

Right, and it made it virtually impossible for SACTU to continue to function as an organisation in South Africa?

--- That is correct, Your Worship.

Since that time it has functioned outside of South Africa. --- It has functioned inside South Africa, but in a clandestine ...

Well, perhaps, but it has got no visible presence within South Africa. If it has functioned, it has functioned clandestine? --- That is correct.

Outside South Africa it has maintained an identity? ---
Yes, Your Worship.

It has always maintained its separate identity and in fact there has been a struggle to maintain that separate identity hasn't there? --- Yes, this book had a lot to do with that struggle.

Yes, in fact you said yesterday that it was an attempt to raise the stature of SACTU? --- That is correct.

Not simply for it to be seen as some kind of appendage to the ANC? --- It didn't want to be seen either as a front for the communist party or as a part of the ANC.

Which it is not? --- No, Your Worship, it is an independent organisation.

And not only does it function in keeping - in attending international conferences such as the ones you have described, but it maintains contact with trade unions and trade union organisations all over the world? --- That is correct, Your Worship.

And as any other trade union or confederation of trade unions would do, it has to be informed and to be kept informed as to what was going on in the labour field within South Africa? --- I have no doubt, Your Worship.

In fact organisations like TUCSA and FOSATU are continually and of necessity collecting information about the trade union field and about workers and SACTU does precisely the same thing. --- Exactly, but I think SACTU uses the information slightly differently. :

Well, that is a matter of opinion perhaps, but do you agree with me as to the collection of information? --- I agree, Your Worship. :

Particularly since SACTU isn't actually functioning on the surface at any right, within South Africa, it has to have¹⁰ its sources of information about what goes on in the labour field in South Africa? --- I assume so, Your Worship. :

And I think you, yourself said that you were engaged from time to time in collecting information about labour matters? --- That is correct, Your Worship. :

Where would you have collected that sort of information? Or are you not prepared to disclose that? --- No, I am quite prepared to disclose it, Your Worship. The information came from official sources. :

Of course, when you obtained the information you wouldn't²⁰ tell people that you were doing this as an ANC member? --- Well, I never personally gathered the information, Your Worship. I merely gave instructions for it to be gathered, passed to me and I gave it to the ANC. :

So, obviously the people from whom the information was being gathered would not be told the purpose for which it was being gathered? --- No, Your Worship, it was being gathered clandestinely. :

Yes. --- Part of an underground revolutionary operation. :

Right. Well, let's ...

30

COURT: Yes, but just use that example, did you tell the people that you got to gather the information? --- I would give/...

give instructions to people who worked with me to gather the information.

Yes, but would you tell them for what purpose? --- Yes, the people that worked with me.

MR KUNY: They were your colleagues? --- Correct.

Yes, but now when they went to people say in the trade union field to gather information which you had asked them to get, they wouldn't go into them and say I am a member of the ANC. I would like you to tell me what is going on in this particular union or what went on at such and such a congress?¹⁰
--- No, that would be very indiscreet.

Sure, so they would have to do so under the guise of requiring it for some other purpose, perhaps? --- Various purposes, journalists, academic, research.

And then having obtained information on that basis would furnish it to you and you would furnish it either to the ANC or to SACTU as was necessary? --- That is correct, Your Worship.

COURT: But the whole point, the persons who gave your colleagues the information would not know for what purpose ²⁰ they were supplying that information? --- Unless they were witting members of the conspiracy they would not know.

MR KUNY: Yes. I mean this is the very nature of the clandestine operation that you know so well? --- That is correct.

You would have been operating on various levels, you were operating as a policeman on the one hand, you were operating as an ANC official on the other and at times you were operating as a member of or the secretary or an official of the IUEF? --- That is correct, Your Worship.

And in the different cloaks you would constantly be ³⁰ having to deceive people as to the true nature of what you were doing/.....

89. :

Craig Michael Williamson

were doing or what you required? --- That is correct, Your
Worship. :

Now, you have spoken about Jeanette Schoon and you said
that she was a SACTU representative, I think that is how you
described her? --- That is correct. :

In Gabarone? --- Correct, Your Worship. .

What does that mean precisely, what was her function
there, for SACTU? --- Well, I never discussed her function at
great length, but from what I observed of her function she was
involved inter alia with the gathering of information for 10
SACTU. :

Right, and it would appear that she in fact carried out that
function from what we have heard from this trial and for
example in the trial of Guy Burger? --- That is correct, Your
Worship. :

Now, you spoke about her as a I think member of or
supporter of the ANC. Did you say that she was? --- I would
define her as an active supporter. :

An active supporter? --- Yes. .

You wouldn't know whether she was a member? --- I wouldn't
know whether she was a member. 20

Sorry? --- I worked with her as an ANC operative or
worker.

What do you mean by an active supporter? --- Someone
who is under the discipline of the ANC carrying out tasks
for and on behalf of the ANC.

