

Mr Gibson

ON RESUMING AT 2.15 p.m.

HIS LORDSHIP: Yes, Mr. Snitcher?

MR. SNITCHER: My Lord, that concludes my cross-examination.

LYNETTE VAN DER RIET, still under oath:

RE-EXAMINED BY MR. BEUKES: Just one question, My Lord.

You were asked about Watson, can you tell the Court more or less when did he leave this organization? --- At a rough guess I would say towards March, April 1963.

March, April 1963? --- Yes.

10 HIS LORDSHIP: You tell me that there is a lot in this organization that you don't know of? --- Yes, My Lord.

When you joined it I take it it was clear to you that you weren't to be told of everything that might go on? --- Yes.

I understood the whole structure of the organization was so that not every member would know everything that goes on? --- Yes, that is correct.

You wouldn't even know, and didn't even know how many people were involved? --- Oh yes.

You did know? ---No one did not know.

20 So that inspite of not knowing what excesses may be done in the name of this organization, you still joined it? --- Yes.

You knew its basic purpose was to achieve whatever it sought to achieve by violence? --- My Lord, possibly we interpreted violence differently. I think we had in mind a sort of restricted violence with no injuries.

Well now, there are things over there, the photographs we've had contained high explosives, could do a lot of damage. You had it in your flat? --- Yes, My Lord.

30 You must have known it was highly dangerous stuff to have? --- Yes.

You must have known that in the hands of people, perhaps

not quite as dedicated or quite as responsible as you, a lot of damage could be caused by such material? --- Yes.

Inspite of that you were and remained a member? --- Yes.

You knew that although you were on the Planning Committee the real decision were taken on the Regional Committee? --- Yes, I think one more or less tried to find out as much as one could about the aims of the organization and one trusted in what one heard.

One had to trust? --- Yes.

10 Your's not to reason why, your's just to do and die? --- And to trust.

You joined it on? --- Yes, My Lord.

The high command was above you? --- Yes.

Any order you got you had to obey? --- Unless one specifically objected, one was free to disobey.

One was free to disobey? --- To my mind, yes, My Lord.

Is that what you were told the first night or the first day when you were talked into joining, that you could disobey whenever you felt? --- No, I was not told that but

20 I made it very clear.

You made it clear? --- Yes.

In what way? --- I made it very clear that whenever I - something came up that I did not approve of I objected very strongly.

For instance, when you were on the Planning Committee makes it very different, but when an ordinary member was told that on such and such a night you had to report at such and such a time and you were then given a task, I presume such a member would be expected to do so? --- Yes.

30 ^{that} So/you took your High Command, whoever they were, you took them on trust? --- Yes.

Virtually gave him a blank cheque? --- Of necessity, yes.

Of the necessity the very nature of the organization commanded that? --- Yes.

And what you said to me about yourself, would that be basically true about all members? --- So I thought, yes.

So you thought? --- Yes.

You were not aware that your ranks were dwindling, it was put to you by Counsel that at the end there were only a few of you. Were you aware of that? --- No.

10 You had no reason to know that there was any general departure from the organization? --- No, My Lord

Have you any reason to believe that now? --- No.

As far as you know those who dedicated themselves to this task stuck with it? --- Yes,

Stuck by it? --- The only person of whom I knew that left was Mr. Schneider.

What is the other gentleman who talked you off? Mr. Watson, he thought you were ^{at} tough enough? --- Yes.

And then Schneider came back, didn't he? --- Towards the end just before we were detained a few weeks before,
20 Schneider left the organization completely.

You also knew that this thing was not localized in Cape Town? --- I knew there were branches in other places.

Did you know whether the High Command, if I may call it that, was in Cape Town or somewhere else? --- No, I did not know that.

So in joining it one undertook to take orders from whoever it came from? --- Yes.

And carry them out? --- If ones conscience allowed it, yes, My Lord.

30 And you say the little bit you remember from the conversation in the car, accused No.2 who was apparently not on any Committee as far as I know? --- No.

He rather resented this, he thought he should be in the policy make part of it as well? --- I got the impression that he resented the fact that possibly he might be used in the organization. That is the impression I remember.

And he thought he shouldn't only be doing and dying, he should be doing a bit of the reasoning why? Is that putting it fairly or not? --- I think that might be putting it fairly. I am not too certain on this.

I see.

10 BY MR. GROENEWALD: Miss van der Riet, can you say whether the explosives from Johannesburg arrived before or after Watson left the organization? --- Long before.

And you only started with certain projects after he had left? --- He had certain projects in mind, none of which were ever carried out.

BY MR. STEWART: This first aid kit that was produced as one of the exhibits, was that to be used by your organization if one of you got injured, or was it...? --- Yes, My Lord.

It was not kept for the public should they be injured?
20 --- No, My Lord.

HIS LORDSHIP: In fact no provision seems to have been made - I saw there was another document here - what should happen if one of you got injured, was a doctor standing by at a particular place, that is right isn't it? --- Yes, there was a procedure.

But no corresponding plan was made what should happen if your plan miscarried and somebody else got injured? ---
We were certain enough that no injuries would take place to the public.

30 You said that several times, but I have some difficulty in understanding that. You rode around in motor-cars with the high explosives, where was it carried, in the boot? --- As

far as I remember sometimes in the boot and sometimes in the car itself.

What precautions were taken about carrying the explosives in the car? --- I think it was that we tried to drive round as little as possible with these things and as carefully and as slowly as possible, and to go straight to the site, whenever it was necessary.

