP/ANC during the conduct of their “armed struggle”.
- The 11,000 deaths in custody in the state of Texas over the past 15 years. (Texas has about half of SA's population)
- The 350 people killed by British Security Forces during the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland (from a total population of only 1.5 million, i.e., $\frac{1}{30}$ th of that of the RSA, or
- the 50,000 deaths, 30,000 “disappearances” and 400,000 detentions by South American security forces (with training and technical assistance from the USA) during the so-called “Dirty War” waged against the Left there, during the Cold War.

(Even a single death in custody is, of course, regrettable. Morally speaking, the aim here is not to point the finger at others in a “yes-but” way, like the pot calling the kettle black – the purpose is simply to provide background which may help readers comprehend why the 1973 Durban strikes were handled by the Police in the reasoned and humane way that they undeniably were).



A telling insight into how the SAB-SB officers saw themselves and their world can be had from the emblem that they themselves had designed for an own distinguishing necktie (see photo). This wasn't something intended to be heraldically registered as an official coat-of-arms, but more like an own club emblem. Nevertheless, its symbolism is significant.

Instead of using typical police symbols such as batons or handcuffs, they chose a chess piece – the knight. Signifying that, in their minds, they were engaged in an intellectual contest that resembled a game of chess. The choice of the knight invokes notions of chivalry and is also rooted in the fact that the knight is the most nimble, agile piece on the board – capable of jumping in behind enemy lines – and not dependent just on straight-line brute force. The other element of the design is a lodestar above: following the Light and staying on course, not straying from the straight and narrow...

THE KEY POLICE COMMANDERS WHO MANAGED THE POLICE RESPONSE

Even though the local Durban police clearly formed part of a national command structure which laid down policy and goals (as ultimately received from their minister and government-of-the-day) it is evident that the local commanding officers on the front line – each with their own personalities, life experiences and outlook – had played a key role in ensuring that the forces at their disposal were disciplined and well directed, so as to achieve the strategic outcomes desired.

Three officers were of particular importance – the divisional commissioner for Port Natal division (i.e., Durban and coast), Brigadier TM “Theo” Bischoff, his second-in-command Colonel HA “Karools” Mouton (who was the operational commander of the uniformed men on the streets), and the divisional CO of the SAP-SB for Port Natal, Colonel FMA “Frans” Steenkamp.

Brigadier TM (Theo) Bisschoff – Divisional Commissioner Port Natal



Brigadier Theo Bisschoff had many years of experience in Durban by the time that the 1973 labour unrest surged to the surface. He had originally been transferred to the Durban-South police district from Harrismith, where he was to become the district commandant while holding the rank of Major. Over time Bisschoff gained various promotions, up to brigadier (nowadays known as brigadier general), which is the rank he held in 1973 as then the Divisional Commissioner for the entire Port Natal division.

I knew Brigadier Bisschoff through his love for tennis – he captained the Durban police men's team (my mother captained the women's team). Although myself just a little boy at the time, I remember him as being well-respected as man and as commanding officer. Strict but fair, with human empathy, he could maintain discipline whilst also retaining the loyalty and respect of those serving under him. He encouraged the young policemen to study further, for example, by facilitating for them to enrol at Natal University. He was an elder in his church and took his faith and its values seriously.

Theo Bisschoff was a "no nonsense" officer but was also endowed with empathy and common sense, as well as sound moral values – during the 1973 Durban strikes Brigadier Bisschoff was quoted by the media as telling journalists that: "*The police have nothing whatsoever against people*

demanding higher wages – provided they do not break the law". He also gave strict instructions that minimum force was to be used at all times (i.e., if and when any force at all was objectively required in order, as last resort, to ensure public safety and to protect property, it had to be of absolute minimum nature – otherwise, the police had to maintain a strictly hands-off posture).

Theo Bisschoff eventually retired from the Police with the rank of major-general.

Colonel HA (Karoools) Mouton – Operational Head of Uniformed Forces



Hendrik Albertus Mouton, who became known as “Karoools” in police circles, was born on 10 June 1927 in the Karoo hamlet of Brandvlei, the only son of a poor and struggling small farmer. His nickname Karoools was a reference to his hardy Karoo youth. For the Mouton family, every day was a challenge, having to deal with grinding poverty. The situation was aggravated when his father died when he was but a little boy.

As the district commander in East London in the 1960s Karoools Mouton was outraged by the low wages paid to black farm workers. On more than one occasion he warned farming associations that crime on farms was the result of the low wages for workers and said that he personally would have resorted to crime if he was one of them. Farmers, to prevent crime, had to improve the treatment of their workers.

Later, after having been transferred to Durban, he told a factory owner (who had insisted that the police must use force against strikers) that he would not allow his constables to be stoned by workers who do not receive proper wages.

Karools Mouton became known as a strict disciplinarian, setting the highest standards of performance and behaviour for himself and those under his command. This included fitness demands. As a young man, he was an above average amateur boxer and would remain active in sport for his entire career. He played his last rugby game in 1971 at the age of 44. He took early retirement from the Police in 1982, at age 55, then holding the rank of brigadier.

(Information provided to **Nongqai** by Brigadier Mouton's son, Prof. FA Mouton, a Professor of History at Unisa where he teaches modern South African history).

Colonel FMA (Frans) Steenkamp – Divisional CO, SAP-SB Port Natal



A photo of Colonel (later Major-General) Frans Steenkamp taken in the early 1970s

Whereas the Uniformed Branch of the SA Police was locally under command of Port Natal divisional commissioner Theo Bisschoff and Karools Mouton and had responsibility for public order policing, the responsibility for intelligence-gathering, the frontline assessment there-of and for providing strategic input to local and national command structures (up to and including the government of then Premier John Vorster) fell to the separate Security Branch of the Police, of which the Port Natal division was in 1973 commanded by the then 43-year old Colonel Frans Steenkamp – my father.

Frans Steenkamp's part of the Steenkamp clan also hailed from the Karoo, farming between Sutherland and Calvinia. There Frans's father, my Oupa Willem, grew up in the home of his uncle, the famed free-thinking "Oudok" WP Steenkamp (independent member of parliament, medical doctor and doctor in Theology, known fondly as the "Lion of the North-West"), after my Oupa Willem's parents both had died while he was still a young boy. Having been left orphaned, my Oupa had, as young adult, to make his own way in life, with little financial means – and that, during the Great Depression.

Frans himself was born on 4 April 1929 and grew up in Eshowe in the heart of Zululand, where my Oupa Willem had found employment as a government cattle inspector. Frans thus learnt to fluently speak idiomatic isiZulu and became articulately tri-lingual, having inherited the Steenkamp flair for speaking and writing. Frans Steenkamp came to thoroughly know Zulu tradition and culture, before his parents moved to Durban during his high school years (which coincided with WW2). At Durban's Port Natal Afrikaans high school, he was a star pupil, but he opted to leave school in Standard 9 to join the Police Force in May 1946 (fudging his age to qualify) because of the financial hardship his parents endured at the time. He would later matriculate through home study, gaining five distinctions.

During his wartime high school years in Durban an incident occurred that left an indelible mark upon the young Frans Steenkamp. On a given Sunday, he and his father (who was dressed in military uniform) had attended a church service, but – because of the uniform – they were publicly humiliated and expelled by the hard-right dominee. Frans Steenkamp thus abhorred "Super Afrikaners" and their secret organisation, the Afrikaner-Broederbond, which he never was willing to join.

After completing his initial training in Pretoria and a short stint as constable in Newcastle and Dannhauser in Northern Natal (where he met my mother, who was of Afrikaans-Irish farming stock), Frans Steenkamp was posted as a young detective to Durban. He quickly made name for himself by solving the Joy Aiken/Van Buuren murder case (which had gripped the public and media in the mid-fifties) doing so in record time, after it had stagnated under the detectives that had preceded him. When the SACP/ANC started their sabotage campaign in the early sixties, Frans was drafted to the Security Branch of the SA Police (SAP-SB), where he would rapidly rise through the ranks. By the time of the 1973 labour unrest broke out, he was the divisional commanding officer for Port Natal (meaning: Durban, its surrounds, and the coastal areas north and south of it, up to the respective borders).

As SAP-SB officer Frans Steenkamp had made a point of getting to know, personally, the key personalities in the local politics of his area of jurisdiction, doing so across the ideological spectrum – because he wanted to understand them and their reasoning. This ranged from the traditionalist Zulu leadership such as Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to the ANC leader Chief Albert Luthuli, with whom he visited at his residence in Groutville on the Natal North Coast, some 70km north of Durban, for long conversations (Chief Luthuli had in his lifetime not shied away from publicly praising the police in Natal for their tradition of restrained action, and had stated to the media that the police in Natal were "different" to the police in the rest of the country). An early indication of the reasoned strategic thinking of the Port Natal SAP-SB was when the government had agreed to make available to Chief Luthuli (then president of the ANC) a passport so that he could go and receive the Nobel Peace Prize that had been awarded to him in the tense year of 1960 – a step by the authorities that had then also been seen as "surprising"...

When the 1973 labour unrest arose, Frans Steenkamp thus had not only known Zulu culture very well, but he also knew the Durban metropolitan region inside-out, going back to his high school days

and through having been stationed there in different capacities for practically the entirety of his police career up to that time.

As SAP-SB divisional commander for Port Natal he enjoyed the personal confidence of his own commanders in Pretoria (the division had been the first in the country to identify and arrest a returned foreign-trained SACP/ANC operative, through excellent counter-intelligence work resulting from maintaining an extensive network of cooperative “eyes and ears”). Frans Steenkamp was also personally known to, and trusted by then Prime Minister John Vorster, who had maintained a close interest in the SAP-SB due to having been minister of police; this was enhanced by the fact that Botha House (the official vacation residence of South African prime ministers on the Natal South Coast) fell within the area of jurisdiction of the Port Natal division, so that it was Col Steenkamp and his men who provided close security to the Vorster family when they vacationed there.

We will shortly review the conduct of, and positions taken by the Port Natal SAP-SB during the chain of labour protests in Durban during January and February 1973. However, it is useful – for a better understanding of Frans Steenkamp’s attitude and approach to security policing – to look briefly also at his later career, because the manner in which he acted and advised in 1973 is not so “surprising” anymore, when we consider how he had consistently approached the country’s challenges also in later years.

Widely read on politics and theory, Frans Steenkamp in April 1977 drafted a circular for his staff in which his deep understanding of the true nature of South Africa’s internal conflict can be seen, namely that it was essentially political, thus psychologically aimed, with a primary role being played by propaganda. This understanding had i.a. helped him analyse, comprehend and then deal efficiently with the 1973 protests. One can see this in the introductory part of his standing order, in which he reminded his men: *“During the past few years, the Security Branch has been systematically criticized and discredited in a targeted and well-planned propaganda campaign conducted over a wide field. This of course forms a very important part of the overall attack against the State and the country as a whole. This psychological warfare should not be underestimated and is in no way subordinate to any of the other areas in which the fight against us is being waged, such as the terrorist threat, economic undermining, etc....”*

We must absolutely ensure in all our actions that as little as possible negative connotation can be attached to our conduct, and preferably none at all. We must restore and expand our image in the eyes of the people. If we do not succeed in this, we ourselves will be responsible for infinite and possibly irreversible damage to our country. The field in which we must do this is wide and covers our every action – on and off duty.

“Interrogations: *Assign a suspect to two interrogators and they alone must interrogate him until they reach checkmate with him.*

“Only the investigator / s in charge of the investigation may interrogate the suspect. More damage has been done than good by well-meaning colleagues who enter an interrogation in untimely manner.

“Avoid the so-called “team interrogation” where interrogators are replaced. There are more disadvantages than advantages: no rapport is established between interrogator and suspect, interrogators contradict each other and so on. The lengthy interrogation undermines the interrogators and their objectives more than it does the suspect; the chances that the astute interrogator will properly utilize his intelligence and ingenuity towards the suspect are less.

“Act in a civilized but firm manner towards the suspect, thus will you gain and retain his respect.

“Always remember you are a policeman, not a politician; you are investigating a criminal case where the country's laws have been transgressed, and it is not your job or responsibility to defend the right or wrong of the laws.

“Think, think and plan constantly. Our enemies are waging this battle against us with their heads and we must fight them in the same way. It is the safest, most effective and most lasting in its long-term effect. A mental, psychological victory evokes respect; A physical, violent victory brings with it a lasting and growing hatred, resistance and desire for revenge, in any way possible. His respect for you is lost and your respect for yourself is damaged as well.”

Frans Steenkamp's non-doctrinaire attitude towards the white party-politics of the time speaks from a tearoom joke he had made in the run-up to a general election, and which Brig Heymans fondly recalls: He said that if the Nats won, then he would retain the name Frans, but if the (mostly English-speaking) UP opposition won, then he would become Frank, and if the far-right HNP won he would become Franz...

In later years Frans Steenkamp would become the commanding general of the SAP-SB nationally, during the early eighties. He was known for his opposition to the “all means justified” approach that became synonymous with the “total onslaught” outlook under PW Botha, as well as for his insistence upon scrupulously respecting the rule of law. This led to many conflicts between himself and the military-dominated securocrat establishment under PW Botha. One such incident is illuminating – it revolved around the arrest in the USA of then-commodore Dieter Gerhardt of the SA Navy who was exposed as a Soviet spy; when Gerhardt was flown back to South Africa under FBI escort, Frans Steenkamp resisted efforts by the powers-that-be to have the GRU spy conveniently “disappear” (which they had wanted to do to avoid exposing the SADF to the embarrassment of a very public criminal court case). Steenkamp declared that Gerhardt indeed was a traitor but insisted that he nevertheless was entitled to a fair trial – therefore, General Steenkamp sent some of his most senior officers to receive Gerhardt directly from the FBI on the plane and take him to a secure facility for safekeeping.

Because Frans Steenkamp could never personally identify with the PW Botha securocrats and the “total onslaught” approach of that era, he opted to take early retirement in 1984, when he reached 55. During a farewell dinner for him the then minister of police, Louis le Grange, told those in attendance that Frans Steenkamp was the only general ever to have told him to his face in a meeting: “*Minister, nou praat jy sommer k@k*” (Minister, now you are talking plain shit). Frans Steenkamp was not afraid to speak truth to power – that free-thinking, rebellious Steenkamp streak personified also by his uncle Oudok....

In February 1987, having returned to active service in a consultant capacity due to the then rapidly deteriorating security situation in the country, General Steenkamp authored a study in which he urged the government to urgently engage in inclusive negotiations to find a political solution to the country's political challenges. He explicitly warned that the Police would not be able to maintain internal stability into perpetuity and cautioned that it was wrong to see a communist influence in everything – stating that black political aspirations were in essence nationalistic, like that of the Afrikaner. Knowing the system under PW Botha and realising that this memorandum would likely be suppressed, he classified it as being only confidential, and then personally took it to opinion leaders

outside the securocrat ambit such as Prof Johan Heyns of the Dutch Reformed Church, to help them understand what the security situation in the country was really like at that time...

Frans Steenkamp was the only SAP-SB general who had been national commanding officer of the Police Security Branch, who was never summoned by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to appear before it. Neither did he apply for amnesty – insisting that he had never done or ordered anything that he needed to seek amnesty for.

Similarities between Mouton and Steenkamp: It is interesting to reflect upon the similarities in the stories of Mouton and Steenkamp, because I do believe that their life experiences and formation as human beings did have a strong bearing upon how they understood the 1973 Durban strikes, and thus their approach to the policing thereof.

Both had themselves known dire poverty in their own childhoods during the Great Depression, the 2nd World War, and into its aftermath. They thus had a natural understanding of and sympathy with workers struggling under hunger wages.

In the case of both Karools and Frans, the poverty of their respective families had caused them not to be able to pursue academic studies and to instead join the Police for the sake of financial survival. Both, nevertheless, then had sons who obtained doctorates and who held high positions professionally. Prof FA Mouton became professor of History at Unisa. I myself qualified as a practicing attorney in addition to obtaining a doctorate in Political Science, and served as senior intelligence analyst, as former head of the diplomatic academy and then, at age 38, as the New South Africa's first ambassador to formerly antagonistic "Black" Africa.

Furthermore, both Karools Mouton and Frans Steenkamp opted to take early retirement at age 55, in the early eighties during the reign of PW Botha and the securocrats...

Knowing now the key personalities and their professional trajectories on the local police side, let's examine the roll-out of the 1973 Durban labour protests.

HOW THE 1973 DURBAN STRIKES UNFOLDED

The Start, at Coronation Brick and Tile

(Author's Note: When the troubled labour relations at Coronation Brick and Tile – also then simmering at many other industries in the area – started boiling towards the surface in January 1973, I was back home with my parents for the long summer holidays, having just completed my first year of university studies in Bloemfontein, studying Law and Political Science. Filled with the typical inquisitiveness of a young student, the events that were unfolding were of course of great interest to me, since they directly related to my own fields of study and because their significant national import was very obvious. I therefore devoured all the local newspapers, all of which my father was officially subscribed to, and which thus were available in our house. More importantly, I could discuss the evolving situation with him first-hand over dinner every evening, since it did not involve state secrets or classified operations. I thus had direct insight into how my father had assessed the true facts and the strategic considerations at play).

Because of the nature of their industry, Coronation Brick and Tile (CB&T) required large numbers of manual labourers. Thus, they had established hostel compounds so that these workers (some 2,000 in total) could be recruited from the interior of Natal as migrant labour.

The last local Wage Board minimum wage determination for this sector had been published in 1967. In the six years since then, inflation had been eating away at the value of their salaries, which was exacerbated in the months leading up to the protests by especially a steep increase in transport costs. Discontent had thus already begun to emerge at CB&T early in 1972, to the extent that the then Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu became involved in trying to improve matters and came to personally address the workers (the particular group of workers at CB&T had noticeably close ties to the Zulu royal family, with a certain Nathaniel Zulu having been elected by them as their spokesman and Prince Sithela Zulu having been designated by the King as mediator when the protests eventually broke out in January 1973).

