

# 'Outcast' policeman finally promoted

1937 7. - 8. S.A. Justice Police PROMOTI

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The man who used words instead of bullets when 30 000 people marched on Caledon Square police station in 1960 has finally been promoted.

Suggestions at the time were that his promotion was deliberately withheld by the then Minister of Police, Mr Frans Erasmus, because he failed to obey orders.

"I was blamed for not using force. I was an outcast, even among my colleagues," honorary Brigadier Ignatius Petrus Stephanus Terblanche (37) said on Monday night after his promotion was announced by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok.

"But, if I had used force, it would have been a massacre."

On March 30 1960, 30 000 people marched to Cape Town led by Pan Africanist Congress regional secretary Mr Philip Kgosana to demand the release of prisoners.

Brigadier Terblanche persuaded them to turn back.

His promotion was announced at a function attended by more than 50 senior policemen, including Lieutenant-General H G de Witt, acting commissioner of police; Major-General Chris Swart, former divisional commissioner of police in the Western Cape; and his successor, Brigadier Ronnie van der Westhuizen.

Afterwards Mr Vlok said the promotion was not righting any wrongs of the past. Brigadier Terblanche was honoured because of his work after his retirement from the police in 1961.

In an interview Brigadier Terblanche said that, on March 30 1960, he was told that a great number of people had gathered outside Caledon Square and the police could see no way of handling the situation.

He and a colleague went to see what was happening.

He was then called to the telephone to speak to the Minister and, when he had finished the call, he was "very worried". It was then that he was given instructions which he failed to carry out.

Brigadier Terblanche went outside and a member of the crowd spoke to him.

The man told Brigadier Terblanche that the crowd was waiting for their leaders, including Mr Kgosana who was waiting nearby.

Brigadier Terblanche sent a policeman to bring Mr Kgosana to Caledon Square and they returned followed by a second huge crowd.

Brigadier Terblanche spoke to Mr Kgosana who demanded that people who had been arrested be released.

He told Mr Kgosana to tell the crowd to disperse and go home. He would take a message to the Minister and Mr Kgosana should come back with two or three friends.

The crowd dispersed peacefully but, when Mr Kgosana returned to meet the Minister, he was arrested.

Brigadier Terblanche said he felt like a traitor when Kgosana was arrested.

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