You had to drive quite a way, didn't you, Joostenberg, Lynedoch? --- Yes, My Lord.

10 From the answer you have just given me, it seems obvious to me, I must put it to you, I think I can draw the conclusion myself, That you and others with you realised that there was a danger to the public in carrying the explosives around, that is why you drove so excessively slowly? --- I think we were, we realised that the explosives had reached a dangerous stage where apparently they could easily have gone off by themselves and we would have been the first to be blown up. I think that is what would have happened first before any members of the public.

20 What about the people who lived in the block of flats where you lived in, would they have liked to live there if they knew that you had in your room enough explosives to blow the block sky high? --- We were very worried about that.

Were you now? --- Yes. We looked for a place, a room or something like that in which to store the explosives. It was very difficult to find a suitable place.

So you stuck to your flat? --- Yes, My Lord.

Until the Police were after you then you went and put it in a block of flats at Sea Point? --- Yes.

30 Do you think people there would have been happy to know that underneath their block of flats in a garage was all the trunks full of high explosives? --- No, My Lord.

Do you mean to tell me you never realised that this might be a danger to the public at large? --- I think it did occur to us and it was one of the things that worried us, we were unhappy about it.

Any other answer would have been not understandable. Surely it must have worried every member of your organization who knew that you were committed to acts of sabotage with high explosives? --- I should take it so, yes.

HIS LORDSHIP: Flowing from my questions, any questions
10 Mr. Gibson? Mr. Beukes?

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS BY COUNSEL.

MR. BEUKES: My Lord, may your Lordship's ruling about the public stand in this case too?

HIS LORDSHIP: Have you considered it responsibly? Do you think it is necessary?

MR. BEUKES: Yes, My Lord, I think it is necessary in the case of this witness, Leftwich, My Lord.

HIS LORDSHIP: Do you wish to make any representations because I propose granting this Mr. Snitcher.

20 MR. SNITCHER: No, My Lord.

HIS LORDSHIP: As I indicated before, I don't like it but I find myself - I don't know what the circumstances are. Everybody who does not have to be in Court must leave.

ADRIAN LEFTWICH, sworn states:

EXAMINED BY MR. BEUKES: Mr. Leftwich, have you heard of an organization called the National Council for Liberation?
--- I have.

At least the National Committee for Liberation? --- I have.

30 When did you first hear about this organization? --- It

was in the second quarter of 1962.

The second quarter of 1962? --- That is right.

Who was the person who told you about it? --- Mr. Ruben.

Can you describe this Mr. Ruben? --- Mr. Neville Ruben.

What was he doing at the time? --- I think he was then a lecturer at the University of Cape Town.

I see.

HIS LORDSHIP: I know it is not easy with the questions coming from there, but you talk this way please?

10 (Witness moves his position and the microphone) Thank you very much.

MR. BEUKES: (CONT.) Were you also attending the University then? --- No I was not.

After Mr. Ruben had spoken to you about this National Committee of Liberation, did you join it? --- Yes, he explained, he asked me if I was interested in doing something more active. I indicated I had a full-time job and I did not have much time, but I said yes.

20 What was your full-time job? --- I was then President of NUSAS.

HIS LORDSHIP: President of NUSAS? --- Yes, President of the National ... (His Lordship interrupts)

When did that become a full-time job? --- 1957.

What were you paid for it? --- It was a subsidy.

Did it have an office? --- Yes.

Where? --- In St. George's Street.

And you were as it were a full-time employee of NUSAS? --- That is correct, yes.

30 MR. BEUKES: (CONT.) Did you join then with this Mr. Ruben? --- That is correct.

How do you join? --- He indicated to me that I would have to accept, become a member before he could explain further

but he did indicate that it concerns sabotage.

Concerns sabotage. For what purpose? --- Political purposes.

After you had joined, did you meet any other members of this organization? --- Yes, it was about August or September of the same year, Mr. Ruben took me to a flat in Rondebosch which I later learnt to be the flat of Mr. Schneider, Michael Schneider, and I met him there.

10 When you met Mr. Schneider, did you see anything else with Mr. Schneider? --- Yes, he showed me a box containing explosives, some detonators and what I took to be a time-device.

Would that be the box before the Court or can't you remember? --- No, it was contained in an ordinary cardboard box.

Did you meet any other members? --- Yes, a while later I met Mr. Brooks and Mr. De Keller.

Do you know how Mr. De Keller became a member? --- I am not certain of this particular aspect, I may have mentioned
20 his name to Mr. Ruben, but I understand that Mr. Ruben, approached him as I was not in a position to recruit.

This Mr. De Keller you are talking about, (His Lordship interrupts)

HIS LORDSHIP: What time, when is this? --- This is about August to September 1962.

August - September 1962? --- Yes I think so.

MR. BEUKES: (CONT.) This Mr. De Keller you are talking about, do you see him in Court? --- Yes I do.

Point him out? --- He is sitting on the left.

30 Accused No.2. What happened after that? --- I later met, a short while later, well approximately November of the same year I met a Mr. Robert Watson. It was either Mr. Brooks or

or Mr. De Keller who indicated that a meeting had been arranged and we met Mr. Watson in Kloof Street, as I recall. He commenced to give us training in the handling of explosives and placing of explosives and how to destroy objects which were chosen to be destroyed.

Who are these persons that he taught? --- Mr. Brooks, Mr. De Keller and myself at that stage.