There is no doubt, therefore, that the migrant workers at CB&T were traditionalists aligned with the likes of the IFP, and not with radical leftist activism.

A new Wages Board hearing had indeed been held early in 1972, but due to the essential dysfunctionality of that system, no new determination had yet been published when January 1973 came around. (The President of the Durban Chamber of Commerce was later to directly blame the strikes on the “incredible” slowness of the local Wage Board machinery).

The SAP-SB had been following the evolving situation at CB&T closely as it became more tense in the weeks prior to the protests finally erupting. What had become apparent was that the workers at the company were of the belief that, after the Royal mediation the year before, promises of salary increases that had been made by management, were – almost a year on – not being kept. The prevailing sentiment was that they were being disrespected by management, who were treating them like children, not like the proud Zulu men that they were.

At that time CB&T had an acting general manager who was inclined to take a hard line – on the 8th of January 1972, the day before the protests finally erupted, the company circulated a leaflet among workers promising harsh disciplinary action against any disruptors and averring that the discontent was due to “communist agitators”.

It was this leaflet, and particularly the allegation that workers were allowing themselves to be influenced by communists, that triggered the next day’s protest action. The allegations were angrily rejected by the workers – as one of them stated to the **Daily News** newspaper on the 9th of January: “*We would not have gone on strike if this notice had not called us 'Communists'*” (DN, 9/1/73).

At 3am on the 9th of January 1973 a call had gone through all the CB&T hostels on the “bush telegraph” for the workers to stage a protest meeting on the main compound’s football field, which call was adhered to by every one of the labour force, also from the company’s outlying depots. They were marching as Zulu warriors with their traditional weapons, singing “*filumuntu ufesadikiza*”, the title literally meaning: “Someone is annoying” and the content idiomatically signifying that “Man may be dead but his spirit still lives on”, reflecting their anger at the fact that they felt themselves being disrespected as men, in addition to feeling that they were being cheated out of promised salary increases.

It is noteworthy that Gerhard Maré had chosen as sub-title for the 1974 IIE study on the protests: “*Human Beings with Souls*”, reflecting the reality that the protests had, in addition to the central matter of salaries, been motivated by human dignity-related issues and not by ideological motivation (what was not mentioned by Maré, was that this sub-title was actually a direct quote from then Prime Minister BJ Vorster’s address to parliament on 9 February 1973 about the labour discontent – see photo below – as quoted by the **Natal Witness** in their article headlined - “*Employers must view*

workers as 'Humans', with the newspaper then continuing with a fuller quote of Vorster having said: "Employers should not view their workers as units working so many hours a day but also as **human beings with a soul**").

Employers must view workers as 'humans'

—Vorster

CAPE TOWN—Employers were urged yesterday by the Prime Minister, Mr. B. J. Vorster, to view their workers as human beings.

Speaking in the House of Assembly, he said he was grateful to see that the labour situation in Durban was, according to all reports, returning to normal.

He was also grateful that the issue had been raised in Parliament, even though some members had done so for political gain.

The situation which had arisen in Durban, and which now fortunately seemed to be resolved, contained a valuable lesson for everybody in South Africa, including the Wage Board, employers and workers. It would be foolish of them not to take this lesson to heart.

MOTE IN EYE

There were, unfortunately, too many employers in the past who intended to see only the mote in the eye of the Government but completely ignored the beam in their own eye.

Employers should not view their workers as units working so many hours a day but also as human beings with a soul.

Large organisations nowadays appointed highly-paid public relations officers to publicise their business. The Prime Minister said that these organisations also needed public relations officers to convince their workers that the management regarded them not only as working units but also as human beings.

Opposition members had accused the Government of not providing sufficient training facilities for Black workers, yet when the United Party was in power it had accepted no responsibility whatsoever in this regard but had preferred to give subsidies to churches and other organisations to do the job for them. The Government's record in this respect spoke for itself.—Sapa



The SAP-SB understood perfectly well what the root causes of the CB&T workers' anger were (it should be noted that the CB&T workers had been adamant that they were not striking but were in fact protesting). The SAP-SB understood that there were three main causes: that the unfair wages were to blame, plus the general treatment that the workers were being subjected to (treatment in sharp dissonance with their own cultural norms and sense of self), as well as being due to the

structural problems plaguing the then official industrial relations mechanisms. The SAP-SB also knew that no outside leftist agitation had played any role whatsoever – despite the employers and the Department of Labour’s officials plus their then Minister (Mr Marais Viljoen) immediately claiming instigation by agitators as a self-excusing ploy to try and shift blame away from themselves.

The SAP-SB also understood full well the potential for the situation to degenerate into a deadly disaster at a human level, with national and international political repercussions (by feeding the propaganda machine), if mis-handled. From this understanding logically flowed the decisions of the Police Command to adopt a hands-off posture, avoiding the confrontation that the use of force inevitably would bring. The Police knew that the only true solution to the situation was for the employers in the region to begin paying fair wages, and thus the “rational action” on the part of the government and Police was to leave it up to the workers and employers themselves to resolve their differences, whilst putting pressure on the employers to accede to what was just and necessary (and stopping them from trying to hide behind the fig leaf of non-existent communist agitators).

What the local SAP-SB also did was to immediately make use of their excellent relationships with local Zulu traditional and political leaders, requesting them to engage with the workers to ensure discipline and order, with as reasoning that the Police would not need intervene forcibly if there was no threat to life and limb, or to property.

The Police were not alone in their perception that the wages then being paid to Black workers in the region were unfair – in a scientific survey among whites conducted by Maré and the IIE, 90% of local whites (English and Afrikaans, in the same proportions) felt that workers were being paid too little.

Comprehending the potential for the situation to evolve extremely negatively, the situationally aware local SAP-SB were also concerned that it shouldn’t come to present an opportunity for the Activist Left to exploit the grievances to ingratiate themselves with the workers – and thus not to give these activists any undue status by ascribing the protests to their supposed (but in fact non-existent) instigation. All of the foregoing considerations informed the core of the messaging that the Port Natal SAP-SB reported up their national chain of command, through the Security HQ in Wachthuis, Pretoria, up to the Prime Minister, as well as locally to the divisional commissioner of the Uniformed Branch, Brig Theo Bisschoff.

In brief, the Port Natal SAP-SB had excellent intelligence readily to hand and possessed superb situational awareness, which they quickly and cogently transmitted to the highest national levels of decision-making. Col Steenkamp also was willing and capable of standing his ground. Despite the Labour Minister (the party heavyweight Marais Viljoen) initially publicly asserting that Leftist agitation was behind the protests, Frans Steenkamp repeatedly confirmed on the record to the media that the SAP-SB had seen no sign of outside agitation nor organisation.

On the 10th of January the Zulu king personally came to address the CB&T workers. He subsequently appointed his counsellor Prince Sithela Zulu, as mediator. In fact, the CB&T protest was settled relatively quickly, when the company’s Board of Directors realised that the State was not going to intervene on their behalf to quash the unrest (with the Government actually applying pressure on them to raise wages).

It took about a week for the CB&T company and the workers to reach a settlement on a new salary scale and work thereafter resumed as normal.



Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, addressing the protesting BC&T workers

For his part Prince Gatsha Buthelezi (as then the chief minister of the KwaZulu administration) attacked low wages and called for full trade union right for Black workers. He strongly criticised employers who threatened dismissals: *"Firing people in these circumstances points to the insecurity of black people in general. This kind of insecurity is dangerous because blacks might ultimately ask themselves: what have we to lose?"*.

The Protests quickly spread, copycat-style, thanks to the bush telegraph

As could be expected, the very efficient African bush telegraph quickly spread news about the CB&T protest actions to the compounds of other industries and throughout the surrounding Black townships. The formal media of all stripes also realised the newsworthiness of what was beginning to happen in Durban and reported extensively on the situation. Thus, was set in motion a chain of copycat labour protests leading into full-blown strikes in certain sectors, which was to last till early March of 1973 (although most of these were resolved quickly, so that calm had essentially returned by early February).

On the 10th of January, 70 black African workers at the transport company A.J. Keeler stopped working for 45 minutes. They demanded a R2 wage increase. This was rejected by management on the grounds that workers were already receiving above the legal minimum wage.

On the following day, the 11th of January, the next company to be affected was T.W. Becket & Co where some 150 black African workers stopped working and demanded a R3 per week raise in wages. This was refused by the company which threatened to fire the strikers and then sought (unsuccessfully) the support of the Police and Dept of Labour. The stand-off between the Becket management and workers continued till 25 January. On that day, the striking workers had again rejected an offer from management, who were then obliged to agree to the R3 wage increase demanded, together with an undertaking that there would be no reprisals against those who participated in the strike.

During the first week of strikes six companies were hit, mostly in the marine and transport sectors. While the Beckett strike was ongoing, Zulu ship painters at several firms in the docks such as J.H. Akitt and Co and James Brown and Hamer also went on strike. On Monday the 26th of January about 200 convoy drivers at the Motorvia firm in Pinetown outside Durban went on strike and organised a picket.




Sunday Tribune

DURBAN, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1966




35 ships idle . . . at cost of R35,000 a day

Princess (25) in mystery fall

GENOVA. LOVELY Princess, 25-year-old daughter of former Queen Marguerite of Italy, is reported to have been taken to the Genoa State Hospital with a fractured skull in a crash in the night.

According to family friends, the accident happened in Genoa as she was returning from a party at the apartment of the Countess of Montecarlo. The Princess was travelling in a small helicopter. It has been reported that she was alone.

The Princess was known as 'Daisy' to her friends. She was injured when a small helicopter fell from the sky. At the time her name was linked with a Spanish helicopter. The Princess was taken to the Genoa State Hospital.

She was taken to the hospital when her helicopter crashed. She was taken to the hospital when her helicopter crashed. She was taken to the hospital when her helicopter crashed.

DURBAN DOCKS ARE PARALYSED

More pay or we go home say 3,000

Staff Reporter

THIRTY-FIVE SHIPS ARE STANDING IDLE in Durban harbour, where cargo handling facilities have been paralysed by the work stoppage of 3,000 African stevedores.

By tomorrow the number of ships is expected to rise to 40 — and the country's largest harbour is expected to be bypassed, with vessels taking their cargoes to other ports.

Last night two ships weighed anchor in Durban without working their cargoes. One made for East London, the other for Louisburgh.

Unless the stoppage ends soon, the crippling of loading and unloading operations will affect other ports. Ships will be delayed, schedules disrupted and valuable revenue lost.

The stoppage is causing an estimated R35,000 a day in losses — R10,000 a day per ship — to the harbour.

The stevedores are demanding a 10 per cent increase in wages and a 10 per cent increase in the cost of living. They are also demanding a 10 per cent increase in the cost of living.

The Secretary for Labour, Mr. J. D. Geyser, said he might be known something about the stevedores' situation at the harbour.

It is news to him, he said, that the stevedores' union is the first to have heard of it. He said after a telephone call to the Minister.

The Minister of Labour, Mr. J. D. Geyser, said he might be known something about the stevedores' situation at the harbour.

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SHE SAW FIANCE DROWN

SHE SAW HER FIANCE DROWN. A young Johannesburg girl, who was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown. She was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown. She was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown.

The young girl, who was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown. She was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown. She was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown.

The young girl, who was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown. She was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown. She was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown.

The young girl, who was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown. She was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown. She was on a boat, saw her fiancé drown.



PLANE IN SEA: ALL SAFE

A small plane was seen in the sea. All were safe. A small plane was seen in the sea. All were safe. A small plane was seen in the sea. All were safe.

Artificial-heart man sees wife

A man with an artificial heart saw his wife. A man with an artificial heart saw his wife. A man with an artificial heart saw his wife.

LOST ONE FOR DARE

A young man was lost. A young man was lost. A young man was lost. A young man was lost. A young man was lost.

By the end of January the number of companies affected had grown to twenty-nine. The Frame Group, also known as Consolidated Textile Mills (CTM), which operated multiple textile factories across greater Durban and was owned by the local industrialist Philip Frame, was the worst affected. On Thursday, the 25th of January, workers at the Frametex factory in New Germany went on strike. On the 26th the strike action spread to four other textile mills owned by the Frame Group. The strike continued for a couple of days and involved between 6,000 and 7,000 Zulu and Indian workers. By the end of January, every factory of the Frame Group in Natal had been affected by the strikes, bringing production to a complete standstill.

Whereas many industrialists in Durban and surrounds had quickly realised which way the wind was blowing and had then pre-emptively raised salaries to head off industrial action at their sites, Philip Frame was initially hard-headed and point-blank refused to raise salaries. However (jumping ahead of the chronology a bit) as his group's activities were paralysed and as he came to understand that the State was not going to intervene on his behalf (and as he developed a working relationship with Col Steenkamp, whose judgement he came to trust) in the end Philip Frame did agree to a pay increase that the workers accepted and the strikes at CTM eventually were also duly settled, effectively bringing the significant strikes to an end already by mid-February.

However, by the beginning of February matters were still balanced on a knife's edge, with the strike action beginning to impact essential services.

On the 1st of February 1973 there were tense moments because of rumours that strikers would attempt to prevent workers from boarding trains to and from work. The SAP as well as Railways Police ensured that an adequate and highly visible precautionary presence was maintained at railway stations, also requesting employers to allow workers to return home well before dark. As a result, the day passed without mishap (as can be seen in the following press cuttings)

35

POLICE SAVE THE DAY



MANY A FRIGHTENED Durban-bound worker breathed a sigh of relief early today at the sight of policemen dotted around the city's sprawling townships to avert the threatened mass stay-away. Police manned railway stations and patrolled African townships, which had been under a cloud of fear since grim warnings were circulated that people who went to work in Durban today would be beaten up.

And when the workers return home

tonight, amid more threats of intimidation and beatings, the police will be there again to protect them.

During the dark early morning hours there was a general lack of movement, but as the dawn broke, the thousands of commuters swarmed to their respective railway stations and a late start to work.

The rush normally begins at 4.30 a.m. but today the movement only started after 5.30.

LEFT: Part of a convoy of 15 police jeeps which patrolled KwaMashu township early today giving protection to the community.

BELOW: A group of policemen keep a silent vigil in KwaMashu as inhabitants make their way to the station.



ABOVE: Colonel J. J. H. Claassen, Officer Commanding the South African Railways Police in Natal, remained in constant radio contact with his various detachments. With him is Major J. H. Howell.

RIGHT: Two policemen wait the coming dawn not knowing what it may bring.



HAVE REVELATION WILL TRAVEL
Capri by Revelation, the trend-setting range in the latest Continental shades. Travel-mate for that fly-away holiday.
Durban Leather
LUGGAGE AND BRIEFCASE CENTRE
403 SMITH STREET, DURBAN. PHONE 46724/46046
We are the Handbags, Suitcases, Briefcases and Golfbags Specialists.
REVELATION WILL SEND YOU PACKING!



Railway stations in and around the city were almost deserted except for the police in the pre-dawn light the commuters started arriving and by 6am the usual isitimela (train) stampede.

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15cm Drop 18¢ Per Met.
30cm Drop 15¢ Per Met.
91cm Drop 30¢ Per Met.
122cm Drop 45¢ Per Met.
137cm Drop 55¢ Per Met.
148cm Drop 65¢ Per Met.

IT'S A WINNER! FROM WIDE

CRIMP 1.65

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Swimming costumes, now per metre

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Today's Fashion. New 32 to 40, 42 to 44, 46 to 48. Polyester and Cotton. SALE PRICE

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WE MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE

BABY FOOD 500g 79¢	LARGE EGGS DOZ 29¢	VALLEY GRANT CORNED MEAT 500g 22¢
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Over a dozen varieties of styles and colours. ALL SIZES. BANLON-ACRYLIC-60% Eng. SALE PRICE FROM

79¢

In early February the strikes started to affect sectors of key strategic importance, holding the potential for considerable disruption of essential public services.

On the 5th of February, 3,000 Zulu municipal workers, including street cleaners and refuse collectors, went on strike, bringing Durban's essential services to a halt. On the following day, the number of strikers increased to 13,000. Durban's Municipal Management (then controlled by South Africa's main opposition party) responded with an offer that was rejected by the strikers.

The strike action in this sector grew as Zulu workers from other factories and areas further afield – such as in the provincial capital, Pietermaritzburg, and in Port Shepstone on the South Coast, joined the Durban municipal workers. Soon some 30,000 workers were involved.



Management-level volunteers stepped in to assure operations at the municipal market

This is how Gerhard Maré's study described the situation that prevailed: "On Monday, the 5th, the most tense and dramatic period began when 3,000 African workers employed by the Durban Corporation stopped work, affecting road and drain works, the cleaning department, and the electricity department. The Corporation strike inevitably had the most dramatic impact on the life of the city. Rubbish began to pile up, the gravediggers were on strike, and by Wednesday the municipal market porters were no longer handling goods. The abattoir also stopped work, and it became clear that the supply of all perishable foods was threatened. White volunteer 'black-legs' were also at work in the market, unloading 80 railway truckloads of fresh produce. According to a press report, 'Durban's Mayor, accompanied by a number of city Councillors, made an on-the-spot inspection. Also on the scene was a truckload of policemen in camouflage uniforms, swinging a baton in one hand and bags of fruit in the other. Striking African workers looked on in amazement as the volunteer workforce turned the market into a scene from My Fair Lady with singing and jokes. Market agencies supplied the volunteer force with beers for their efforts'".

As part of contingency planning, a group of policemen dressed in the then new SAP camouflage uniforms had been flown in from the Maleoskop training centre, via Pretoria.



Patrolling policemen carrying only light batons and (the two in the new bush camouflage) their side-arms, whilst the policeman at centre carried no firearm at all.

On Tuesday the 6th some 1,000 Municipal workers, many carrying their “cultural” fighting sticks (without which Zulu men of a traditionalist ilk seldom ventured out), marched from the City Engineer's labour office towards the City Electricity Department. Both locations were in the very heart of the Durban CBD.