What happened after that? --- I later met Miss van der Riet and Mr. Daniels.

10 Do you see Mr. Daniels in Court? --- Yes I do.

Point him out? --- Accused No.1.

No.1 accused. Yes? --- I left them at Mr. Watson's flat in Rondebosch, it was near Rondebosch station and later he moved to Clipper Road Rondebosch and Miss van der Riet, Mr. Daniels and myself then received further training as I have indicated.

Where was this training received? --- In Mr. Watson's home.

Where is that? --- In Clipper Road, Rondebosch.

20 How was this training carried out? What did you do?
--- We had mock materials, plasticine, cord, rope, and with these we used to simulate explosives, detonators, safety fuse and detonation cord.

Then what did you do with them? --- Well, we were instructed as to attaching the detonators to the explosives and the methods of attaching the explosives then to objects and we used mock articles again, pieces of wood, chairs of a leg - leg of a chair, upright pieces of material which had been made.

30 Which had been made? --- Yes.

In the form of what? --- Various shapes, T Beams and I Beams.

Did you meet any other members of this organization?

--- At that stage, do you mean?

Yes? --- No, not at that stage.

Did you have to pay subscriptions or not? --- Yes.

How much did you have to pay? --- I think at that time I paid £1, yes, I think it was £1.

Was that increased or decreased afterwards? --- Yes, I increased it myself.

How much? --- I think to R5, £2.10.0.

10 Was that per week, per month for always or what? ---
Per month.

To whom did you pay that? --- At that stage I paid to Watson, Mr. Watson.

Who was the controlling body at that stage? --- I understood there to be a Regional Committee which was responsible and in control of the region, the Cape region.

Who were the members of the Regional Committee, or didn't you know at that stage? --- At that time I did not know.

HIS LORDSHIP: A Regional Committee suggests something higher
20 up. It suggests that for this region there is a committee, and it suggests some higher body which would be nation wide, public wide, whatever you wish to call it. Do you know anything about that body? I haven't heard about that yet?
--- I was informed by Ruben at some stage that there was a Natinnal Body.

I would have thought that there should be a National Body and then you representing the region, which region was this? --- Well, the Cape Western region.

MR. BEUKES: (CONT.) Did you eventually become a member of the
30 Regional Committee, you yourself? --- Yes, I did.

When did that happen? --- Mr. Ruben left South Africa at the end of January '63, and at that stage Mr. Watson told

me that I was to become a member of the Regional Committee.

And then when you became a member of the Regional Committee who were the other members? --- Mr. Randolph Vigne Mr. Michael Schneider and Eddie Daniels, and myself.

After you came on to the Regional Committee what happened, what arrangements did you make then? What were your functions? --- I then took over the funds from Mr. Ruben.

Yes, where did these funds come from? --- I was given them by Mr. Ruben.

10 How much? --- Approximately R800.00.

What did you do with the funds? --- Mr. Vigne instructed me to place these in a Building Society, I think it was the Trust Bank, which I did, under the name of The Independant Students Bursary Fund, and Mr. Vigne and myself were both signatories and could draw money on a day to day basis.

20 What happened eventually to the funds? --- I think towards the end of last year, I am not certain of the exact time, I will say in the last quarter, Mr. Vigne instructed me to withdraw the funds from the account, which I did, and to hand them over to Mr. Schneider.

You did so? --- I did so.

HIS LORDSHIP: Are you moving off this money now, Mr. Beukes?

MR. BEUKES: Yes, My Lord.

HIS LORDSHIP: This morning Counsel referred to a book which showed the subscriptions by the members. That could not possibly have raised this money, where does the money come from? --- I don't know, I received this from Mr. Vigne. I don't know, he told me that he had received it from overseas.

30 That is just what I was after. There was shown photographs of the explosives and detonators and percussion caps and what have you, I don't know the value of these things, but they must run into hundreds of pounds which were found in your

region. Where did the money come from to buy those? --- I don't know, as far as I am aware they were not bought.

They were found in a garage in Cape Town. Do you know how they got there, or let's rather take it up to Lynette van der Riet's room. How did they get there? --- Mr. Schneider and myself took them there.

From where? --- Mr. Schneider had a flat in Dorp Street and they were kept there.

Did you ask where they came from? --- They came from
10 Johannesburg, according to Mr. Schneider.

Didn't you want to know who paid for them? --- No, I didn't ask.

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In cross-examination this morning it was indicated to me that you've got to be shown not to be a fool. Didn't you want to know who was behind this and whose work you were doing? ---- Well, the people I was working with and who recruited me I knew, and there was no question of questioning their bona fides.

So beyond Ruben and Vigne you made no enquiries as to where this trail led further? ---- No, it was for security reasons that had I asked I would have been told nothing.

10 I understand. You deliberately kept everything quiet because you would have been told it was none of your business really? ---- Yes.

MR. BEUKES: Now this Regional Committee, what were your actual functions then to do? What were you carrying out? ---- Well, the Regional Committee supervised the activities of the Region.

What did these activities comprise? ---- Well, there was a planning Committee which went into detailed plans in relation to jobs which we were to do and these would then - the
20 final plan in summarised form, broadly speaking, would be submitted to the Regional Committee who would say "Ye" and "Ney".

And were all these plans finally approved by the Regional Committee? ---- Yes, in most cases.

Now the planning committee, who were these persons? ---- Mr. Schneider, Miss van der Riet, myself and Mr. Daniels.

When you speak about Mr. Daniels, do you speak about accused No.1? ---- I do.

Now what was the first project that you investigated? ---- It was the F.M. tower at Constantiaberg.

30 Now how did you investigate this kind of project? What do you do? ---- Well, a suggestion is made to the planning Committee which then considers it, undertakes reconnaissance

or a number of reconnaissance of the object, considers the most effective means of achieving the object and individuals are then selected and asked whether they are prepared to participate on a particular job and it is then done.

Now this F.M. Tower, Frequency Modulation Tower at Constantia Mountain, who did the necessary investigation? --- I did, Miss van der Riet, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Daniels.

Were those the only ones? --- I think on one occasion Mr. De Keller accompanied us. I am not sure of that, I
10 think so.

Then did you actually go there and inspected it? ---Yes.

Did you go in mass or ones or two's? --- I went on a number of occasions myself, I went alone and I went with Mr. Schneider, Miss van der Riet and Mr. Daniels, and as I say I think on one occasion with Mr. De Keller. There were a number of occasions on which I went there with different people and I cannot indicate the various combinations and computation.

After you had all investigated this, what was decided
20 what was to be done? --- It was decided that we would do the job, Mr. Schneider would drive the car accompanied by Miss van der Riet, and Eddie, Mr. Daniels and myself would attack the object.

What did you use for the purpose? --- We used three shapedcharges containing ammon dynamite and electrical detonators plus a timing device.

Where did these shaped charges come from? --- Mr. Schneider had them manufactured in Johannesburg and then he had additional parts added to them in Cape Town.

Will you have a look at the object before the Court,
30 EXHIBIT 33. Is that the article? --- That is one of them, yes.

You say there were three? --- Pardon?

You say there were three? --- Yes, there were three.

What time of the day was this done? --- We left Hout Bay at approximately, it was either 6.30 p.m. or 7.30 p.m. and we reached the top about an hour and a half to two hours later, so it was about 8.30 or 9 o'clock.

How did you get to Hout Bay? --- By car.

Who took you there? --- Mr. Schneider and Miss van der Riet.

10 Then, when you got to the tower what did you do with these objects? --- The anchor cables of the tower surrounded by a wire fence, we cut our way into the enclosure created by the wire fence and then placed the cable, the shaped charges, one on each cable. I placed the top two ones and I think Mr. Daniels placed the lower one.

Did you have the ammon dynamite at that stage in powder form? --- Yes, it had been removed from the containers and placed within the shaped charge.

HIS LORDSHIP: Where did you do that operation? --- Mr. Schneider and myself did this at his flat in Sea Point.

20 I assume his flat at Sea Point is in a block of flats in Sea Point? --- That is correct.

Here you poured ammon dynamite from cartridges in powder form into those containers? --- That is correct.

Is that not a highly dangerous occupation? --- We hoped that we were taking all the precautions necessary.

What precautions did you take? --- We had no open flame, fire around, and we were as cautious as we could be with the material.

30 You realised that this was very dangerous? --- Potentially, yes.

Potentially very dangerous? --- Yes.

Not only to yourselves but to the people in that block

of flats? --- Yes.

What is your background, what did you study classics or science or what? --- No, I studied a subject which is Comparative in Government and law.

So about dynamite you knew nothing? --- Apart from what we had been instructed.

Apart from what Watson taught you, you knew nothing? --- That is correct.

Was Schneider much better off than you for technical knowledge? --- I don't know, I don't think so.

So you two amateurs were in a block of flats in Sea Point, start decamping powdered dynamite into a metal canister? --- (no reply)

MR. BEUKES: (CONT.) What block of flats was this, do you know the address? --- I think it is called Monreith.

You say you attached these to the anchor cables? --- That is correct.

And then what did you do after you had attached these objects to the anchor cables? --- We then connected it with the battery and the time-device.

Have a look at the battery, also part of EXHIBIT 33? Is that the type of battery you used? --- That is the type of battery, yes.

And the timing device? --- Yes.

Is it that watch? --- Yes.

Who prepared that timing device? --- It was prepared in Johannesburg.

By who? --- By a man who I knew as Kenneth. That was his code name, I later learned his name to be a Mr. Higgs.

You say he prepared this? --- Yes.

How did it get here to Cape Town? --- I am not sure, I think Mr. Watson brought that and a number of others down to

Cape Town.

Do you know the name of this Mr. Higgs? --- That is his name.

His christian name? --- Oh, I think it is Dennis.

Did you ever meet him? --- Yes I did.

I will come to that later. After you attached all these things, did you set this for any specific time? --- Yes, as I recall we set it for an early hour of the morning, I can't remember what particular time, but it was - I should say early
10 in the morning by between 5 and 7 o'clock.

Did you then leave? --- Yes.

Where did you go to? --- We went to Constantia Neck.

HIS LORDSHIP: Aren't there people living there at the tower, the caretaker and his wife and children and people like that round that tower? --- No, there are no houses or ...

Nobody there? --- We thought there may be a caretaker in the - at the base of the tower itself.

I would have thought so. --- And we did not want this hut in which we mentioned the radio equipment was contained
20 to be damaged, and consequently we had - our advice was that if the particular cables we attached were to be severed the tower itself would fall away from the hut.

Who did you get this advice from? --- This was from Mr. Higgs, and - yes, from Mr. Higgs.

Is he by profession a Civil Engineer, or what is he? --- I think he was a Mathematician.