When the marching workers (who had no permission and were causing a public hazard) failed to disperse when ordered to do so, the police who had surrounded them made a symbolic baton

charge, which the marchers did not resist. Some 106 of the protesters were peaceably arrested and appeared in Court the following day where they were convicted of "causing a public disturbance". Each was fined R30.00 or 30 days, but of this, R25.00 or 25 days was suspended.



Note that the marching protesters carried no political banners or flags.

- **VIDEO OF A 1973 DURBAN PROTEST MARCH BEING PEACEFULLY TURNED ROUND**

*NB: To see an **informative short video** on what a Durban 1973 strike march looked like, click on this [LINK](#). It shows Col Mouton addressing marching workers, who then turn around and walk back (the video is part of the Apartheid Museum collection.)*

Later a group of about 150 Zulu building workers who were moving from site to site in the Durban shopping and business centre, were also arrested. They also received very light sentences.

On other occasions, police stopped marching groups and asked them only to hand over their sticks, taking no further action after this was done (the traditional Zulu fighting sticks were returned to their owners at the end of the march).

On Wednesday the 7th of February the Deputy Minister of Police issued an official statement in which he declared that the police regarded the situation in Durban as being under control. He thanked the black workers of Durban for their co-operation and added that "*the police are only there to safeguard the people of Durban from any illegal acts*".

On Thursday the 8th of February the municipal workers returned to work, and by Friday the 9th it was clear that the main wave of strikes had petered out. Sporadic strikes did continue on and off, into March – but were not significant.

Although the initial strikes involved relatively small numbers and were of limited duration (most lasting no more than two days) they had caused a notable ripple effect through the region, so that by the end of March some 60,000 Zulu workers in total had been involved at one time or another, impacting 146 firms.

As regards the true nature of the strikes, even the left-orientated 1974 IIE study had to admit that it was a "*series of spontaneous actions by workers, which spread by imitation.*" (copycat).

MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT REACTION TO THE 1973 DURBAN STRIKES

How the Media Reacted

Even though the first week of protest had seen only scattered strikes, the novelty and potential import of these events were then already deemed by the local media to warrant a wide range of coverage and comment. Particularly noteworthy was the fact that, from the outset, the government-supporting heavyweight Afrikaans Sunday newspaper, **Rapport**, as well as the government-controlled national broadcaster the SABC, had both called for improvements in Black wages – doing so already by the first weekend.

By the end of January 1973, the Durban strikes had come to feature as the main daily news story continuously dominating the front pages of practically all South African newspapers.

The Cape mouthpiece of the NP, the "**Die Burger**", on the 1st of February opined that it was "indisputable" that there are firms in Natal that are paying wages that under no circumstances can be deemed to be just, and which in fact are "scandalously low". It went on to warn that, if employers don't themselves put their house in order by learning that they have to pre-emptively raise wages to keep abreast of the rising cost of living, then steps will have to be considered by Government to save the rest of the country from such "foolishness".

By the 3rd of February the Natal National Party's weekly Afrikaans-language mouthpiece, the "**Nataller**" had unequivocally blamed the strikes on the "*shocking wages*" paid by Natal industrialists, under a headline that proclaimed: "*Employers Must Take Full Blame*". It also cautioned, though, that known Leftist activists were taking note of the fact that a potentially favourable climate capable of being exploited by them, was being created by the ongoing strikes.

The English-language press in Natal also blamed the employers for the strikes, singling out textile tycoon Philip Frame for much of their criticism. However, when after some three weeks of ever spreading strike action the situation clearly was becoming serious for the local economy, the English newspapers began adopting a cautionary tone towards the strikers. On the 1st of February the **Daily News** opined that: "*the confrontation between management and labour in the Durban area has driven home a number of valid points. Now is the time to cool it ... Now is the time to get off the escalator and begin the less exciting but more rewarding task of fundamental reform.*"

How the Vorster Government Responded

The initial reaction of the Dept of Labour and their Minister, Mr Marais Viljoen, was to blame agitators for the descent of Black labour relations in Durban into chaos – a knee-jerk but perhaps understandable reaction, at a human level (which was shared by many of the employers) since the industrialists and responsible officials bore primary responsibility for the situation and needed some fig leaf to try and hide behind.

However, the position very publicly taken by the SAP-SB, namely that no organised agitation had been detected, clearly resonated with the National Party media (as illustrated above) as well as with the upper echelons of government around Premier John Vorster, who supported the Police's approach.

It is simplistic to reason that the NP's "moderate" and empathetic posture was in any significant measure ascribable to the fact that the employers were mostly opposition supporters (and the Durban municipality – as one of the major employers in the line of fire – stood under opposition party rule) with both the employers and municipality and employers thus logical political targets of the NP Government.

The much more important motivation on the part of the NP Government – as the subsequent actions of the Vorster government clearly illustrated – was the fact that the three underlying causes of the eruption of the unrest and its rapid copycat spreading were well understood by Vorster, based on the intelligence he had received: unfairly low wages, disrespectful treatment of the workers, and a deficient and dysfunctional labour relations system. Hand in hand with this understanding of the key causative determinants, was the Government's understanding of the enormous potential for the strikes to go badly wrong (in terms of public violence and destruction) if not handled correctly, as well as the risk of alienation and polarisation that could in future expose the white-run economy's "Achilles heel" of utter dependence on Black labour – creating a potentially fatal strategic vulnerability that revolutionary forces would certainly try to exploit, if not pre-empted by sympathetic policing and reforms to the system.

The Vorster government's position was in large part based on the detailed intelligence gathered and correctly assessed by the Port Natal division of the SAP-SB, which analysis had been accepted and supported by the SB-HQ in Pretoria. That the SAP-SB had through-out, thanks to their "effective intelligence" and sensitive "situational awareness" (as quoted earlier from Grok AI) correctly assessed what was actually going on, was proved by how the strikes in fact played out – in fact, in the manner that the SB had predicted. It can be seen that the assessment by Col Steenkamp was reflected in the public comments made by General PJ "Tiny" Venter (national SAP-SB CO / Chief Assistant Commissioner of the SAP) when, after lengthy discussions with local police during a visit to Durban in the 2nd week of February 1973, he stated to the local media that: *"It would appear that the majority of the workers feel that their plight has forcibly been brought to the attention of the public and that further action on their part would be pointless. More than half of the firms which were hit by strikes are now almost back to normal and it is our opinion that the rest of the workers who had downed tools will also be returning to work soon ... I want to emphasise that, according to our information, the whole thing is now on the decline."* This assessment soon enough proved to be factually correct. General Venter also made a point of thanking the protesters for having "behaved in an orderly manner".

A statement by the Deputy Minister of Police on the 7th of February 1973, in which he too thanked the workers for their cooperation, reflected the Government's view of the situation as being driven by legitimate grievances against unacceptable treatment. This was emphasized by Premier Vorster himself in his address to Parliament during an emergency debate on 9 February, when he chided employers for their inhumane treatment of their workers and the unfair wages previously paid. As shown previously, Vorster pointedly stated that workers deserve to be seen as human beings with souls, not just as production units.

The Government understood full well the broader national security implications potentially presaged by what had been unfolding in Durban (i.e., the ruinous consequences for the economy should Black labour ever be withheld on a national scale). Therefore, Vorster and his national security team comprehended perfectly the need to firstly act with prudence in policing the 1973 Durban labour unrest, and secondly to subsequently thoroughly address the structural and bureaucratic deficiencies in the legislation and labour relations system that the protests had revealed.

Accordingly, the Government began to move soon after the strikes to bring about interim modernisations to the then labour relations legislation, by for example recognising the right of Black workers to strike and to improve the bureaucracy responsible for the functioning of the system.

Most importantly, though, was the fact that the 1973 Durban Strikes served as the initial trigger to Premier Vorster's eventual decision to appoint a commission of enquiry under the chairmanship of Prof Nic Wiehahn to investigate the entire Black labour relations dispensation.

This investigation was of fundamental importance because it went to the very heart of the National Party's cherished constitutional concept, often referred to as "Grand Apartheid". This policy was based on the idea of Blacks enjoying rights only in their own sovereign tribal states and working in "white" South Africa only as guest labour. Grand Apartheid supposedly should have led, by the middle-seventies, to a decline in the proportion of Black workers within "white" South Africa. In reality, the exact opposite was true. Furthermore, the independence nominally accorded to these tribal homelands such as the Transkei, did not receive any recognition. Thus, in a nutshell: if Black workers residing inside "white" South Africa were in fact rapidly increasing in number (and were very much required to be there permanently because of the inescapable labour needs of the economy - as was undeniably the practical reality) and if the concept of independent states received no recognition, then the entire Apartheid edifice made no real-world sense (we at **Nongqai** have been told by a personal, non-political confidant of Vorster that the premier had actually confided to him in private that he had eventually come to realise that the Grand Apartheid concept had proved itself to be unworkable in practice).

When in later years Prof Wiehahn testified before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he made no bones about the fact that he and his 14 commissioners had seen their task in the seventies as no less than initiating the dismantling of Apartheid. There can be no doubt that the Commission's recommendations (accepted by government) in fact set in motion just that, so that the 1973 Durban Strikes in reality had contributed to much more than just the immediate improvement in salaries and working conditions of those who had so effectively protested their exploitation and disrespectful treatment.

On the other hand, the judicious manner in which the 1973 Durban Strikes were handled by the State (and the Police in particular), plus the actions then taken by government to fundamentally overhaul the labour relations system, were largely responsible for the fact that the South African

economy under the reign of the “white” government never could be brought to a countrywide standstill by revolutionaries by means of a national general strike – not even at the height of the political turmoil of the late eighties.

DURBAN 1973 vs OTHER PUBLIC ORDER POLICING CHALLENGES IN SA HISTORY

South Africa had seen several public order challenges over the years, which the Police (in its different iterations, and under different governments) had had the unenviable task to handle. The way that this duty had been approached – and the consequences unleashed – naturally reflected the norms of the particular era. Equally as important as the general norms that prevailed at the time (and often, even more so) were the personal attitudes and inclinations, plus the situational awareness and the ability to exercise disciplined command and control, of the senior officers in charge on each such scene. A further factor that would on more than one occasion play a critical role, was when police felt their very lives threatened, causing discipline to fail and individuals to start shooting without orders – such as happened at Sharpeville in 1960, Soweto in 1976 and at Marikana in 2012.

BULHOEK, May 1921: An early example was the Bulhoek land protests which culminated in a massacre of 163 Xhosa religious fanatics on the 24th of May 1921 in the Eastern Cape. This event was driven by the imperialist approach then prevalent among many white officers in the British Empire (of which South Africa was part), which held that rebellious indigenous populations had to be forcefully taught “who’s the boss”. This had, for example, been the reasoning two years earlier in 1919 behind the decision by British Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer at Amritsar, India, to have his troops fire practically every last bullet at their disposal into a peaceful crowd of civilians trapped within a public square, allegedly killing up to 1,500 and wounding 1,200 more. (Dyer would later unabashedly admit that his objective was to “*strike terror across the Punjab*” so as to make an example of those he termed “rebels” that would teach a lesson).

The Bulhoek Massacre pitted a force of 800 paramilitary policemen (many veterans of the 1st World War) armed with heavy machine guns and artillery, who were deployed to enforce the removal of a group known as the Israelites led by their “prophet” Enoch Migijima, who were occupying land that had been expropriated by the Crown. This dispute had been going on for a while, so that the deployment of the Police in such numbers and with such arms of war wasn’t a spur-of-the-moment thing, but part of deliberate planning for an anticipated violent confrontation. When on the 24th of May some 500 “Israelites” armed with home-made swords and spears stormed the Police deployed on the surrounding ridgeline, they were systematically shot down within the space of twenty minutes, without a single police fatality. The local English media at the time praised this action on the part of the then Union Government of General Jan Smuts as something that the revolting blacks had brought down upon their own heads by disobeying the Crown, with the reporting by the *Daily Dispatch* reflecting the underlying imperialist approach that rebellious indigenous subjects had to be shown who’s boss.

Smuts was to ruthlessly employ the same forceful suppressive approach the following year on the Witwatersrand, this time against striking white mine workers, during the 1922 “Red Revolt” – deploying the full might and heavy weaponry of the Union Defence Force to back up the Police, with the Air Force bombing the armed strikers (this strong-armed approach, which again was lauded by

the English-language press, is regarded as one of the main causes why Smuts subsequently lost the 1924 general election).

DURBAN ANTI-INDIAN POGROM, January 1949: The Second World War changed attitudes towards colonialism and notions of racial supremacy. Nevertheless, when in 1949 Durban suffered the earlier-mentioned indiscriminate pogrom by enraged Zulus against Indians, the local English-language press still opined that the Police under the new NP Government should have used more overt force, earlier on – in other words, shooting more in the early stages, thereby making an example that supposedly would have averted the large overall numbers of deaths that eventually occurred.

Bulhoek in 1921, the violent suppression of the Witwatersrand Revolt of 1922, and the ending of the 1949 Durban pogrom by deploying Naval forces to the streets (who eventually cleared gatherings by means of gunfire, if three verbal commands to disperse were ignored) were symptomatic of an era where the forceful upholding of “law and order” by means of deadly force was deemed permissible in order to maintain the authority of the colonial state. This manner of maintaining public order – of showing who’s the boss – were thus not failures, but were intentionally predicated on what was very much a paramilitary approach, and thus were deliberate in nature (meaning, that those events could not be described as policing failures caused by policemen acting primarily out of fear of their own lives, or having been due to faulty intelligence and a lack of situational awareness, or to failures in command and control).

With the “Winds of Change” sweeping the African continent during the fifties and sixties and countries to South Africa’s north gaining their independence, coupled with the Cold War conflict where anti-colonial fervour was actively stoked by the USSR and its proxies, plus an abhorrence of racism increasingly manifesting in Western public opinion, by 1960 the era of getting away with violent suppression of public protest was clearly over. Henceforth, injudiciously deadly public order policing would result in a heavy political price being paid by any government under whose auspices it would occur. This meant that, at least at government level, it was no longer the standard approach to resort to violent suppression – because the politicians knew only too well the negative consequences that would result. Now, when disasters in public order policing occurred, its origin wasn’t in policy but more than likely could be traced back to policemen acting in fear, or failures in command and control resulting from lack of adequate operational intelligence, inadequate situational awareness and/or failures in maintaining discipline. This, against the backdrop of a local political reality which required the police to get it right every single time – because every failure would be devastatingly seized upon for political propaganda purposes.

That the South African Police Force/Service only suffered three such serious failures (Sharpeville, Soweto, and Marikana) in the half-century since 1960 is thus somewhat of a miracle, given the combustibility of South Africa’s politics – even though every death that resulted was of course deeply regrettable, no matter that the numbers were insignificant when compared to the British imperial era. The relevance of discussing these events here, in relation to the 1973 Durban labour protests, is to highlight what went right in terms of the policing in Durban (which situation inherently had had by far the biggest potential to explode into large-scale carnage and destruction, if it had been handled incorrectly), as opposed to what went wrong on the other three occasions.

SHARPEVILLE, MARCH 1960: In the case of post-WW2 South Africa, the first big such failure in public order policing that occurred in this new era of political accountability and the Left’s

propaganda prowess was the Sharpeville tragedy on 21 March 1960. Sharpeville was then a modern new township, which included a fenced-in police compound usually manned by less than 20 officers. The political climate there was polarised against the Government, because in 1958 an unpopular process of forced removals from the old, unsanitary Topville township to Sharpeville had been instituted. The area was a stronghold of the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) a radical Africanist break-away from the ANC, which in early 1960 had seized upon the reviled pass laws (which documents Blacks were obliged to carry and which restricted their freedom of movement) to mobilize the Black masses. In places like Soweto, prominent PAC leaders had presented themselves at police stations for arrest, publicly refusing to carry passes. Those political demonstrations had been handled without mishap.

However, at Sharpeville the PAC had succeeded in inspiring as well as coercing vastly bigger numbers, with some 20,000 protesters converging on the police compound. This was i.a. achieved through the local PAC cutting phone lines and blocking public transport out of the township. The initially festive atmosphere soon turned tense. Because it was realised by the authorities that the small local contingent of police (who had been confronted with an escalating situation since the previous evening) were totally outnumbered, reinforcements in the form of 130 additional police (a large proportion of them young student constables still under training) plus four Saracen armoured personnel carriers were sent in. The policemen were not equipped for riot control, having only some Sten submachine guns and their service rifles, and most had had little sleep.

The atmosphere became increasingly threatening for the police, with the protesters openly taunting them that the same fate that had befallen the nine murdered policemen at Cato Manor only months earlier was in store for them. The SA Air Force started staging mock air attacks on the gathered protesters, diving low over the crowd to try and disperse them. However, this only inflamed emotions more.

When by 1:30pm the crowd, egged on from behind and throwing stones, trampled down the gorilla wire perimeter fence, one of the policemen lost his nerve and fired without orders, which set off a chain reaction that lasted some 40 seconds before the officers could restore control. During that time 69 black protesters lost their lives, according to official figures (up to 91 died, according to unofficial sources). Because of the presence of a photojournalist, the tragedy was soon vividly publicised the world over.

Just over a decade later (when the 1973 Durban strikes began to unfold) the officers in charge at Port Natal had clearly not forgotten the enormous political damage that the Sharpeville Massacre (as it soon became known), had done to the Government, as well as to the image of the SA Police...