How high is that tower? --- I am afraid I do not know.

Any idea of the energy that you would let loose if you dropped that Tower? --- No, I assume a lot but I do not know.

30 You went there at night to fix these things, did you?

--- Yes.

Were you told exactly which cables to attach it to? ---

Well, we had discussed this before with Mr. Higgs and had mapped the particular outline of the situation.

How many cables were there? --- Twelve altogether, three, three in each, they went in four different directions.

Aware that at the base of this Tower there were human beings? --- Yes, but we believed that what we were doing would not harm ... (interrupted)

Higgs was not there to supervise this operation? --- No.

MR. BEUKES:(CONT.) Did you hear about this thing again? ---

10 No.

When you arrived at Constantia Neck, what happened there? --- Miss van der Riet and Mr. Schneider were there to pick us up and we left.

Went home? --- Yes.

What was the next project that you considered? --- It was the signal cables running parallel to the Cape Peninsula railway line.

Where did you plan that? --- That again the Planning Committee considered the project.

20 And? --- And we decided that we would take these at four different points. Kenilworth, Rosebank, Mowbray and Woodstock.

Was it still the same Planning Committee that you described just now? --- Yes.

The four of you? --- Yes.

Did you check up on these places beforehand or not? --- Yes.

30 Did each man check up on his own, or what? --- The Planning Committee went - I think to most of the places and subsequently the individual people who were to attack the four points went to each of their points.

Now these four points, to whom were they allocated to

to be attacked? --- Mr. Schneider to Woodstock, Miss van der Riet to Mowbray, Mr. Brooks to Rosebank and myself to Kenilworth.

Did you carry out your part of the bargain? --- Yes I did.

What did you actually do? --- I drove there in a car at about 5 a.m. We had checked with the railway time table as to the time trains would be passing at any of the points, at all the points, and we knew there would be no trains, and
10 I think it was a period of ten minutes from just before quarter past five till just before twenty-five past five.

HIS LORDSHIP: Just a moment. In between starting this operation you had to do these four points within ten minute interval of trains passing one the other? --- At each point, yes.

Weren't you doing these four at the same time? --- Yes.

Had you synchronised before? --- That is correct.

And you were all working on a ten minute margin? --- Yes, with a two-and-a-half minute fuse.

20 The two-and-a-half minute fuse. Now I am getting back to seven-and-a-half minutes for unforeseen circumstances. Right? --- Yes.

If the train is five minutes late, possibly early, ^{if} I don't know/it happens frequently in this country - your operator under the night conditions is fumbling, so I am dealing with minutes between trains and you are blowing up signal cables? --- Yes, we were informed that - well it was our - we understood that the explosives which we attached to the signal cables were a very low intensive quantity, of a
30 low power rate.

From whom did you understand that? --- From Mr. Watson.

I thought he had gone by then? --- During the course of

our instructions we had been informed the value, of a given quantity of explosives.

How much of an expert was he to start off with? You are taking the lives of people in your hands on the advice of Mr. Watson who is now late. How much of an expert did you satisfy yourself he was? --- He informed us that he had been in the British Army and had worked a great deal with explosives during the period.

10 Do you know if he had a blasting certificate? He never showed you that he had, did he? --- No.

In the British Army he was probably blowing up somebody else, was he? --- Pardon?

He wasn't blowing Britishers up, he was probably blowing somebody else up and then it does not matter so much I believe? Well, who was he blowing up in the army? --- I don't know who he was blowing up in the army.

20 Did you take much trouble to understand, to inquire what his degree of knowledge was before you go and take a chance on trains passing within minutes? --- He was an officer, he told me that he was an officer. He had been, I understand in Cyprus and Malaya and he said he had been attached to a British Military mission in Washington.

So it was Malasian and Cypriots he was blowing up. Any way, on his knowledge, the departed Mr. Watson, you were prepared to work out a charge, which in your opinion was safe. Am I putting it fairly or is it wrong? --- Not quite fairly.

30 Tell me where it isn't fair? --- I understood him to be an expert in explosives. What he told us appeared to be logical and correct, the equipment or the instructions which he had given us were detailed and on this basis it was not our intention to injure and in fact we believed we were taking precautions which would not injure.

By scaling down your charge? --- Yes.

To what did you scale it down to? --- I think two sticks, two cartridges.

What is the T.N.T. or dynamite connotation of a cartridge? Did you work out what cartridges...? --- I do not know the technical terms.

I did not think you would. So it is two cartridges? --- That is right.

Never mind what they contain? --- Pardon?

10 Never mind what those cartridges contain? --- I don't understand.

Never mind how much explosive material those cartridges contain, you take two cartridges? --- Which would be less than six cartridges because one cartridge apparently....
(His Lordship interrupts)

Could be, could be more, depending on the cartridges, one could be more than six. I am not an expert, an expert would know better, but one could be more than six? --- Yes.

20 MR. BEUKES: (CONT.) You say you went and did your part of the job? --- Yes.

What actually did you do? --- I taped the cartridges to the signal cables, inserted a detonator to which was attached a piece of safety fuse which was scheduled to burn for about 2½ to 3 minutes and then I lit it and then I left.

Did you hear any explosion? --- No.

Did you do yours alone? --- Yes.

30 Were the others all alone? --- No, the Planning Committee had arranged for Miss Kemp to accompany Mr. Schneider to drive the car for him. I think Miss van der Riet was on her own, I don't know.

You don't know whether she had any assistance? --- No.

The next project? --- That was a pylon on the National

Road at Muldersvlei.

Was this also planned by the Planning Committee? ---
Yes, I think Mr. Schneider and Mr. Daniels did most of the
planning and it was discussed on the Planning Committee.

Was it referred to the Regional Committee? --- Yes.

And approved? --- Yes.

And who were the persons to do that job? --- Mr.
Schneider, Mr. Daniels, a man who I knew as Jacob and Mr. De
Keller was to drive the car.

10 When was that more or less? --- I think it was towards
the end of October or early in November.

What year? --- 1963, last year.

After that did you attack any more places? --- Yes,
there were three pylons which were... (interrupted)

When was that? --- In the middle of June this year.

20 What did you do in the meantime, this long period? ---
Well, we had - Mr. Schneider, Mr. De Keller and myself had
an informal discussion and we had decided to abandon
sabotage, we considered that it was dangerous and futile,
and we decided to drop it. We did not - this was then
referred to the - this idea was then referred to the
Regional Committee which agreed, and we divided the organiza-
tion up into four sections which were not concerned with any
action of this kind. Subsequently, (interrupted)

30 What were these sections? --- One section dealt with
political intelligence, the purpose of this was to ascertain
current political attitudes and situations in the country.
One dealt with long term intelligence, one might say; one
dealt with short term intelligence and the other was to,
dealt with action, training and keeping people au fait
with what they had learnt thus far.

HIS LORDSHIP: I am sorry to interrupt. Is this before or after the attack on the pylons? --- Before.

Before, it divided up into four before that, the various kinds of intelligence, nobody felt they dealt with the real one? --- Yes.

MR. BEUKES: (CONT.) Who were in charge of these four different? --- Mr. Vigne was in charge of political intelligence, yes, political intelligence unit; Mr. Schneider was in charge of long term - short term intelligence, the
10 reconnaissance of the individual object; I was in charge of long term intelligence and Mr. Daniels, action. In fact very little happened in any of these, as far as I know.

Then what happened that you changed your mind? ---
(His Lordship intervenes)

HIS LORDSHIP: In which of these four groups did accused No.2 fall? --- Pardon?

In which of these four groups did accused No.2 fall?
--- I think he was with Mr. Vigne, in political.

Political intelligence? --- Yes.

20 MR. BEUKES: (CONT.) What then made you change your minds, you spoke about before you blew the pylons, this happened?
--- Yes. There was a national meeting which took place in Johannesburg.

Who attended this? --- Mr. Daniels and myself attended from Cape Town. Mr. Higgs was present from Johannesburg, Mr. Lewin was also present from Johannesburg and a man who I knew by the name of Eric.

(CONT. ON PAGE 146)

Then what was discussed at this meeting, this national meeting? ---- Various matters concerning the organisation were discussed; also the question of whether action should continue or not. Mr. Higgs was particularly anxious that action should continue and as a result of the discussions we agreed.

What date was this meeting more or less? ---- I think that it was some time in January this year; I am not certain but I think it was early this year. May have been later. I am not sure.

10 My Lord, I just want to show a photograph to this person to see whether he could recognise this Eric. Will you have a look at this photograph? ---- Yes.

Who is that? ---- That is Eric.

Is that the person you know as Eric? ---- Yes.

EXHIBIT A.48. You came back to Cape Town? ---- Yes.

And you then started planning further projects? --- Yes, Mr. Schneider took over and commenced planning these jobs.

Was he then on planning? ---- Yes.

20 Now in doing this project of further pylons, what transpired? Did you have the usual planning committee meetings? ---- Yes, we had meetings. Mr. Schneider brought along various documents and photographs which he had prepared - taken.

Did these documents - were they plans and descriptions of places? ---- Yes.

Is that correct? ---- Yes, that is correct. We discussed these. We visited different points and subsequently agreed to three points.

30 Now these three points, which were they? ---- There was a point at Fisantekraal, a point near Stellenbosch Kloof and a point on the Faure Road at Lynedoch.

Who were to do these jobs? ---- At Fisantekraal, Mr.

Schneider was to do the job and he was accompanied by a man who I knew as Roy and by Miss Kemp who was to drive. The Lynedoch pylon, I was in charge accompanied by Mr. De Keller; Miss van der Riet was to drive, and then the three of us were to proceed to the Stellenbosch point where Mr. De Keller would drive and Miss van der Riet and myself would attack that point.

HIS LORDSHIP: The project was to, by explosives, destroy or topple these pylons? ---- That is correct.

These are pylons carrying high tension electricity
10 cables? ---- Yes.

Any idea what voltage of electrical energy was carried by those pylons? ---- No, I do not know.

Anybody tell you before you started interfering with pylons what voltage you were dealing with? ---- I cannot remember, no. I don't think so.

Probably you will find it is at least 3,000 volts. Any idea what that can do? ---- No, but Mr. Schneider and this man Roy had apparently gone into the question and the information was that a pylon, if destroyed, operates a cut-out switch in the main of the power station which immediately cutt off the flow of electricity.

So again you and your fellow-conspirators must have been concerned about the danger of interfering with what we assume is 3,000 voltage lines, because you had to satisfy yourself that something would happen? ---- Yes.

There had to be a cut-out? --- Yes, we were concerned.
if

You must have realised that there wasn't such a cut-out that you could be endangering the lives of people? -- Yes.

So you relied only upon this cut-out to stop that?