The reasons for the public order policing failure at Sharpeville were, first and foremost, a loss of discipline – thus, a failure of command and control. There were two main reasons for this: the first (which would mark all three of the tragedies – Sharpeville, Soweto, and Marikana) was police officers acting instinctively out fear for their lives, leading to a lamentable lapse in discipline. This may be human but is nevertheless clearly inexcusable in professional terms. The second was a lack of proper operational intelligence and thus of preparedness for the scope and intensity of the situation that was to develop at Sharpeville. The SA Police at that time didn't possess a specialised public order policing contingent (such as the French CRS), the then policemen were never properly trained for riot control, nor were they at all equipped for non-lethal crowd control at the time. The essentially intimidatory methods then employed, such as deploying Saracen APC's and the Air Force doing mock attack runs on the crowd, were not of a kind likely to de-escalate the tensions and in fact

seriously heightened emotions. As a result, a heavy price was paid – both in human lives on the side of the protesters and in political capital, on the part of the Government.

SOWETO, June 1976: Just as the fifties had seen highly impactful changes in public attitudes the world over, in the Southern African regional context the mid-seventies had also been marked by significant events that changed the politico-psychological and geostrategic environment. Most significant among these was the fall of the Portuguese empire with its geostrategic consequences, which led to PW Botha's unilateral military (mis)adventure into Angola known as Operation Savannah. This episode had irretrievably destroyed white South Africa's "bubble of invincibility" when the troops sent in had to be ignominiously withdrawn in early 1976 without having been able to accomplish their mission (a fact which the Moscow-aligned revolutionary movements such as SWAPO and the SACP/ANC exploited as proof with which to inspire South Africa's black masses with their message that white rule could indeed be successfully challenged).

On 16 June 1976, less than six months after the withdrawal of SA troops from Angola, the Soweto youth riots broke out. Again, with devastating political consequences – in fact, an event that is nowadays considered to have been THE turning point that paved the way to the eventual end of white rule in South Africa less than two decades later...

In analysing what went wrong to cause the catastrophic failure in public order policing that was Soweto 1976, one needs to be aware that the events of 16 June 1976 didn't suddenly strike down like lightning from out of a clear blue sky. For quite a while already, the American-inspired Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) in the sprawling township had been leading student protests against the imposition by decree in 1974 of Afrikaans as an obligatory language of tuition for certain subjects. On 30 April 1976 learners at Orlando West Junior School first went on strike. On 13 June an inter-schools meeting inspired by the BCM was held to plan protest action for 16 June, which was to take the form of a march from Morris Isaacson High School and Naledi High School, past Orlando West to the Orlando Stadium, with a view to presenting a petition to education department officials – thus, all to happen within the Black township itself and not affecting any vital infrastructure or valuable property in the City of Johannesburg. The march organisers had throughout the preparations been stressing the need to the marchers for them to maintain discipline and avoid conflict with the Police.

On that fateful day of 16 June 1976, the first major failure on the part of the local police command was their utter lack of situational awareness. Secondly there was no evidence of careful prior operational planning based on a proper risk/benefit analysis, nor of sound operational intelligence.

Regarding situational awareness, it had become publicly known on 15 June 1976 that Prime Minister Vorster and U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger were set to meet in Germany for crucial talks where Vorster would try to get his détente initiative back on track after the devastating blow it had suffered thanks to PW Botha's abortive Operation Savannah. I happened to have been the night duty officer at the BfSS (the then title of the intelligence service) for the duration of Vorster's trip, entrusted with channelling communications to and from Vorster's travelling team. The BfSS head, General Hendrik van den Bergh, was part of Vorster's delegation and the BfSS was responsible for secure communications. I very well remember the fury and frustration of Van den Bergh at the Soweto police command for not having understood the absolutely imperative need for any actions that could generate negative publicity to have been avoided at all costs, during the critical time frame leading up to the Kissinger meeting.

What had transformed the protest march of the 16th of June into the tragedy and political disaster it became, was the decision by one of the local SAP commanders on Soweto, Major Kleingeld, to try and block the route the children intended taking – trying to do so with only a handful of men and vehicles totally inadequate in numbers and equipment for the task of confronting thousands of marching youths. Firstly, he clearly had not considered the super sensitive situational context created by the upcoming international talks. Secondly, he had not weighed the risk versus benefit associated with actually trying to block the students, instead of doing everything possible to de-escalate the situation (as he clearly should have done, and as had been so successfully achieved three years earlier during the 1973 Durban strikes). What strategic purpose could conceivably have been served by blocking the march? What infrastructure, lives or property had been threatened by it? (In Durban, the Police had chosen to simply ignore mere legal technicalities such as whether marches had been properly permitted, rather than escalate into confrontation that would be disproportionate to any benefit that could derive from trying to strictly enforce the law as it stood – and there in Durban, the angry Zulu men were marching down the main street in the heart of the very CBD).

Most essentially, what conceivable harm could have come from simply letting the kids march and getting it out of their systems? (as had been done in Durban, where the Police had actually escorted marches to ensure for them free passage – see our cover photo, of a municipal traffic policeman on his motorcycle riding with the lead marchers, with an SAP officer riding pillion and passing information on to Command via radio). Was this de-escalatory option properly weighed by the SAP in Soweto, against the enormous risk of a catastrophic political and media disaster, if the attempt to block the marching youths inevitably led to confrontation that would be impossible to manage non-violently with the inadequate forces and equipment available to Major Kleingeld?

Kleingeld and his few men and vehicles had formed a barricade across the marcher's route, without having at their disposal proper riot control equipment such as helmets, visors, and shields. Their tear gas canisters, drawn from old stock, no longer functioned properly. They set a police dog upon the youths, who killed it (inflaming emotions on both sides). The protesters then started stoning the police. Kleingeld received a rock right in the face. Officers listening in on the police radio network from other stations in Soweto heard him shout: *"Don't shoot! Don't shoot!"* But alas, it was too late – one of his sergeants had already fired at the crowd, using sharp ammunition. Again, a case of indiscipline by policemen fearing for their lives when confronted by a provoked mass of protesters...

The situation in Soweto quickly deteriorated from bad to worse, thanks largely to the local police commissioner, Brigadier Theuns "Rooi Rus" Swanepoel, who in his own later words had decided that the rioting youths had to be forcibly shown who's boss. Again, with no situational awareness, nor any understanding of the enormous political costs associated with such a totally inappropriate approach. Days of confrontation thus ensued, with deaths piling up – and there's nothing more guaranteed to rile up adults than to harm their children, whether supposedly justified or not (Swanepoel had the year before shown his limitations as commander when he had embarrassingly messed up the initial police response to what became known as the "Fox Street Siege" of the Israeli consulate in Johannesburg, when he erroneously believed a group of Palestinian terrorists were holed up inside – instead of it all being the work of the consulate's own mentally deranged security guard; that situation was only resolved when General Van den Bergh arrived on the scene, took charge, and quickly established the true circumstance).

It is indeed history that 16 June 1976 in Soweto was the turning point that presaged the end of white rule in South Africa. Looking back and reflecting upon the importance of individual commanders, one can rightly ask whether – had the 1973 Durban command contingent been in charge in Soweto in June 1976 – would Soweto then still have erupted? Highly unlikely!

What had most immediately set off the Soweto Youth Uprising of June 1976 (which then quickly spread across the country), was a truly catastrophic failure in public order policing. This is not to deny the underlying role of the politics of the government of the day, and the changed psychological climate after Operation Savannah.

That policing failure in Soweto was the result of monumentally stupid decision-making on the ground, due probably to inadequate operational intelligence, an utter lack of situational awareness, woefully unrealistic planning (if any) which did not properly weigh risk vs benefit, plus a lamentable lack of suitable preparation which did not assure that necessary equipment and numbers were available, and – again – in final analysis, leading to shots being fired without orders, using sharp ammunition, when officers started fearing for their own safety due to the ridiculous situation that their commander had wilfully placed them in.

Where was a Karools Mouton, who in Durban in 1973 had refused to place his men in a position to be stoned by workers who he knew had justified grievances, and who as officer in command could exercise sufficient control to ensure that discipline was maintained – and that, in the face of far greater numbers of angry Zulu warriors in Durban, than the number of kids who had marched in Soweto's back streets on 16 June 1976...

At its core, Kleingeld had made the fundamental error of opting to escalate rather than de-escalate, deliberately setting up a point of inevitable confrontation, doing so with inadequate men, means, operational intelligence, situational awareness and command control – a set of errors then duplicated and amplified by his immediate boss, Rooi Rus Swanepoel.

About the only golden lining to the tragic errors committed in Soweto was that the SAP learned from it, with a specialized public order policing contingent subsequently being formed, appropriately trained and properly equipped. Up to the transition to a non-racial democracy which started after President FW de Klerk's historic address to parliament on 2 February 1990, no further such grave failures of public order policing befell the SA Police Force (excluding tragedies in which homeland forces were involved, such as at Bisho on 7 September 1992, when 28 people were shot and killed by the then Ciskei Defence Force, i.e., military).

THE MARIKANA MASSACRE, 2012: The Marikana Massacre of 16 August 2012 occurred under a new government, at the hand of the re-named South African Police Service – but, once again, for the same essential reasons (failures in public order policing) as that which had led to Sharpeville and Soweto. It refers to the shooting to death of 34 striking Black mine workers at the Marikana platinum mine that day, at the end of a six-week wildcat strike which had been marked by periodic violence – some of it brutal in the extreme. In brief, on the 16th of August a confrontation occurred between a contingent of public order policemen and a threatening mob of strikers – the latter who had, beforehand, been anointed by a *sangoma* with a magic potion that supposedly was to have made them impervious to police bullets. The bellicose strikers were quite evidently out to inflict grievous harm upon the riot control policemen, so that matters quickly deteriorated to the point that the latter feared for their lives and thus opened fire with sharp ammunition in self-defence.

Even though government and victims were now of the same race, and despite the fact that the mob decidedly had not been peaceful, the fact that so many were killed (the biggest single-day loss of life in South Africa due to police action since Sharpeville in 1960) modern mores made that the police action at Marikana was severely criticised and it once again caused considerable political damage for the government of the day.

COMPARING THESE FAILURES WITH THE HANDLING OF THE 1973

DURBAN STRIKES: Compared to the public order policing disasters we discussed above in comparison; the Police's successful handling of the 1973 Durban strikes does indeed stand out for a number of things done right.

What it firstly illustrated was the necessity of having senior officers locally in command who have the necessary breadth and depth of insight, situational awareness, as well as ability for critical analysis, plus the necessary professional command capability, human empathy and values, as well as the appropriate mind-set and a willingness to speak truth to power. These essential human qualities, together with good operational intelligence, are prerequisites for well-reasoned decision-making that leads to realistic and effective planning, preparation and execution – as well as then to bringing higher echelons on board (in the case of the 1973 Durban strikes, up to Premier Vorster himself).

The handling of the 1973 Durban strikes by the local police command, demonstrates that those commanders had indeed shown excellent ability for what in modern Political Science is called “political learning” (i.e., having learnt from the 1949 pogrom, Cato Manor, and Sharpeville, as well as from their knowledge of Zulu culture and the local business environment within which they as police operated). Their actions at the time are also evidence of what in the Business and Political Sciences is called “rational actor” theory, namely that logical decision-makers (such as those police commanders were) are likely to choose options that best serve the interests they are tasked to “serve and protect”. Thus, the way in which the police had dealt with the 1973 Durban strikes were not truly the inexplicable surprises thereafter pretended, nor some kind of “mystery” (as alleged by left-leaning commentators) but was based on them having applied clear reason and sound values.

What can be agreed with, is that what occurred in Durban in 1973 unfortunately was not visible in the decision-making of the Soweto police three years later, on 16 June 1976 and in its immediate aftermath. However, as previously said, any police force always work under the burdensome obligation to get it right each time, with any and every single lapse (such as Sharpeville, Soweto and lately, Marikana) being severely punished in terms of political ramifications. The fact that Marikana caused the biggest single-day death toll since Sharpeville in 1960, a more than half-a-century time span only interspersed by Soweto in 1976, meant that the Police in fact got it right most of the time, despite South Africa's notoriously volatile politics – but received no praise for it (man bites dog is news, but dog bites man is not).

CONCLUSIONS

In July 2009, the Nigerian author **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** delivered a now-famous lecture that was captured on video as a so-called TED-talk. Her theme was: “*The Danger of a Single Story*”. It has become one of the most-viewed talks ever, having been viewed more than 40 million times. The transcript has been translated into 102 languages. The basic message? “Single stories” (in other words, coverage of any topic from **only one point of view**) are dangerous, because they cement in place undifferentiated stereotypes, without nuance or balance. Especially when this

“single story” is disseminated by powerful messengers in a dominant language, such as English. Such “single stories” are also misleading, by virtue of being selective and typically not presenting complete coverage of all relevant facts and views.

When the supposed reality about any one person, country, entity or situation is limited to and defined in public perception by just one such dominant uniform narrative, i.e., by a “single story” about it, then that single story is prone to being one-sided and therefore highly likely to unfairly malign the “other side” not favoured by the narrators.

The “single story” that is today still in vogue about the then South African Police is that it uniformly consisted of brutish, dumb wannabe Nazis dedicated solely to violently upholding white supremacy. When empirical evidence then come to the fore that seem to belie that single story – such as the Police’s insightful, empathetic, and consequently successful handling of the 1973 Durban strikes – then that “deviation” from the assumed norm is not seen as a possible negation of the validity of the “single story”, but rather as an aberration, as a singular “surprise” or a “mystery”. Even though the “mystery”, as regards its motivating drivers, can be empirically demonstrated to conform exactly to modern theory on “political learning” and “rational actors”.

The truth of the matter is that there were indeed police commanders during the Apartheid era who were not blind at all to the realities that had faced white South Africa and who had favoured negotiated political settlement, seeing their task as providing a secure environment for the holding of just such negotiations.

Probably the most significant “surprise” or “mystery” in recent times produced by South Africans (one which, in the early nineties, had left the international commentariat dumbfounded), was South Africa’s mostly peaceful transition to a non-racial democracy – initiated and achieved under the presidency of the leadership of the self-same NP government that many had assumed would lead South Africa into a bloody and intractable race war, rather than to give up power. I’m referring here to the supposed mystery of the “miracle” that had so surprised international observers between 1990 and 1994 – the white government, despite its total military dominance, giving that up as well as its weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms – doing so of its own volition and negotiating a peaceful hand-over of power to its erstwhile enemies.

The handling of the 1973 Durban strikes in fact parallels this later, greater “mystery”. What is not widely known or understood – precisely because of the “single story” still prevalent about the then government and security forces – is that there were many in that security and intelligence establishment who, from early on, had favoured a strategy of settling rather than shooting it out. The truth is, that only a small cabal around PW Botha and his defence minister Magnus Malan, had persisted in seeing military force as (to them) the only realistic option for “resolving” South Africa’s challenges.

Senior intelligence community members such as General Steenkamp on the SAP-SB side, National Intelligence Service DG Niël Barnard and his brilliant deputy Mike Louw, as well as Niel van Heerden and the entire top echelon of the Department of Foreign Affairs, had all favoured seeking a negotiated settlement from early on. As did the combined leadership of the rest, or “civilian” part of the then Civil Service, with notable among them the leadership of the then department of constitutional development and planning (Kobus Jordaan and Fanie Cloete). All those “civilian” department heads had, for example, in 1987 already signed the so-called “Fear Nothing” (*Skrik vir*

Niks) memorandum of far-reaching constitutional proposals, which unfortunately had been suppressed by the PW Botha camp.

I would therefore postulate that these supposed “mysteries” were in fact no such thing – inevitably, they had most surprised those who had held unfounded assumptions about white South Africans (especially those then in government and the security / intelligence community) because of believing in the exaggerated, one-sided “single story” that had been spread by propagandists for their own political ends.

It was in reality those far-sighted white intelligence and security officials, working within the then system, that in the end had confirmed to the ruling NP politicians that seeking a negotiated settlement was the sensible option, and who – because of the secret contacts they had established with first the KGB and then the external ANC – could furthermore confirm that the “other side” was also willing to sit down and talk realistically. Thus resulted a liberal, non-racial Western-style democracy based on a free market economy, instead of the Marxist “people’s republic” that the SACP/ANC had before fought for.

Knowing now what had really occurred during the 1973 Durban strikes (and, more particularly, WHY) and also knowing more about the individuals involved and their views and motivations, is it not time to review some of the assumptions that the pervasive “single story” had for so long underpinned? Especially since it is clear that the “mystery” of Durban 1973 is not unrelated to the incontrovertible proof of realistic insight, fundamental values and willingness to compromise and sacrifice that the world later received in the form of that other, greater “mystery” – the “miracle” of South Africa’s transformation to a non-racial democracy, as initiated and overseen by the very same party, parliament, officials and officers that had been demonised for so long?

Where else in history has a party and people possessing such overwhelming force, itself initiated a settlement and handed over power so democratically, once the threat of a Soviet-backed Marxist take-over had disappeared?

Should a tree not be judged by its actual fruit, rather than by the assumptions about it that were packaged and dominantly disseminated in a “single story” by those who had abhorred it for ideological/political reasons?

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DURBAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1973

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ALAN V DODGE THE ROYCOTT

Daily News Reporter

THE RUMOURED mass stay-away from work by Africans in the Durban townships appeared to have failed decisively today - with thousands of workers streaming into the city after a late start.

Large contingents from the South African Police and the Railway Police manned stations and points along the commuter routes from the giant KwaMashu and Umlazi townships in case of possible intimidation.

But an abnormally slow trickle of workers from the main Umlazi and KwaMashu stations before dawn grew into a flood as workers who had waited till daylight rather than risk possible intimidation in the dark, turned out for work.

Let them go early—police

Daily News Reporter

The police have appealed to employers to allow all non-white staff to leave work early today to ensure they get to their township homes before dark.

South African Police and Railway Police will be on duty at the KwaMashu and Umlazi stations and other points later today to guard against any possible intimidation of workers returning home.

Some Africans early today expressed fears that they might be intercepted by agitators between township railway stations and their homes.

Lonely figure in the dark

Daily News Reporter

"UKUANGA kuphila laka" (what a lot of nonsense!) — this was the startled reaction of a lone African commuter who arrived at KwaMashu's main ticket office at 1am to find himself alone where normally hundreds queue.