30 You could make telephone wires, you could make water, you could probably even make the road surface highly dangerous to people, and you relied on there being a cut-out? ---- In

addition to that we only selected pylons which were a distance away from any human habitation.

It wouldn't have helped. The wires were on the ground. How would that help? ---- Well, we estimated that given the time at which the explosives were due to go off, that there would be no people around at that time and that the cut-out would work. These were the safety precautions which we took.

Did anybody tell you under what circumstances the cut-out would work? ---- As soon as the pylon fell and there was
10 a jar to the structure.

Who explained this to you? ---- Mr. Schneider explained this from the information he had received.

Does he know anything about electricity? ---- Not to my knowledge.

So again, you were engaged in what you knew to be potentially highly dangerous work, not to yourselves - that I am not very concerned about - but to the public? ---- We realised this but we hoped that our precautions would not endanger any human life because we did not wish human life to be endangered.
20

What precautions did you take before you dropped electric pylons carrying high tension wires? What were these precautions you took? ---- I explained the precautions of the time at which the explosives were due to go off and that we believed we had selected points where there was no human habitation around, which would therefore minimise, we hoped - completely reduce the possibility of human life.

MR. BEUKES: Now in this planning, was it the ordinary planning committee of the four people you'd mentioned? ----
30 Yes.

What was accused No.1's part in this? ---- He played almost no part at all. I think he was to remain on standby.

Standby for what purpose? ---- In the event of anybody being hurt or anything necessary to make an escape.

And where was this standby organised? ---- At Miss van der Riet's flat.

Do you know who was going to be with him on this standby? ---- Yes, Miss McConkey.

So did you people go out after you'd been allocated the jobs, and make final 'recces' as you call them? ---- That is correct.

10 And on the evening in question did you then go out? ---- That is correct.

Who accompanied you? ---- Miss van der Riet and Mr. De Keller.

Who was driving? ---- Initially Miss van der Riet, and then Mr. De Keller.

Now where did you proceed to? ---- We proceeded along the Settler's Way national road to Faure and then we turned off on the Lynedoch Road and then Mr. De Keller and I got out of the car and approached the pylon. We attached the
20 charges to the legs. I inserted the detonators and Mr. De Keller then plugged in the parts of the circuit. I then set the time device and plugged in the battery which connected the circuit. And then we returned to the car.

And then? ---- Then we proceeded to Stellenbosch where Mr. De Keller dropped Miss van der Riet and myself and we climbed up to the pylon and repeated the same procedure there and then returned to the car.

Did you then return home? ---- Yes.

Were these attempts successful? ---- The Stellenbosch
30 one, according to the Press report was successful but the Lynedoch one was not. Mr. Schneider, Miss van der Riet and myself then discussed the matter. We did not discuss it with

any of the others, and we returned on the Sunday night. Mr. Schneider was driving. Miss van der Riet and I approached the pylon. I removed the electrical detonators and we inserted new detonators. No, I beg your pardon, I first removed the battery which gave power to the circuit and then the clock and then the electrical detonators which were removed. Then we inserted ordinary detonators attached to safety fuse. When these were inserted Miss van der Riet returned to the car and when I knew she was safely in the car, 10 by Mr. Schneider flicking his lights, I lit the two pieces of safety fuse and also went back to the car.

Do you know where the timing devices came from? ----
Yes. Do you mean on these jobs?

Yes. ---- They were based on a plan which Mr. Higgs had worked out and they were made by Miss McConkey and myself. They were ordinary kitchen alarm clocks which were adjusted with a specific adaptor.

I see here are quite a number of pieces of perspex. Were these inserted there too, into these clocks? ---- Yes, 20 they were inserted in the inside back casing. I am sorry, the inside back casing of the alarm clock. A bolt protrudes from the perspex. The alarm clock is then set to a given time and on the basis of the normal mechanism of the alarm clock, when the alarm goes off, a lever is released inside which strikes the piece of copper - the copper nut which is attached to the perspex which in turn completes the circuit. HIS LORDSHIP: Judging by the number of perspex adaptors you made, you people must have been contemplating quite a bit of use for some more alarm clocks? ---- Yes.

30 Lots of jobs were to follow these, otherwise I don't know why you and Miss McConkey sat down and made all those unless you were hoping to use them. Is that right? --- Yes.

MR. BEUKES: Did you cut the perspex yourself or was that ...?
(Witness intervenes) ---- No, the adaptor, that is that small perspex piece, was sent down from Johannesburg. It was made there by Mr. Higgs.

Will you have a look at C.12 just as a matter of interest, seeing that you are on the point. What is that? ---- That is a description as to how to manufacture the time device.

And is that the thing that you received from Mr. Higgs?
10 ---- No, this is a typescript of the original instructions.

A typescript that you made? ---- Yes.

Now these last sabotage jobs on the - in June, was the date at all arranged by somebody else? ---- Yes, there had been a delegation from Johannesburg to Cape Town some time before. I think about two and a half months before, which met at a national meeting. I was not present on that occasion and I was later given to understand that a date had been arranged. We, however, were not in a position to meet on that date, and I was in Johannesburg the week-end before
20 these jobs were done and the date was changed to the 18th of June as I recall to coincide with jobs which Johannesburg had been planning.

Did they have any significance with any other event in the country? ---- No.

HIS LORDSHIP: Was the idea that pylons should drop at the same time down here as up there? ---- Yes.