This human glimpse into the pre-dawn world of an African township railway station was shared by pressure and police today — win for a short while outnumbered workers waiting for trains.

This early commuter eyed the unusual visitors suspiciously and like so many others tonight his ticket and scuffed away before he could be approached.

He was one of those who ventured out early — while hundreds of others waited behind till the daybreak.

"We did not know where all the take came from and had to watch what others were doing before we could attempt to leave our houses," said one man.

Another man said he had instructed his wife to close the curtains in their home in "C-Section" and keep the house locked until she saw "that all was clear." And he added thoughtfully: "We were one of those living at Cato Manor in 1969."

Their caution was reflected in the early ticket sales and first indications were that the proposed boycott might be on.



With daybreak a heavy flow of commuters from KwaMashu began their daily trek to Durban after staying indoors during dark for fear of being molested by late starters. They arrived at work far later than normal because of their late start.

Supporters will 'fight to end'

Daily News Reporter

VRVHLEIN Thursday, Mr. Pieter van Wyk, spokesman for the supporters of Mr. Van Wyk, former headmaster of Vryheid High School, said today after hearing of the shock reversal of the departmental board of inquiry decision.

"We have no alternative but

to go to the Supreme Court for clarification," said Mr. van Wyk.

Shock and anger was setting in as news of the "reversal" decision against Mr. van Wyk filtered through the town. At one stage, Mr. van Wyk refused of the telephone and said: "The house is now vacant" (The farmers are angry).

"They want to come and settle the issue with him," he said.

The 100-plate range eventually during the evening and each time it was about the new "verdict" and it was somebody expressing his concern to Mr. van Wyk.

"We have the support and we will take it right to the end," said Mr. van Wyk.

R30000 BLAZE IN PLASTICS FIRM

Daily News Reporter

NEARLY R30 000 of machinery and synthetic goods were destroyed yesterday when fire swept through the third-floor workshop of a Durban plastics firm in Victoria Street.

Firemen, hampered by thick smoke, had to break down the doors of Taylor's manufacturers in Dumbie Heights to reach the blaze which started just after 9pm.

Using fire-hose reels in the building firemen managed to extinguish the flames after a half-hour battle.

A spokesman for Taylor's said today staff were cleaning the gutted workshop and production had been damaged in the fire.

Together with the plastic goods and high pressure plastic weldings destroyed in the blaze, the machinery loss is estimated at R30 000, he said.

A Fire Department spokesman said three fire tenders were sent to the scene but were not needed as firemen controlled the blaze with the modern fire fighting equipment in the building.

"It is not known at this stage what caused the fire," he said.

Airport

Milk and bread deliveries were late but dairies had arranged early rounds yesterday afternoon and last night in most cases.

At Louis Botha Airport half the African labour force did not turn up. White staff had to do the early-morning clearing up and domestic chores.

South African Breweries production was delayed when workers failed to arrive on time from Umlazi. But most workers were coming in by 9.30am.

Production was at a standstill at the giant Pepsi-Cola bottling plant at mid-morning after a reported 100 percent stay-away by African and Indian drivers and labourers.

At the Metal Box Company, Molen, a company spokesman said only 54 out of 113 non-white workers did not arrive. Production was not affected.

Work was continuing normally at Durban docks with all directions reporting for duty.

An undisciplined number of African workers failed to report for duty at Addington Hospital — but the hospital was coping, the Deputy Director of Hospital Services, Dr. D. L. Runking, said today.

Also hit were some flats and private households where workmen arrived for work this morning, the spokesman said.

One hundred of the 300 Africans started work as usual, but the remaining 200 gathered in the yard and demanded higher wages.

"But they would not start work, so we said they should go home. By 11am there were only a few stragglers left," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the firm's management would discuss wage demands only when the workmen returned to work. Those who did not wish to return would be paid off.

More than 300 labourers — the entire African work force — walked out from the big Durban ship-building yard of Durban Shipbuilding (Africa) Ltd. early today.

Five of the affected companies are part of the Frame Textile empire. Workers resumed their strikes at the Consolidated Textile mill, the Africor Mill and Consolidated Fine Spinners and Weavers — all in Jacobs — and the strikes later spread to the nearby Natal Underwear Manufacturers.

A large contingent of police in two riot trucks, several vans and dog patrol cars stood by as attempts were made to negotiate with the textile workers, but in all cases the workers refused to elect committees and said their demands were clear.

Officials of the Textile Workers' Industrial Union failed to negotiate an agreement with the strikers.

The 15th Frame company pink practice ensemble on Tuesday to a pale lilac outfit for yesterday's round.

Gary Player goes for the more elegant look with subtle black and white ensemble — one of the course, his taste for more flamboyant fashion comes to the fore. It was easily recognisable at Tuesday night's elite cocktail party for the golfers in an eye-catching emerald green jacket.

Colour blind spectators at the tournament will certainly miss out on half the fun (See also Page 17)

Strikes hit 11 firms

Daily News Reporter

AT LEAST 11 Durban firms closed today as more than 2 000 African workers continued their wage strikes. The firms include Bakers Ltd., the first essential service to break down as a result of strike action.

At Dorman Long, the Africans demanded more pay. But a spokesman for the firm said they had not made their demands clear, and did not take the chance of appointing a spokesman to discuss them.

concerned is the Consolidated Wool Washing and Processing Mills in Pinetown. The Natal Underwear factory is also part of the Frame Group.

At Baker's Limited, Sydney Road, bakery delivery trucks stood idle as private cars arrived in a continuous stream early this morning to fetch

TO PAGE 2

TO PAGE 2

NEL MADE THE EARLIER OFFER - Van Wyk

Daily News Reporter

MR VIC VAN WYK, the sacked headmaster of Vryheid High School, said today that the Director of Education in Natal, Mr. Philip Nel, had asked him to accept another post nearly a year ago.

"I'm right in it now and feel I must tell everything," said Mr. van Wyk, who until yesterday was principal.

He had been found not guilty of three allegations by an Education Department Board of Inquiry and was eagerly awaiting his reinstatement as headmaster of Natal's biggest high school.

However, yesterday he received a telegram saying that the Education Department had overruled this decision and he had been found guilty.

In an interview, Mr. van Wyk said he met Mr. Nel on March 1 last year, seven months after his appointment at Vryheid.

Mr. Nel told him that a "certain person" had brought him letters of complaint against Mr. van Wyk. These included allegations of his not dismissing a pregnant girl, admitting two girls who were wards of court to the school and being friendly with girls.

Mr. Nel told him that the charges were serious, but he would not investigate unless I accepted a post at another school," Mr. van Wyk said.

Mr. van Wyk told Mr. Nel at the charges were unfounded and he refused the transfer.

The suspension followed in November and parents and supporters of Mr. van Wyk indignantly demanded to know the reasons for it. Both the

TO PAGE 2

R7000 anti-biotic haul

Crime Reporter

DURBAN Central detectives have been called in to investigate the alleged theft of more than R7 000 worth of antibiotics.

These are alleged to have been stolen from the stockroom of Sana-Politen, Ltd., a firm of pharmaceutical wholesalers in Alwali Street.

It is suspected that the haul was made within the past four weeks, but has only now come to light.

Library request

Daily News Reporter

AMANZIMTOTI, Thursday. — The regional librarian, Mr. N. Shillinglaw, has called on the Town Council here today to achieve a proper library service for Amanzimtoti, including Athlone Park, it will be necessary to expand existing service hours. He said extra staff would also be required.

His requests will be considered by the Library Committee and later by the Staff Advisory Committee.

A PAGE OF "BOYCOTT" PICTURES APPEARS ON PAGE 4

More to golf than greens

Daily News Reporter

COLOUR barriers have crashed in the South African Open, with golfers of all hues tearing the Durban Country Club fairways into a kaleidoscopic colour spectacle with an array of jazzy outfits that would do a Paris fashion show justice.

The only clear winner at this stage of the tournament is fashion, and yesterday's pernick parade of golfers arrived in all the colours of the spectrum dazzled spectators even more than the golf.

Most of the golfers appear to be "leg men" — with the trousers a new taking first place in the fashion stakes. From paisley to patchwork, stripes to checkered pink, the players' pants really walked off with the honours yesterday.

And the golfers themselves are the first to admit they're as vain about their outfits as any fashion conscious woman.

"Most golfers bring an entire wardrobe to a tournament — one carefully colour matched outfit for each day," said professional Brian Henning, who was respondent yesterday in

orange paisley-patterned pants and matching orange shirt.

The acknowledged fashion leader of the tournament, America's Craig Shankland, whose blue and black floral trousers yesterday drew more gasps of admiration from the crowd than his play.

South Africa's Dale Hayes plumps for plaid — in colour combinations that would turn a New Yorker pale. Candy stripes were worn yesterday by Brazil's Jaime Gonzalez and Johannesburg amateur Reggie Mameela. Australian Graham Marsh tined down his shocking

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ACTION LINE

See Page 12

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The Daily News

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Natal labour unrest spreads

SIX MORE FIRMS HIT BY STRIKES

Daily News Reporters

DURBAN'S labour unrest continued in a state of flux today. While some workers returned to work, other companies were being dragged into the ever-growing list of those troubled by work stoppages.

New strikes shut down at least six industrial firms in Durban, Pinetown and Hammarsdale today, as African workers pressed for immediate wage increases.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Banks clamp down

Daily News Reporter

COMMERCIAL BANKS in Durban today placed severe restrictions on all foreign exchange dealings following reports of uncertainty on exchange markets.

The firms affected today are: Bickel-Johnson, Union Plaster Mills Ltd., Phil Williams (Pty) Ltd., Elgin Metal Products, Hebes, a Hammarsdale textile firm, and Durban Fabrik Iron Company at Jacobs.

Wage strikes also continued at several firms hit earlier this week, and the general manager of Bakers Ltd., Mr. O. I. Sylvester, said there would again be no bread deliveries from his Durban Road bakery which was still affected by the work-stoppage begun on Wednesday.

More than 300 Africans employed by Elgin Metal Products (Pty) Limited in Vortrekker Street, Jacobs, went out on strike soon after arriving at work today.

The production workers at the factory downed tools after their 5am tea break and called on the management to give them higher wages. The workers gathered outside the

TO PAGE 2

RAIL TO STAY SILENT

Pretoria Bureau

MR HORACE RALL, MEC in charge of education, said today that he would in future make no statements to the Press on the Van Wyk affair.

He had been asked to comment on claims by parents supporting the suspended Vryheid headmaster, Mr. Vic van Wyk, that he (Mr Rall) had told him before the inquiry into the alleged misconduct that the ruling of the chairman heading the inquiry would be final.

At the end of the inquiry last week the chairman, a retired magistrate, acquitted Mr van Wyk on all charges and said he should be reinstated as headmaster.

But on Wednesday the Director of Education told Mr van Wyk that he had been found guilty on three counts by a majority decision of the three-man board of inquiry.

Mr Rall angrily refused to comment on the claim that he had given Mr van Wyk an assurance that the chairman of the board could not be overruled by the other members of the board.

"With the possibility that Mr van Wyk may appeal against the verdict of the board, the matter is sub judice," he said.

"In any case, I am going to make no more statements to the Press about the matter at all."

Shock Mau Mau terror report

Daily News Africa Service

SALISBURY, Friday, RHODESIANS were today warned by their Minister of Law and Order, Mr Desmond Lardner-Burke, that terrorists in the country were using methods similar to those employed by the Mau Mau in Kenya.

In an interview with the weekly Rhodesian Financial Gazette, the Minister was quoted as saying he had proof that the terrorists were operating like the Mau Mau — working on the farms in the day and becoming terrorists at night.

The statement comes in view of the fact that the Rhodesian Government is already showing signs of discontent with its security position and information.

Coupled with the warning is another report from South Africa saying that members of the Rhodesian Front have asked for Mr Lardner-Burke's resignation because they feel he is to blame for the security breakdown which led to the present terrorist infiltration.

Asked how the terrorist groups had managed to avoid the security forces for as long as six months and establish themselves in the North-east, Mr Lardner-Burke was reported to have said: "I think we did not get the intelligence reports from the area and we found that once the trouble started there was great reluctance to give information."

Mr Lardner-Burke said he was not dependent on "I am perfectly satisfied we will get on top of them."

The State President disclosed this when he opened the 1973 Parliamentary session here today. He did not say exactly when the commission would be appointed or by when it would have finished its work.

This will end the speculation about when the Government intends appointing the delimitation commission and it should reduce the belief among certain politicians that South Africa will have to face another general election before the middle of 1974.

For all the country's political parties — but especially the Nationalist and the United Parties — preparation for the delimitation will mean intensive effort in the months ahead.

Finally the parties will have to ensure that as many of their supporters as possible are registered as voters before the supplementary registration closes on February 28 because it is more than likely that the delimitation commission's decisions will be based on the 1972 general registration of voters as amended by the current supplementary registration.

25 KNIFE WOUNDS IN GIRL

Daily News Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Friday, A 14-YEAR-OLD SCHOOL GIRL, described as a "fervid blonde girl with a warm personality" was brutally raped and murdered by a young Coloured man in Kensington Circle, Oranjezicht, late yesterday afternoon. She had 25 wounds in her body.

The girl, Sharon Ashford, was the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs M. F. Ashford of 11 Kensington Chapel, Oranjezicht. Her father is a senior executive at the Shell Oil Company.

Sharon last her key and had to enter the empty house through an open window. She

By a ironic twist of fate the family's servant, Mrs Frieda Soudien, who is at home every afternoon, had to go and see a doctor in Sea Point.

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An early morning breakfast in KwaNobu. This was the scene in the African township today when a group of South African policemen decided to have breakfast during their vigil to ensure that residents went to work in Durban without fear of being molested by intimidators who had threatened them with violence if they did not maintain their transport boycott.

Milk price rise expected soon

Daily News Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG, Friday, The price of milk is expected to go up by the middle of the month. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, is expected to give the matter his attention next week and it is possible that an announcement could be made by next Friday.

Mr Chris Clifters, director of the SAAU, said in an interview: "We have made our representations on behalf of the fresh milk producers. It is now for the Minister to decide."

The Swaziland police allowed a South African Police officer to visit the man in jail. The police believe the man can help them in their investigations at Nottingham Road.

Fair and mild

-Page 9

Body in bush — new turn

Daily News Correspondent

THE BODY of a Pretoria man, Mr Nick van Pletzen (40), will be exhumed today after investigations by the city's Murder and Robbery Squad which took them to Nottingham Road, East London and Swaziland.

South African authorities have asked for the extradition of a 32-year-old white man who was being held by Swaziland police on charges of fraud and theft.

South African police believe the man can help them with their investigation into the death of Mr van Pletzen, whose body was found just by a long road in a plantation at Nottingham Road, East London, last year for Christmas last year.

Mr van Pletzen was reported missing on January 4. The report was made by his brother-in-law, Mr P. Peach, headmaster of Pretoria school for handicapped children.

TREATED Police said today that Mr van Pletzen was being treated at a rehabilitation centre near Pretoria. He was admitted to the centre after being found by a car and stayed with his sister in East London for a few days, then left for his mother in Ficksburg but failed to arrive there.

When Mr Peach discovered that his brother-in-law had not returned to Ficksburg on January 4, he reported to the police that he was missing.

Meanwhile a report in a Natal newspaper said that the body of an unidentified man was found in a plantation at Nottingham Road. The description of the dead man, including an open wound on his chest, tallied with the description Pretoria police had of Mr van Pletzen.

On January 13 Swaziland police arrested a man on charges of fraud and theft and found that he allegedly had Mr van Pletzen's car and personal papers.

The Swaziland police allowed a South African Police officer to visit the man in jail. The police believe the man can help them in their investigations at Nottingham Road.

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SELECTION OFFICER TO BE CHARGED

Daily News Reporter

LADYSMITH, Friday, A selection officer presiding at a selection board for the 1973-74 year has been charged following allegations of offences under the Electoral Act. It was learned Friday here today.

Mr Lombard was removed from his position after complaints by the United Party that he had signed a postal application form in the name of the applicant concerned.

The allegations were made by Senator Charles Henderson, election agent for the United Party candidate for the by-election, Mr. N. C. L. L.

Details of the charge or charges and Mr Lombard's date of appearance would be made known later, a Ladysmith Magistrate's court spokesman said.

FRIEND OF KENNY'S MISSING

Daily News Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG, Friday, A PRETTY resourceful acquaintance of Mr John Henry was abducted today by a substantial sum of her husband's money five days after Mr Henry vanished.

The 23-year-old woman, for months the wife of an Australian passport in Perth, Australia under her maiden name, Miss Sally Irving.

Police are investigating the possibility of a conspiracy between the two fugitives, but so far their disappearance are said only by a set of remarkable circumstances.

Both disappeared within days of each other.

Both are alleged to have been large sums.

Neither told even their relatives of their plans, and they have been heard of since their departure.

The woman's distressed husband had said a theft charge against her husband would be made an extradition argument.

It was learned today that Mr Henry was probably something of a playboy. He is understood to have had several girlfriends, known to the woman in Johannesburg.

It has now been confirmed that the woman and her son, 16, who had been in Johannesburg for "the night" the money was shared in two jackpot wins last September which amounted to R10,000.

Asked whether the missing man could have eloped with

Mr Kenny, the husband said: "I doubt it."

He asked and his wife had known Mr Kenny on the racecourse. But they had seldom seen each other elsewhere.

He said his wife had a South African passport in her married name. He believed she had obtained a British passport in her maiden name for the flight to Perth.

He would not disclose the sum of money taken by his wife, but said it was definitely more than the R2,000 allowed for imports under the currency regulations.

He had seen Mr Kenny at the races after his wife's disappearance. Mr Kenny had told him that he was about to "lay off" betting for a while.

He knew Mr Kenny as a clever punter who was not likely to have thrown away his large winnings of recent months on wild gambles.

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Wife batters burly burglar

TITUSVILLE (Florida), Friday,

ANN MARIE LYNCH quit professional wrestling seven years ago, but she came out of retirement to hand a burly burglar "a beating he'll never forget".