And where you represented Cape Town up there, somebody represented Johannesburg. There are other regions in this country so I suppose there were other regional delegates?
30 ---- No, there was no one else.

Just Johannesburg and Cape Town? ---- Yes.

And when the pylons dropped here they would drop up

there, or vice versa? ---- Yes.

So if they were to drop up there they would drop here?

---- Yes.

MR. BEUKES: Now this National Committee for Liberation, did it keep this name all through? ---- No.

Describe to the Court what happened? ---- Well, some time back, I'd say towards the end of last year, the various members of the organisation in London had suggested a change of name. This had been discussed and rejected. The idea came up again towards the beginning of this year. No, I should say about March/April the idea came up again and I was given to understand that a series of names was discussed at this meeting held in Cape Town at which I was not present. Mr. Vigne told me that a series of names had been submitted to Johannesburg and they would make a final decision. When I was up in Johannesburg the week-end before these last jobs, they told me that they had decided on a new name which was the African Resistance Movement. I informed the people in Cape Town that this ... (Mr. Beukes intervenes).

20 Now on that occasion when you were up there, did you have anything to do then with the - something that was done in connection with this change of name? ---- Yes, we drafted a pamphlet under the heading of the A.R.M.

Who were the persons who drafted that? ---- Well, there were a number of people. I made a draft which was then gone over by Mr. Lewin, then by a man who I knew by the name of Herbert, by Mr. Higgs and then it was taken to the man I identified, Eric, and various people made changes along the way.

30 HIS LORDSHIP: Were all the draftsmen of this pamphlet, what we in South Africa, mistakenly perhaps, understand as White? ---- Were all the?

All the people who drafted this pamphlet, were they all in South African terms White people? ---- Yes.

MR. BEUKES: Will you have a look at this please? Is that a copy of this pamphlet C.5? ---- Yes.

Now after that draft had been made, did you bring a copy down to Cape Town? ---- Yes.

What happened to the copy that you brought down to Cape Town? ---- I took it to Mr. Vigne who approved it and I think one or two other members also read it and then it was put onto a stencil and roneod.

Who stencilled and roneod it? ---- The stencil was made by Mr. Vigne but that was destroyed in the process of roneo-ing and then Mr. Schneider cut another stencil at his work. We were there together where it was roneod.

What happened to those that you had roneod? ---- Well, Mr. Vigne had extracted a list at random from the telephone book of individual persons whom he knew or knew of and he typed out a number of envelopes containing names and addresses of these people. He gave those to us. We then put the roneod pamphlet into the envelopes and posted them.

To these persons? ---- Yes.

Can you remember some of the addresses or not? ---- Off-hand, no.

Were they just in Cape Town or ..? (Witness intervenes) ---- No, I think there were some in the Eastern Cape too.

HIS LORDSHIP: Had you informed your members of this change of name? ---- They were told.

What were they told? ---- That the organisation had changed its name.

Had they seen the pamphlet? ---- Some of them, yes.

Accused Nos.1 and 2, would they have seen the pamphlet?

---- I think accused No.1, yes. I am not sure about accused

No.2.

MR. BEUKES: Now do you see that big box before the Court? It is addressed to F.S. Schneider, or Mrs. F.S. Schneider. What is the exhibit number? ---- EXHIBIT 17.

Have you seen that box before? ---- Yes.

Do you know where that came from? ---- Again towards the end of last year we had received a letter from members in London saying that they were sending us a present and urged us to make arrangements to receive this present. As a result
10 of this the Regional Committee discussed this receipt of the present. At that stage we were not sure what it contained. Mr. Schneider was initially going to handle this. Then he got involved in the preparations of this last job I'd talked about and I was asked to take over. I took out a box number under the name of F.S. Schneider in Wynberg.

What is the box number? ---- I think it was 90.

Did you do it yourself? Did you personally go and make the application? ---- Yes. It has been discussed on the Regional Committee the best way to do this and I think it was
20 Mr. Schneider who suggested that we use his name - his mother's name in fact, and that we indicate that the contents as far as we knew, was merely cut-glass - glass, which was a present for his mother, as we were told that is what the substance of the box would contain. Some time later, on clearing the box, I found advice notices from the shipping company concerned, indicating that this box had arrived and there were certain customs' formalities which had not been adhered to, to be gone through. I corresponded with them over a short period and telephoned them on a number of
30 occasions and they subsequently informed me that the box had been cleared from Customs, that it was now ready for delivery on receipt of certain monies which was owed to the company

concerned. We met - the Regional Committee had been meeting and discussed the progress of the box and it was decided that we should tell the shipping company to deliver it to Mr. Schneider's personal address in Sea Point.

Is that at the Monreith Flats? ---- Monreith, yes.

Did you open this box? ---- Yes.

What did you find inside? ---- A lot of straw and glasses and at the bottom a number of sticks of plastic explosives.

10 Was that in a false bottom? ---- Yes.

An extra bottom that was in the box? ---- Yes.

What happened to these sticks of plastic? ---- They were kept for a while at this flat - in the garage of the flat and subsequently they were taken to Miss van der Riet's flat.

HIS LORDSHIP: Had they come from England from some of your members there? ---- Yes.

On board a ship? ---- I take it so, yes.

THE WITNESS STANDS DOWN.

20

COURT ADJOURNS AT 3.40 P.M. UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK ON THE 4TH
NOVEMBER, 1964.

Collection Number: AD1901

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS, Security trials Court
Records 1958-1978**

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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