Mrs Lynch (46) and her husband, Patrick, surprised the thief in their living room after returning home late.

"The first time I can't beat a woman, I'll quit," Mrs Lynch quipped the 2-metre tall intruder as shouting when she grabbed for him after he knocked her husband to the floor.

"Boy, was he surprised," recalled the 1.5-metre Mrs Lynch. "Patrick was hit in the stomach. He has a paunch and that guy could have killed him. It made me proud and mad."

"I planned the guy and knocked him good. His head hit the

coffee table when I pinned him and there was blood all over my white living-room carpet. He finally got away, but the police ought to be able to spot him. His face was torn up real good."

"I ain't afraid of no man."

A certified public accountant like her husband, Mrs Lynch said it had been a busy week. On Monday night she pulled a man from a burning car.

"It's kind of funny," she said. "But, then, I like to be active."

Mrs Lynch, who wrestled as Ann Marie Antonelli, said she did not remember the recent she competed in her 18 years as a wrestler in Chicago and New York, but "I won more than I lost."

"I wasn't ever famous or anything, but I was pretty tough. I still am." — STAFF AP.

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Boycott threat over Boks

PIETERMARITZBURG (New Zealand Press) — A threat to boycott the Boks (New Zealand) in the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, Scotland, has been made by the New Zealand Rugby Union. The union said it would consider such action if the South African team were to play in the tournament. The union's statement came in the wake of a report that the South African team had been invited to play in the tournament.

HUE AND CRY IN CITY

Street Brawls
A YOUNG Portuguese woman, armed guards, a baby and the police were involved in a dramatic encounter in the Capital yesterday afternoon in which RHM was taken from the city of a shop.

R. Carroll, whose husband owns a Vally repair shop in Lacy Street in the Capital, said yesterday she was speaking on the phone of the shop when two African men barged in and snatched RHM from the city.

In spite of attempts by an African employee to prevent them from leaving, they made off with the money in the pockets of R. Carroll.

After a long struggle, in which shots were said to have been fired into the air, both men were finally apprehended in the centre of town.

Mrs. Carroll said her husband had only left the shop for a moment.

"While on the phone I heard a noise. I turned round to see my cleaner, John Nephane, trying to shut the doors of the shop to prevent the intruders from leaving. He even took off a shoe to hit them with it, but they pushed him aside and, as they ran out, I shouted for help."

A police spokesman confirmed that two men had been arrested in connection with the incident and that the money had been recovered.

RIGHT: Mr. John Nephane (28) demonstrates how he tried to prevent the two thieves from leaving the shop.

Two held after chase and fight

Two held after chase and fight



Doubts about extension of homes scheme

Civic Affairs Editor
CITY Councillors have mixed feelings about the planned extension of the Grange municipal housing scheme to a point only 437 metres from the boundary of Imbali African township.

Members of the Housing and Planning Committee and other Councillors yesterday went on an inspection of the area, the first since the completion of R75 000 tree-clearing operations. Eventually the extension — already a Government-appointed scheme — will comprise 600 houses. Those on the southern boundary will be separated from Imbali by a 437 metre buffer strip.

Of the Councillors appearing after the inspection, Mr. Ian Balfour said that he had certain reservations on the matter.

Mr. Mrs. G. E. Terry, however, said it was unlikely that houses would be erected right up to the buffer strip.

"The Grange II site is very big and there is room to build all the houses without going near the boundary," she said.

Mr. Mrs. G. P. White said that she intended going back to have another look at the area. "The decision is one that takes a lot of thought because it will affect many people."

Mr. Peter Harwood, chairman of the Housing and Town Planning Committee, said that he was pleased that the inspection had been made.

"It has enabled Councillors to see that the actual layout of the scheme as regards the buffer strip is not as alarming as it appears on a map."

He said that he left at this stage the planning proposals for a future date the area outside the municipal boundary. They have asked to see the town planning proposals for this area. The Council has no say in the future of areas outside the boundary. A Council spokesman said.

RANKS OF STRIKERS SWELL TO 20 000

DURBAN—Production stopped at Dunlop (South Africa) Ltd. in Sydney Road, Durban, yesterday morning when 1 300 workers walked out.

This makes a total of at least 20 000 Durban workers and 26 factories now involved in work stoppage. Another 15 factories were affected yesterday.

A total of 2 800 workers refused to return to work at Roper and Matting and operations at the General Chemical Corp. (Durban) Ltd. were brought to a standstill when the majority of its workers downed tools and demanded higher pay.

The police were called out when trouble flared up again at the Union Flour Mills, Bakers and Consolidated Textile Mills.

There were partial stoppages at the giant Felix Group and at their subsidiary, Carpet Manufacturers Ltd. Crossley Carpets (S.A.) Pty Ltd. was closed down. Mr. R. L. Harvey, the general manager of the group, said one of their plastic factories had also been affected.

BODY OF MAN IS EXHUMED BY POLICE

PRETORIA—The body of a Pretoria man, Mr. Nick van Pletzen (40), was exhumed at Ficksburg yesterday after investigations by detectives from Pretoria's Murder and Robbery Squad which took them to Howick, East London and Swaziland.

South African authorities have asked for the extradition of a 22-year-old White man, who is being held by the Swaziland Police on charges of fraud and theft and that he had Mr. van Pletzen's car and personal papers in his possession.

Mr. van Pletzen was reported missing on January 4.

On January 15, Swaziland police arrested a man on charges of fraud and theft and found that he had Mr. van Pletzen's car and personal papers in his possession.

Mr. van Pletzen's body will be reburied today at 11 a.m. in Ficksburg, where his 86-year-old mother lives.—Sapa.

PILOT DIES IN CRASH

PRETORIA—An Air Force headquarters announced yesterday that Capt. Leslie John Marshall, a flying instructor stationed at Flying Training School, Lanseria, was killed in a flying accident at 8.45 a.m. yesterday.

Capt. Marshall was practising aerobatic flying when his Jetstream aircraft crashed in the vicinity of Sunningdale Airfield near Darling in the Cape.

He was 26 years old and single, and his parents reside at Bonaventure in the Cape.

A board of inquiry is being convened to investigate the cause of the accident.—Sapa.

Today's smile



3 Hurt as car catches fire in Pmb

Staff Reporter
Three Indian men were admitted to Edendale Hospital yesterday after the car in which they were travelling caught fire on the National Road at 130.

The Pietermaritzburg Fire Brigade was called to the scene. Mr. Gopur Singh (18) and Mr. Singh (20), of 10 South Road, Newcastle, were injured to hospital, with minor injuries, and Mr. Singh (22), of 24 Saint Street, Newcastle, was injured with a neck injury.

Last night the condition of Mr. Singh was said to be critical. Mr. Singh's condition was described as fair.

Border now closed on both sides

SALISBURY—The border between Rhodesia and Zambia has now been effectively closed on both sides. A Rhodesian Ministry of Information spokesman last night confirmed that the Zambian Government has shut down its customs and immigration posts at Chirundu and Kariba along the common border.

Rhodesia closed her side of the border on January 9 in what has been termed a "defensive" move following recent attacks on civilian farms and mining in the north of the country.

Rhodesia's Government has accused the Zambians of harboring terrorists and said the border would remain closed until Zambia's President, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, gave an assurance that this assistance and support would stop.

Before the Rhodesian closure, the Government had warned Zambia that if the terrorist operations continued to be launched from their territory, the border would be closed.

Rhodesia's Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Smith, said suggestions to the Zambians about holding discussions on the problem at Ministerial level had been ignored.

In New York last night the Security Council approved a decision to send a four-member team to Zambia to assess the situation in the area following Rhodesia's imposition of an economic blockade.

A despatch from Lusaka says European travellers, previously permitted to cross the frontier despite the border blockade, had been turned back by soldiers who told them that border posts were closed indefinitely.

Tiny baby kept in shoe box

BULTFOUNTEN—A baby boy weighing 0.8kg (1lb. 5oz.) has been born to an African woman on Mr. P. J. Maritz's farm Helpemak in the Bultfontein district.

It is the woman's 14th child. The baby, which is now 13 days old, is being raised by his mother in a shoebox lined with cottonwool.—Sapa.



SIR DE VILLIERS
... motion of censure.

Div gives notice of 'no confidence' move

CAPE TOWN—When the House of Assembly met after the official opening of Parliament by the State President, the Leader of the Opposition, Sir de Villiers, gave notice that on Monday he would move: That this House has no confidence in the Government.

The Minister of Mines, Dr. P. C. J. Koorndyk, gave notice of a Bill relating to the payment of compensation for certain losses contracted in mining and industry.

The Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Mr. A. J. Raubenheimer, gave notice of a Bill to amend the Bantu Laws.

The Deputy Minister of Bantu Education, Mr. T. N. H. Jansen, gave notice of a Bill to amend the constitution of the University of Fort Hare, the University of Zululand and the University of the North West.

The Minister of Justice, Mr. P. C. Pelser, gave notice of a Bill to amend the Stock Theft Act of 1959 and a Bill to establish a South African Law Commission.

When the Senate met after the official opening of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition, Sir de Villiers, gave notice of a motion of censure on the Government.—Sapa.

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KIRK'S VIEW OPPOSED

Tour is on —NZ union

WELLINGTON, Monday. The New Zealand Rugby Union will go ahead with the proposed tour this year in the face of Government opposition. The Prime Minister, Mr. Norman Kirk, said the union's tour is a private matter and that "it would be in the interest of New Zealand if the tour did not take place."

But today the union issued a statement saying: "Arrangements for the tour are proceeding."

Within an hour of the union's letter going to the Prime Minister, Mr. Kirk returned the letter of the union, saying that he had read it and that he was "not in a position to comment on it."

"I want you to know that this paper represents the considered view of the government," said Mr. Kirk.

In view of this statement the Government believes that it would be in the interest of New Zealand that the tour should not take place.

It should be noted that the union's statement says that it is the intention of the union to go ahead with the tour and that it is not in a position to comment on the government's statement.

The following is the text of the letter from the Prime Minister to the union:

"The Government's position is that it is not in a position to comment on the union's statement."

TO PAGE 2

Hunt for train driver's killer

DURBAN, Monday. The Durban Police are hunting for the killer of a train driver who was killed last night.

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BRANDISHING sticks — and anything else they could lay their hands on — a chanting mob of African workers of the City Engineer's Department marches down Old Fort Road in impetuous today to gather outside the department's headquarters to demand higher wages.

SERVICES CUT AS 3 000 STRIKE

Daily News Reporters

MANY ESSENTIAL services in Durban were paralysed today when more than 3 000 of the Durban Corporation's African labourers went on strike.

The strike brought to a halt key services in the City Engineer's Department, including road and drain works and sections of the cleansing division. The strike also spread to the city's electricity department.

Strikers, who gathered outside the labour office of the City Engineer's Department in Old Fort Place, allegedly threatened to burn down the office unless the African labour clerks stopped work. They are also said to have threatened any labourer who did not go on strike.



KILLING OF GIRL: MAN IN COURT

Daily News Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Monday. The alleged murderer of 14-year-old Sharon Ashford, Robert Victor Morton (22), appeared before Mr. F. A. H. Juhl in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court today.

A neatly-dressed Morton, of no fixed address, strode into the dock at court proceedings opened today, and answered to a court "Yes, sir" when the prosecutor, Mr. de Villiers du Toit, asked him if he was Robert Victor Morton.

Everyone in the packed courtroom stared at the long-haired young man who stood quietly with his arms folded across his chest as Mr. de Toit asked the magistrate to postpone the hearing until February 13 "for further investigation."

After Mr. Juhl had told him that he would be kept in custody in the cells at Caledon Square Police Station until the hearing, Morton turned on his heel and composedly walked down into the court cells.

INSIDE
The Daily News
TODAY

Shipping and general news...
Finance and industry...
Domestic affairs...
Law and order...
Sport...
The Daily News...
TODAY

Death crash driver found hanged

Daily News Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Monday. A MAN was found hanged last night on the road between Yzerfontein and Darling at the scene of a head-on collision in which a young White couple were killed instantly.

According to the police, the dead man has been identified as Mr. Gertie Johannes de Lillie (26), a coloured man of the farm Waterkloof, in the Darling district.

The two people killed in the accident were Miss Anna-Rita de Necker, a 19-year-old bank clerk at Villiersdorp, and Mr. Andre Louw (22) of Goldburg Road, Goodwood.

The light car in which they were travelling is a total wreck. The accident occurred shortly before 8pm close to the farm Windhoek. A passing motorist notified the police.

The coloured man, who was the only occupant of the heavy truck, was found hanged from a rope tied over the guard-rail of the truck.

THREE BEERS MAY BE LEGAL LIMIT SOON

Parliamentary Bureau

LEGISLATION to halve the percentage of alcohol that drivers are permitted to have in their blood is to be introduced during the November session," he said.

Mr. Martin said there would be no change in the discretionary powers given to Natal magistrates on the suspension of the driving licences of motorists convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol.

At present it is mandatory for magistrates in the other provinces to take away the licences of drivers convicted of drunken driving.

In terms of drinks, the present permissible alcohol level has been estimated as the equivalent of drinking between seven and 10 lots of brandy.

The proposed level of 0.05 would represent about four lots of brandy or three 240ml bottles of beer.

10 Durban factories close down

Daily News Reporter

PRODUCTION stopped at factories in Jacobs, Durban, today when thousands of African workers went on strike for higher wages.

At least 10 Jacobs firms closed and workers wandered about the streets. Attempts to negotiate with the strikers broke down and more factories began closing.

"We are at a standstill and it looks as if the whole of Jacobs is, too," said the director of General Chemicals Corporation, Mr. M. P. Thomsen.

The chemical factory's 176 workers had refused an offer made after they began their strike last Thursday and had stayed away from the factory today, Mr. Thomsen said.

"Mobs" were patrolling Jacobs and complicating the problem. Textile workers at the Consolidated Textile Mill and the Natal Underwear factory resumed their strike and large contingents of police were on standby as thousands of workers went into the streets. There were no incidents.

SKELETON STAFF
The chairman of the Frame textile empire, Mr. Philip Frame, said he is willing to meet representatives of the Textile Workers' Industrial Union. Mr. Frame's secretary said the chairman was keen to discuss the strikes with union officials and would arrange a meeting today. Earlier, Mr. Frame said he "did not want to get involved with unionism."

The management of Ropes and Mattings continued attempts to negotiate with their workers today. Production at the rope factory was reported to be stopped.

Work in some departments of Amalgamated Packaging Industries was brought to a halt by strikers today and the Moberg engineering plant

Again in Centenary area

TERROR ATTACK: 1 DEAD

Daily News Africa Service

SALISBURY, Monday. AN ELDERLY visitor from the United Kingdom became the latest terrorist victim in Rhodesia when he was killed in an attack last night on a farm in the Centenary area.

The dead man was Mr. John Jelliffe, father of the owner of the farm Chaumb.

No details have been released yet, but the Rhodesian authorities of the extent of the attack or what weapons were used. It is also not yet known what time the attack occurred.

The latest attack, the fourth in the Centenary area in north-east Rhodesia since December 21, was officially confirmed in a security forces communique late this morning.

The last attack in the area was on a farm store at Sipolilo last Thursday night in which nobody was injured.

Mr. Jelliffe was a second cousin to have been killed in a farm attack on the current wave of terrorism. Two White land inspectors were killed in the adjacent trial area to Mount Darwin early in January.

The week before last Mrs. Gertrude Kipphut was killed and her husband badly injured when terrorists attacked their farmhouse close to the Centenary police station.

Last night's attack came during an intensive hunt by Rhodesian troops and police.

TO PAGE 2

TO PAGE 2

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Inquiry after clerk's 'neglect'

Staff Reporter

An audit investigation is to be carried out by the Greytown Town Council, following the suspension and resignation of the Town Clerk.

A statement on the matter has been issued by the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Dr. A. J. du Plessis, to inform the Greytown residents of what was "going on."

The statement, which was given at the closure of the public meeting, read: "It must be made clear to the public that the Town Clerk has apparently neglected his duty in some respects over a period of some years. For this reason the Council suspended the Town Clerk on full pay, pending an audit investigation."

"Such audit investigation was immediately ordered."

After his suspension, however, the Town Clerk resigned on health reasons, his resignation being supported by a medical certificate. Council accepted his resignation with certain provisions.

Vacation job



A vacation job for University of Natal student Juan Williams is proving to be somewhat different. He, and several other students are currently perched at central street corners during peak periods to observe and tabulate the number of vehicles, which pass, and how they turn at intersections. What is behind this student-pricing team?

A City Engineer's Department spokesman told the "Witness" yesterday that the City Council has engaged a firm of consultants to conduct a study of what sort of traffic system Pietermaritzburg needs.

The team of traffic-watchers will be on the streets for three weeks, after which the results will be analysed and a report made to the City Council for its consideration, to be followed by a meeting of the City Council to discuss the flow of traffic at the present.

DURBAN—Durban entered its fifth week of wage unrest and work stoppages yesterday with no sign that the momentum of wage demands by an estimated 30 000 African and Indian workers was slackening.

By yesterday, about 30 companies in the Durban-Pietermaritzburg complex ranging from the giant Frame Group to small firms employing a score of workers, had been hit by partial or total wage walk-outs, sparked off by the Corporation Brick Company stoppage in the second week of January.

Hope for Grange shopping centre

RESIDENTS of Pietermaritzburg's giant Grange municipal housing scheme can look forward to having their shopping complex before long, writes our Civic Affairs Editor.

The Estates Manager, Mr. S. J. Engelbrecht, said yesterday that it was hoped to be able to offer a trading site at the next municipal land sale planned for March.

"This would depend on all the necessary formalities being completed, he said. It is hoped that the purchaser of the site will develop it as a small shopping centre."

Also to be offered at this sale are the first nine flat and maisonette sites to be prepared in the new Hayfields layout.

To be sold at a later stage are the first 12 special residential sites in the layout. From 1 400 to 1 560 sq. metres, the sites are likely to be offered at upset prices ranging from R4 250 to R4 600.

In recommending the sale, the Housing and Town Planning Committee has also recommended that 27 sites in Blesley Valley and 25 in Alexandra Road extension be sold by public auction. These sites have been an offer for sale by private treaty. The Administrator's approval is needed to change the method of sale.

Many of the stoppages still remain unresolved and production at a number of factories has either been brought to a complete standstill or partially interrupted.

As the present wave of strikes in Durban and surrounding areas continues to gain momentum, the Natal

Employers' Association has urged its members to start adopting a "tough-line" policy with strikers.

The association has called on its members to implement a three-point standard course of action in dealing with strikers:

1. In the event of a stoppage of work, employers should refuse to negotiate until work is resumed.

2. Strikers should not be paid for periods during which they are off work.

3. Once work is resumed, promises to negotiate, or promises made to representatives of the workers, must be kept to the letter and discussions actively pursued.

The Dupont tyre factory in Sydenham Road, Durban, was closed yesterday and will re-open tomorrow morning. The decision was made by the management and followed an incident on Friday when about 10 per cent of the 1 200 African employees refused to return to work.

The Durban Corporation last night granted an immediate R200 000 wage increase, averaging 15 per cent, to all its non-White employees.

About 18 000 employees will benefit by the pay rise, which follows yesterday's walk-out by more than 1 000 non-White labourers in various sectors of the Corporation—Sapa.

SARMCOL PAY DEAL AVERTS WORK HALT

Staff Reporter

A WORK stoppage at the Sarmcol (Pty) Ltd. rubber factory at Howick, was averted yesterday after discussions between the management and the non-European workers committee.

The works committee, representing about 2 000 employees, is reported to have agreed to an increase in wages of 70 cents a week, effective immediately. It will be increased by another 25 cents a week in April.

Mr. R. J. Sampson, Sarmcol's secretary, said: "These allowances are being introduced prior to the formal review of the wage structure, scheduled to be effective from September, when it is hoped it will be possible, subject to improved trading conditions, to make further favourable adjustments."

The introduction of the supplementary allowance increases the minimum basic wage to R12 a week, with an average wage of about R18 a week, and a top rate of R175 per month.

Most earn wages substantially higher than the basic rates quoted.

A higher scale will begin at R15 a week and rise by 50 cent increments to R18,50.

Similar increments have been recommended for the other non-White employees.

The chairman of the Staff Committee, Mr. Ian Balfour, said non-White employees were faced with the rising cost of living.

"We feel the proposed increase will afford a degree of stability in their lives. At present, most of the unskilled labourers only work for about six months and then go home."

If the committee's recommendation is accepted, he said, the increased salary it is hoped they will stay longer and become more efficient and productive," he said.

No overall figure has been worked out for the pay increase nor have funds been set aside to meet them. The added cost will be allocated to the various accounts. It is expected that the rates will be affected.

To date, the only sign of labour unrest among non-White municipal employees has been in the Transport Department. Last Friday a meeting was held at which employees

Today's smile



"Turn that frown down! It's giving me a headache!"



Surprise for mum from Merrivale

THERE was a double treat at the weekend for Mrs. Naomi Russell of Merrivale. She and her husband, an engineering technician at the Department of Agriculture in the Capital, attended a performance of the musical revue, "Showtime," at the Churchill Theatre, and no sooner had the curtain gone up, when the expectant mother went into labour.

Noticing that something was not right, Mrs. Russell's husband suggested that they leave for Grey's Hospital at once, but, "I was enjoying the show and I was not about to spend the evening in hospital," she said yesterday.

AFTER COFFEE

After laughing her way through the show, she went on to have coffee with friends, and finally decided that it was time to move in the direction of the maternity ward. Just after midnight, twin daughters, Vanessa and Jennifer, arrived!

Although three weeks premature, the babies, weighing 6lb. 2oz. and 6lb. 4oz., were big enough to go straight into their mother's arms. The Russells now have five children—and they are all daughters.

Div hits at Govt failure to halt labour unrest

Suspended head to appeal to Havemann

Parliamentary Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Sir De Villiers Graaf, in a forthright attack on the Government, yesterday warned that South Africa's "guerrilla fighter" was "in our midst" in the form of poverty.

He hit out at the Government for its failure to take the course which had led to the wave of labour unrest in Natal.

Moving the No Confidence motion before packed public galleries, Sir De Villiers said that unless the problems of deprivation and poverty were dealt with immediately, the country might find that neither

the Government nor the United Party would be in a position to offer any solution.

He gave an undertaking that a United Party Government, as an emergency measure, would materially increase the wages of the country's lowest paid industrial workers and take steps to adjust incomes regularly to the rising cost of living.

Replying immediately after

WEATHER

CLOUDY AND MILD WITH RAIN

(See Page 9)

Continued on Page 9

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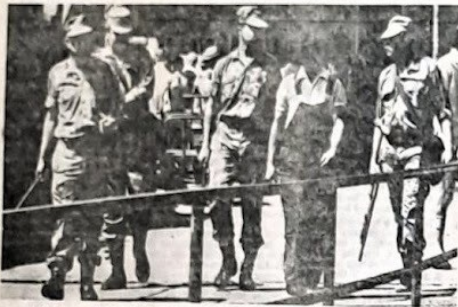
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Gallery Note

• Sir De Villiers hits at Government over labour unrest — See Page 8



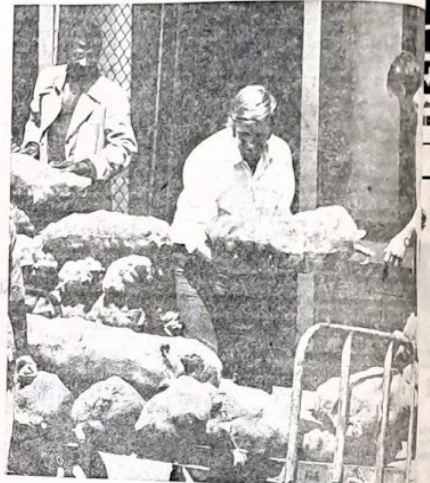
MEMBERS of NAPAC set up chairs and instruments themselves today when they arrived at the City Hall for a symphony orchestra rehearsal to find corporation workers on strike. From the left are Mr. Edna Grobbelaar, head of music, Mr. James Conrad, head of opera, and Mrs. Mary Ashdown, secretary/organiser of music.



LEFT: A Railways employee is protected by policemen wearing camouflage dress and carrying automatic rifles as they escort him along the siding at Durban Municipal Market today after strikers refused to unload fresh produce.

DURBAN GETS DOWN TO IT

STRIKING milk delivery men did not get their milk today. Almost as if he was getting his nose at the strikers, he walks past the Creamline depot with his basket of milk.

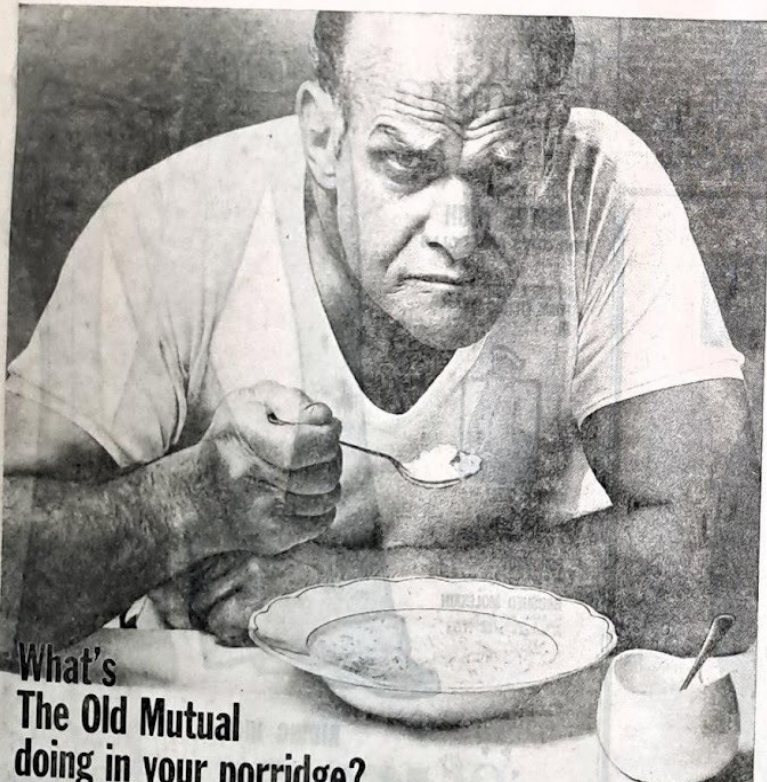


THE strike by African workers in Durban has brought home to the city's Whites just how much they depend on Africans for many essential services.

The milk has not been delivered, the streets have not been swept and rubbish bins at homes and blocks of flats have not been cleared.

But, wherever possible, White employees have cheerfully stepped into the breach to do the work normally done by Africans — and housewives have quickly made their own arrangements about getting milk and keeping their rubbish bins clear.

These pictures show what the strike has meant to Durban Whites.



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WHITE employees at Durban Municipal Market by White volunteers, unload fruit and vegetables from railway trucks to prevent it going to waste.

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The Daily News

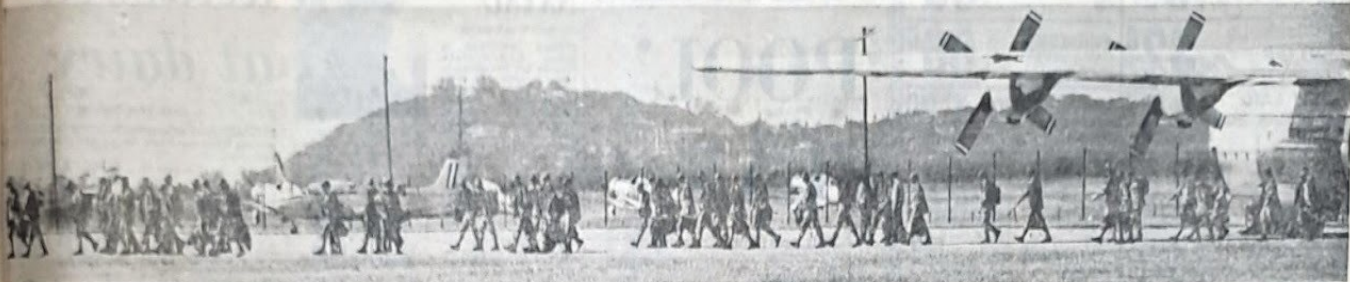
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CITY WORKERS ON WAY BACK

SACCAP ready for clean-up

Daily News Reporter
The South African Council for Conservation and Anti-Pollution will be on standby this week-end to clean up Durban's streets if the street cleaners are still on strike.

TROOPS BATTLE GANGS

Daily News Africa Service
SALISBURY, Thursday. RHODESIAN security forces and infiltrating guerrilla bands fought a battle in Tribal Trust Land south of the rebel Ceres area last night, unofficial sources said here.

The battle was in the Chweche tribal area just south of Ceres. Several guerrillas were killed and there were casualties among the Rhodesian forces, it is understood.

An official communiqué is expected later today.

Details of the attack on the Ceres area were given in a report by the Rhodesian forces, it is understood.

The bodies were found in the Ceres area, it is understood.

The bodies were found in the Ceres area, it is understood.

DURBAN'S municipal service is expected to be back to normal by Monday. Most of the City Council's striking African workers have decided to return to work today or tomorrow.

All African workers at the fresh produce market were back at work today and the municipal abattoir have agreed to return to work tomorrow. The abattoir is being manned by volunteers from several meat agents until the African workers return.

New move in textile wages row

Daily News Reporter
TEXTILE KING, Philip Frame, has pulled out of his factories in a row over his proposal to decrease workers' wages at Harrold's by 20 percent.

The move — which enables the Frame company to put its case for a reduction in workers' wages direct to the Government — came after the Industrial Council threw out Mr. Frame's application last month, based on the claim that untrained labour was involved.

The application for a 30 percent wage cut, described by one union leader in Natal today as "an audacious move in the present climate", comes less than six months after textile workers were granted a 10 to 12 percent wage increase.

This followed a deadlock in wage negotiations between the Textile Union and the Textile Manufacturers' Association in which the Minister of Labour, Mr. Marais Viljoen, called in the Industrial Tribunal to make a wage award.

If the Government accedes to Mr. Frame's request, the wages they were earning before the tribunal's award — working on a figure of a 15 percent rise.

An exemption could technically be granted to the Frame group on the grounds that the Harrold's factory is in a border area and not bound by statutory wage agreements. But union leaders said today such an exemption would bring a wave of protests from employers.

A 30 percent cut would severely hit women textile workers, already paid 20 percent less than men, and would peg them back to a wage level 50 percent below the 1968 pay agreement.

Mr. Frame's rift with the industrial council over his wage-cut application was reliably confirmed by independent sources today. Proceedings of industrial council meetings are, as a matter of policy, not made public.

South African Police reinforcements stream from a South African Air Force transport aircraft after arriving in Durban early today to bolster the police forces in the strike-ridden city. The men are the second batch to be flown from Pretoria to help control the labour unrest in Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Johannesburg.

HIGHEST SALE OF PAPERS

Comprehensive coverage of Durban's labour crisis brought The Daily News its highest sale yesterday. A total of 130,500 copies of yesterday's issue were distributed throughout Natal.

OVER SOON, SAYS POLICE CHIEF

Daily News Reporter
THE LABOUR unrest which rocked Durban and its environs for the past few weeks is on the verge of coming to an end, the Police Commissioner said today.

This opinion was expressed this afternoon by General P. J. "Trey" Venter, Chief Assistant Commissioner of the South African Police, after lengthy discussions with police officers in Durban.

According to reports he had received "it would appear that the majority of the workers now feel that their plight has been brought to the attention of the public and that further action on their part would be pointless," he said.

"More than half the firms which were hit by strikes are now almost back to normal and it is my opinion that the rest of the workers who directed tools will also be returning to work soon."

"I want to emphasize that according to our information the whole thing is now on the decline."

"And I would also like to stress that we are thankful that the Africans in general behaved in an orderly manner."

General Venter added: "We are naturally fully aware that there still exists a 'lumpen' minority group, but I want to give the assurance to those Africans returning to work that they will be afforded our fullest protection."

The police reinforcements we received from Pretoria today were committed for precisely this purpose — to protect workers from intimidation and they will be available until such time as complete order is restored."

Keep calm, Buthelezi tells Zulus

Daily News Reporter
ZULU STRIKERS were today urged to stay calm and to avoid violence by the head of the KwaZulu Government, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, who said he would fly home immediately from New York if the situation deteriorated.

Chief Buthelezi also called on Natal employers to act immediately to meet workers' demands where possible to prevent matters from getting worse.

In a telephone interview from his hotel in New York, where he is attending an academic leaders' conference, Chief Buthelezi said that he felt "anxious" to be so far from home at this time.

"I would like to leave immediately but unfortunately I have an economy return fare ticket which means I have to stay for a full 15 days," Chief Buthelezi said.

He said that if the situation worsened he would try to raise the fare in America to enable him to return to Durban immediately.

Referring to reports of a strike in the city, he said: "I am sure that the situation in the city will be under control."

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ACTION LINE

See Page 12

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STRIKES CAUSING SHORTAGE OF MILK

DURBAN — Many Durban tea-rooms and other dealers have started rationing supplies of milk following the strikes which have crippled Clover Dairies and closed all but the main branch of Creamline.

A spokesman for Clover Dairies has warned that, unless the strike ends, the shortage of milk will lead to general rationing.

The Mayor of Durban, Mr. Ron Williams, yesterday thanked residents who "helped out" at the Clover depot.

More than 200 people turned up at the dairy and worked up to late on Wednesday night, stacking, loading and manning the conveyor belts.

Several men with heavy duty drivers' licences drove the dairy's trucks, collecting empty bottles and delivering milk at depots.

There were no household deliveries of milk yesterday, with both strikes affecting co-operatives, on supplying their depots with milk. However, they will have to collect their supplies from the depots, many of which are already running dry.

But Mr. Williams says the strike of Corporation workers has reached its turning point.

Must be expected back at work today. Scores of workers decided to return to their jobs when told the Municipality could pay them no more than offered early this week.



• Mrs. Brown with the unusual "bite".

BIG REWARD IS OFFERED

JOHANNESBURG — A R1000 reward was offered yesterday for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the man who shot and killed John Henry Kenna, the mining secretary of the Randfontein and South African.

The reward will be 10 per cent of the value of the assets of the bank's issues which are recovered. These issues are now said to be R120 000. The reward is offered by the owners of the bank — Sapa.

This one really took the biscuit!

SOME people order their liquor supplies by telephone, others drop into their bottle stores personally or send a messenger with a note.

The staff of a bottle store in a College Road, Pietermaritzburg, received what must be the most unusual order ever received.

It was brought in by an African messenger from a nearby construction site and was written on a four-inch piece of paper with four words — "biscuit biscuit".

STARTLED

The order was received by Mrs. Joan Patterson who got quite a start when the messenger thrust the note at her. Fortunately the manager of the store, Mrs. Joan Brown, was also on hand and knew without a moment's delay that it was an order for a half-dozen of biscuits.

"It was certainly the most unusual order form I've seen in my years in the bottle store business, but I realised what it was. I've got quite accustomed to getting orders in written or typed form, but the wooden one really takes the biscuit," said Mrs. Brown.



"It really takes the biscuit" — Mrs. Brown.

WEATHER

CLOUDY, HOT, SHOWERY
(See Page 13)

7-Year prison terms for two train wreckers

TWO men were each sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg yesterday in connection with a R100 000 goods train derailment near Hammarsdale last year, writes our Court Reporter.

The men, Ngwenyama Khanyile and Ngwenyama Nkomo, both 25, were appearing before Judge Justice van Heerden, charged with the attempted murder of a passenger train, the 101, on September 1, 1971, and with the destruction of property.

Both accused pleaded not guilty to both charges. The State, however, admitted that the train was derailed, saving the lives of the passengers. The State also admitted that the train was derailed on September 1 last year.

MOTIVE QUERY

In his judgment, Mr. Justice van Heerden said that the State had proved its case against the accused on the evidence of a witness, Alfred Mkhulu, who accompanied the accused and saw them tampering with the train.

Mkhulu was an accomplice, but, as he had proved a witness, the Court had granted him immunity from prosecution. He proved beyond reasonable doubt that the accused did not have the intention to murder.

There was no evidence to the motive behind the derailment, besides that of the witness who testified that the motive was the theft of the train.

SUE DICKIE IS SPORTS STAR OF THE YEAR

Staff Reporter

THE 1972 Natal Sports Star of the Year is 16-year-old Sue Dickie. The young Durban swimmer was awarded the trophy in Durban last night at a function attended by the six finalists.

Holder of 18 national and provincial records, broken over the past 14 months, Sue will be the spearhead of the Natal swimming team in the Currie Cup swimming competition, which starts in March.

Other finalists were Barry Richards (cricket), Michael Roberts (chess), Ralph Smith (cycling), Barbara Lord (badminton), and Derek Kay (athletics).

Killed by train

Staff Reporter

Mr. Stephen Dango, aged 42, was killed yesterday when he was struck by a train just after midnight on the Pietermaritzburg to Durban line.

Gallery Note

• Voortrekker Museum over federal concept — 12.

Kaunda gave a pledge — Smith

KALSHEDU — Rhodesia refused to undertake an investigation — that it would try to bring the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Smith, to trial only after getting this information.

Mr. Smith discounted the statements that Kaunda would never again use force to bring Rhodesia back to the Rhodesian Railways for its exports.

Mr. Smith also said he thought Kaunda was now on the verge of attempting to stop the flow of terrorism.

NOT IDENTIFIED

Mr. Smith refused to identify the intermediary, whom he referred to as an "honourable man".

He was not surprised that Kaunda had denied sending a message to the Rhodesian Government. In fact, he had been told that if he said he had received a message from Kaunda, President Kaunda would deny this.

However, I can assure you that the message arrived. It was a letter message. It went to the Secretary of the Cabinet and it was in the file of the Rhodesian Government," said Mr. Smith.

"One of these days these things will be published and one day this is published there will be no more lies." — Sapa.

• U.K. reaction — Sapa 15



WHAT ARE PAM AND KAREN UP TO?

TRUCK WRECK HAVOC

DURBAN — A giant 35-ton concrete mixer went out of control on a steep hill in Blenheim Road, yesterday afternoon, causing through a bridge partially collapsed, several deaths and injuries, but a railway bridge and finally came to rest in three places on the main Durban Coast railway line.

• Here's something to take your mind off strikes for a bit. But who could blame the pair, at a Pietermaritzburg hotel — where these two lovelies appeared yesterday — for operating a go-show in ordering their meal? The girls are Karen Friedman (left) and Pam Wells, and if you want to find out what they're up to turn to Page 11.

KWAZULU IS READY TO HELP IF ...

DURBAN — The KwaZulu Government was prepared to intervene to stop escalating labour unrest in Durban, provided the South African Government agreed to direct talks at Cabinet level to bring about "meaningful" improvements in the lot of the African workers.

This was said by Durban yesterday by Mr. R. L. Dladla, the Executive Councillor of Community Affairs who is in charge of labour matters.

Speaking from his bed at Westville Hospital, where he is recovering from a lung operation, he said he was perturbed about the escalation of the unrest and added: "We are in full agreement with the demands of the workers, but I appeal to them not to resort to violence in their efforts to achieve their goals."

New president of World Court

THE HAGUE — Judge Manfred Lachs of Poland (58) was yesterday elected President of the World Court in succession to Zafarulla Khan of Pakistan, who has retired, the World Court announced.

Vice-President Foad Amman of the Lebanon (73) was re-elected. — Sapa-Breton.

Back to normal

The city's shipping industry appeared to be back to normal, with both Freight Services and Dorman Long reporting that workers were back and that no further trouble was expected.

More than 200 workers downed tools at the Leyland Truck and Bus (Natal) Ltd. yesterday and the plant was closed down. Many of the Africans wished to continue working but they were sent home because of the possibility of intimidation.

At Durban, 30 municipal workers walked out.

Several other Durban firms were yesterday reported to be dismissing African staff as a result of continuing strikes and recruiting new staff, in some cases from the ranks of the dismissed workers. — Sapa.

Conditions at the mine

He walked at the mine covered down Blenheim Road and walking through the town.

The driver, Mr. C. Pilon (28) of Chatsworth, was taken to King Edward VII Hospital with leg and internal injuries.

A spokesman for the Railways said that he thought that it would take at least 24 hours to clear the railway line.

Train services in the South Coast, Umhlanga, Chatsworth and Kwa-Mashu were severely disrupted by the accident at Chatsworth.

Emergency roadworks represented one of the first lines running through Chatsworth from the town, using temporary equipment to replace broken supporting masts — Sapa.

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Strike conditions review urged

TALKS PLEA

MAYOR

THE MAYOR of Durban, Mr Ron Williams, today called on the Government and private enterprise to get together and make sure that the conditions which led to the wave of strikes did not recur.

To sit back now and say that everything was normal would be the most fatal mistake anyone in authority could make, Mr Williams warned.

SHOTS FIRED: WIDOW HELD

CAPE TOWN, Friday. A GARDEN'S Bay widow, allegedly fired two shots at a neighbour when he attempted to shoot her for shooting at an automatic pistol when she appeared at the window of her house.

The woman apparently fired two shots with her 0.22 automatic pistol, yesterday afternoon, when she was seen walking over a road near her house.

Mr A. R. Anderson (21), of Little Newry, Sir Lowry's Pass Road, Gordon's Bay, heard the shots and, standing in front of his window, took his finger at the trigger.

The woman is said to have fired two shots at Mr Anderson's direction, driving two holes in the window frame above his head.

Mr Anderson's wife heard the shots and when she looked out of a window, two more shots were fired. The shots apparently only missed her.

Mr Anderson telephoned the police. Captain D. A. van Wyk, District Criminal Investigation Officer, Stellenbosch, who confirmed the incident, said that a 60-year-old widow had been arrested in a Garden's Bay home today.

The police took possession of an automatic pistol, Captain van Wyk said, and a white woman would appear in the Strand Magistrate's Court on charges of attempted murder.

Milk to be delivered tomorrow

MILK deliveries in Durban are expected to be back to normal tomorrow as striking milkmen at Cramlin's Dairies today agreed to return to work.

The big Clover Dairies factory in Sydney Road was getting back to normal production today following the strikers' decision to return to work yesterday afternoon.

Customers at Cramlin's Durban depot had to wait for their own milk today when delivery men failed to turn up.

Company officials later told strikers for talks at the depot and it is understood the men agreed to return to work tomorrow after being promised an increase from May.

Cramlin's Dairies managing director, Mr R. S. Lane, said today that the strike at three of the company's depots had ended and that deliveries would be back to normal tonight.

CID ready for city's criminals

CRIME REPORTER

POLICE TODAY revealed that they have finished a "complete documentation" of Durban's underworld — "having paid particular attention to the so-called gangs."

"And you can be sure that we are now ready for them," Colonel Kibwe, Master of the Port Natal CID said today.

The documentation and investigation was undertaken by Major Venter, head of the Durban Murder Squad, in the past few months.

This operation started in earnest when rumours of impending gang warfare were rampant in the city several months ago.

After a top-level conference at Divisional Headquarters it was decided to file all the information possible.

Detectives from various stations passed information to the Murder Squad, rumours were investigated and all files were reorganised.

The result was that more than 100 men and women were pulled in for questioning. Files were opened on all of them. These included photographs, personal history, previous records, crimes of which they were suspected and their favourite haunts.

"And you can also tell them that we even have pictures of the girlfriends of some of the men," said Colonel Venter.

Major Venter, who was responsible for correlating all the information, appealed to people who were being intimidated in any way to come forward and discuss their problems with us.

The underworld has got the message already. They know the heat is on and many of them have already left town," Major Venter said.

People can go to any police station to discuss their problems as we have already arranged counter-measures with the various stations — of course we are not disclosing these — but we are now in a position to deal with the so-called gangsters," he said.

Major Venter said that where people had complaints which specifically involved gangsters they must go to their local police station and ask to see the branch commander personally.

3 TEENAGERS HELD AFTER BORDER CHASE

CRIME REPORTER

THREE white teenagers are being questioned by the Durban Murder and Robbery Squad today after a police sergeant in a four-wheeled vehicle chased two of them — on a motorcycle — along the mountainous Lesulo border.

A police spokesman said today that the sergeant spotted the two youngsters near the border. As he closed in they sped off.

"He had to chase them over some pretty rugged terrain."

But the policeman eventually caught up and cornered them.

After a few inquiries they were brought back to Durban and handed over to the Murder and Robbery Squad yesterday.

Following questioning by detectives, a third teenager was taken into custody last night.

The three are being questioned about a series of garage holdups which have been reported in and around the city recently.

How to live on R48 a month

THE AVERAGE family of six living at KwaMashu needs about R48 a month for food, according to the latest poverty datum line figures, released by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Natal in Durban, show that about R45 of the monthly income should be spent on food, the most important item.

The survey revealed, however, that the average African labourer living at KwaMashu earns only about R48 a month and spends about R27 — more than half his income — on food each month. But even this is drastically reduced when education is considered.

The poverty datum line allows for R12.45 for rent and transport.

The balance of R35.55 should be spent on personal and household cleaning and fuel.

Met of the African interviewed had more than four



BOEING HITS A BIRD

DAILY NEWS REPORTER

A SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS Boeing 727 was grounded at Durban's Louis Botha Airport today when it hit a bird on take-off for Cape Town, causing a three-hour delay to 60 passengers.

On board was the Durban City soccer team, flying in Cape Town to play Jomo Sono's Green Point Stadium.

The team's manager, Mr. B. J. Byrne said, "We were screaming along the runway when there was a terrible bang and the plane jolted to a stop as the pilot applied his brakes. We all thought there had been a blow-out, but the pilot told us the plane had hit a large bird."

The aircraft returned to the airport buildings and the passengers disembarked.

It is not yet known what the extent of the damage is but a spokesman for SAA said, "A replacement aircraft was being flown in from Durban to Johannesburg."

The new flight was expected to reach Cape Town about 5 p.m.

"This won't be too good for the team. It will mean we will miss our pre-match 'cheers', said Mr. Byrne.

An airport spokesman said it was impossible to identify the bird.

"All that was left was feathers. There was nothing anyone could have done about it. It hitting a bird is just one of those hazards which could happen at any time," he said.

"The delayed passengers were all issued with free luncheon vouchers as a matter of course."

The incident occurred at 10.20am today, and the replacement flight was expected to leave at 1.30pm.

Rand busmen threaten strike

DAILY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG, Friday. JOHANNESBURG'S 145 African bus drivers and conductors have given the City Council an ultimatum — increase our wages on Monday or we strike.

The council staff, who carry 30,000 passengers daily on Johannesburg's municipal bus routes, called off a walkout planned for yesterday at the last minute, agreeing to wait until Monday to hear the Management Committee's reply.

The workers, who will cripple African transport in Johannesburg if they strike, are demanding that increases be made in the beginning of February. The council proposed instituting them from July 1.

NEGOTIATIONS

If the Management Committee refuses to accede to the demands, put to the council on Wednesday by attorneys representing the running staff union committee, the workers say they will stay away on Tuesday.

In another Johannesburg move, the Garment Workers' Union of South Africa today announced it would institute negotiations for an across-the-board cost of living increase of 7½ percent on the 29,000 Transvaal garment workers of all races.

This union has called for the increase from July 1, and has requested a meeting with the Transvaal Clothing Manufacturers Association on February 22.

Strikes move to an end

DAILY NEWS REPORTERS

DURBAN'S month-long strike crisis today appeared to be largely at an end as many workers resumed work at higher rates of pay.

But while most workers were returning today, several isolated strikes were still continuing in Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Port Shepstone and Hammarsdale. Some of the returning workers, too, are still being paid pre-strike wages.

The biggest pay increase has been given to 1,200 Balleta employees at Romberg, who were today told they would get R1.60 a week more. This follows an earlier 20 percent increase announced for Balleta workers, and the Romberg workers will now get a minimum starting rate of R10.56 a week.

Although only a threatened strike affected the giant Unilever group of companies, wages paid to their 1,200 workers were annually reviewed and a settlement starting today disclosed that starting rates will now rise from R10.00 to R10.50 a week — which appears to be the highest basic starting rate in Durban for unskilled labour at present.

PINKETOWN

About 200 council workers in Pinketown received a 12½ percent increase after an emergency meeting at the town council yesterday. This will take their minimum wage to R15 a week. The council earlier announced a 15 percent increase, subject to a minimum of R12 for their more than 16,000 workers.

Coronation Brick workers, among the first to go on strike on January 9 were awarded a R2.07 rise — and the 4,000 workers now earn a minimum of R15.50 a week. In addition, they get housing and transport benefits.

Many of the companies affected by the strikes are still closed.

PEOPLE OUT TO KILL ME — CHIEF

DAILY NEWS NEW YORK BUREAU

NEW YORK, Friday. CHIEF Gaitha Bulahel told newsmen yesterday that he was under constant threat of assassination or violence from both Black and White opponents in South Africa.

Asked at a Press conference how he felt about the recent assassination of Amilcar Cabral, the Portuguese Guinea insurgent leader, Chief Bulahel said: "I am very sad because I don't believe in violence."

"I myself am under this threat all the time. It is something that affects me personally. It may be my end too, I don't know."

Pressed for information about who might want to assassinate him, the chief said that would have to be judged by whoever might want to assassinate him.

"If they get rid of a nuisance I suppose that might be considered an accomplishment," he said.

(See Page 13).

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Warning of more labour unrest

Parliamentary Correspondent
CAPE TOWN — Winding up his Cape Town debate yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. De Villiers, warned that there could be more labour trouble in South Africa.

During this week's debate, from Minister had not only said the "labour" was not a "labour" but it was up to the Government to take the lead and determine wage determinations of which were 30 years old.

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JACKPOT IS WON

THE "Witness" Jackpot crossword puzzle prize has been won by the lucky winner in Mrs. K. Prout, of 5 Lynton Road, Kewdale, near Durban.

APPEAL FOR LINK-UP TO END STRIFE

DURBAN — Durban's Mayor, Mr. Ron Williams, yesterday called for close liaison between the Government and the private sector to consider ways of overcoming the problems which face the African population and to eliminate the causes of labour unrest.

• They've been on strike for nearly a week, but these workers at Hammarsdale turned up yesterday for their pay. While some line up to receive their wages, watched by police, others open their pay packets.

WAGE BOOST AS WORKERS GO BACK

Church to relinquish control of schools

JOHANNESBURG — The Roman Catholic Church in several dioceses is to hand over to the Government and to community these missions and religious schools it can no longer maintain.

Employers must view workers as 'humans'

CAPE TOWN — Employers were urged yesterday by the Prime Minister, Mr. B. J. Vorster, to view their workers as human beings.

DURBAN — Substantial wage increases have followed Durban's month-long strike crisis, which yesterday appeared to be largely at an end as many workers resumed work at higher rates of pay.

But while most workers were returning yesterday, several isolated strikes were still continuing in Durban, Port Shepstone and Hammarsdale.

Some of the returning workers, too, are still being paid pre-strike wages. The largest single increase was awarded to 1,000 workers at Rosburgh, who were yesterday told they would get a R4.00 a week rise. This follows an earlier 20 per cent increase announced by the sugar organisation for all workers. Employees at Rosburgh will now get a minimum starting rate of R14.00.

Confused

The situation at Hammarsdale was confused as strikers collected their wages yesterday. They said they would be going back to work, however, and the industrial area appeared calm after a brief flare-up earlier this week, when strikers were halted with tear gas.

Work returned to normal yesterday at the only factory in Pietermaritzburg which was reported to have been hit by the current wave of strike fever.

COUPLE FOUND DEAD IN UTRECHT HOUSE

Staff Reporter
AN elderly couple were found dead in their home at Utrecht, Northern Natal, at 10.20 a.m. yesterday.

Boy recalls road death of brother

Court Reporter
A BOY broke down and sobbed under cross-examination in the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court yesterday as he was giving evidence in connection with the death of his brother in a motor accident last year.

Censors object to books and shirts

PRETORIA — The Publications Control Board in yesterday's "Government Gazette" declared 29 books objectionable.

Gallery Note

SEE PAGE 7

Hostility on the Zambesi dangerous

—Sir Alec

LONDON — The British Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, said yesterday the threat of confrontation between Zambia and Rhodesia was "most dangerous" and could develop into a "disastrous affair".

He said the Foreign Secretary said if a military frontier should develop between the two countries along the Zambesi River "I can't imagine anything more destructive, not only of relations between the two countries, but more destructive for the continent and the future of these two African countries, and others."

He also declined to say what diplomatic exchanges there had been recently between Britain and Zambia and added that President Kaunda's decision not to trade further with Rhodesia was entirely up to Zambia.

WEATHER

CLOUDY AND WARM, CLOUDY EVENING (See Page 7)

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Geagte leser

In die tradisie om die geskiedenis weer te gee soos gesien deur die oë van diegene wat daardie tye beleef het, bestaan die *Nongqai* uit insette gelewer deur sy onafhanklike bydraers. Dit bevat dus uiteenlopende persoonlike herinneringe en menings. Die redakteurs en uitgewers van die *Nongqai* kan daarom nie verantwoordelik of aanspreeklik gehou word vir die inhoud wat deur individuele bydraers gelewer is nie.

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