But at the same time she was also performing tasks
for SACTU? --- That is correct, Your Worship. :

Quite separately? --- Well, Yes, Your Worship. :

And obviously if she was gathering information for SACTU
she wouldn't have told people that she was gathering information
for the/..... 30

90. :

Craig Michael Williamson

for the ANC, she would have said I want the information for SAFTU? --- I am sure, Your Worship. :

And the sort of information that she was gathering for SACTU as we see in this case related to the state of various unions, and of TUCSA and FOSATU and organisations of that sort within South Africa? --- Yes, Your Worship, she and other people at SACTU were particularly interested in FOSATU amongst others that I personally know of. :

FOSATU, but also other unions, non FOSATU unions? --- That is correct, Your Worship. :

10

Information of a very general nature some of which was to be read in the press, other information which could be obtained from the files of various unions? --- That is correct, Your Worship. Jeanette Schoon has a whole press clipping set-up which she culls regularly. :

Yes, in fact you once ran a press information service, didn't you? --- That's right, Your Worship. :

Which involved collecting all sorts of cuttings and articles and information from the press and furnishing them to various people who required this type of information out of South Africa? --- That is correct, Your Worship. :

20

And Jeanette Schoon would presumably have been a recipient of some of your press cuttings? --- That's correct, Your Worship. :

And if we look at Workers Unity for example, we find a great deal of general information and discussion contained in there about the state of labour and labour relations in South Africa. Presumably a lot of that information is culled from the information of the nature that Jeanette Schoon was obtaining? --- That is correct, Your Worship. :

30

Also, insofar as SACTU would attend international Labour conferences it would have to know what was going on in

South Africa and would use the information for that purpose?

--- It is very important for SACTU to have up to date information.

And, of course, merely to supply information to SACTU per se is not unlawful? Or would you rather not comment on that? --- I think I would rather not comment on that.

You did previously at the Burger trial? --- Yes, I think at that trial I said that it depends for what purpose that one is going to use that information.

Well, yes, but I put it to you that per se for me as 10 an individual to send information to SACTU or a SACTU representative about trade union matters in South Africa is not unlawful, that is what I put to you and I think you agreed with me? --- No, I think in the Burger trial, Your Worship, I said that that would be a matter better left to the presiding officer of the Court.

Yes, but you also pointed out as you have now it depends on the purpose for which the information is going to be used as I understand it by the recipient? --- It depends entirely on the motives of both the person sending it and 20 the recipient.

Yes, but of course if the person sending it doesn't know what the recipient is going to do with it, then as far as the person sending it is concerned his conduct would be perfectly normal. --- Your Worship, I am afraid I would prefer not to comment on that. I cannot concede that, if one gave a telephone book to the ANC which they were going to use for furtherin their aims, even if it was just to get the Prime Minister's phone number, as far as I am concerned that would be furthering the aims of the organisation. . 30

Yes, as far as you are concerned as a policeman you might see it/.....

see it as such? --- That's right.

Let me just put to you what I put to you there and see your answer. You were talking about - we were talking there about the ANC, not SACTU? --- That is correct.

And you were talking about Mrs Simons in Lusaka and it was put to you that if you did not know that the Simons were a member of the ANC or if the instruction came from someone totally unrelated to the ANC then that puts a different complexion on it, doesn't it and your answer was certainly, if the person who got the instruction did not know 10

COURT: I think you ought to start again from the beginning because the buzzer has been going quite a while.

MR KUNY: Yes, I am not quite sure where we should begin again, but I was putting it to you that to supply information to SACTU was not per se unlawful.

COURT: Yes, no, that is okay.

MR KUNY: That is all right.

COURT: Up to the witness's reply about the phone book.

MR KUNY: After the phone book. Then I was going to put to you what was put to you in the Burger trial and your answer. 20 We were dealing there with Mrs Simons in Lusaka and this was the question. But if you did not know that Mrs Simons were a member of the ANC or if the instruction came from someone totally unrelated to the ANC then that puts a different complexion on it doesn't it. Your answer - certainly, if the person who got the instruction did not know that that instruction emanated from an unlawful organisation, or that that instruction emanated from a person who was going to use that information for unlawful purposes, then there would be nothing to prevent that person from gathering such information. 30 That was your answer? --- Yes, Your Worship, I think that is essentially the same as I have just said. The very important

qualification, he didn't know it was the ANC.

In other words the qualification is the state of knowledge of the person who is furnishing the information? --- That is correct, Your Worship. :

Yes. There is another passage I wanted to put, but I can't lay my hands on it at the moment. Now, you have - the evidence that you have given about the whole alliance of SACTU and the ANC what was said to you on various occasions and at various places throughout the world, and what documents you have read is not the sort of evidence and information which would be readily available to people not involved in the movement themselves? --- No, Your Worship, it wouldn't be available to anybody who wasn't either involved or closely allied with. :

Yes or haven't had the access to the documentation that you have had? --- That is correct. :

So, it is not the kind of thing that is generally publicised and openly spoken about? --- Not in South Africa. :

No. You have spoken about methods of struggle, namely strikes, boycotts, demonstrations. --- Correct, Your Worship. 20

Now, what do you mean when you talk about strikes as a method of struggle? --- Your Worship, there are various forms of non-violent struggle, including I believe if I quote correctly non-collaboration, strikes, demonstrations, boycotts. Strikes have according to the theorists that gave me my political instruction in the ANC have a role as Lennon said to be school of war for the workers. They have a dual purpose first of all they can disrupt the particular industry or factory or whatever - where ever they take place, but the more important role of a strike is as a tool to raise the consciousness of the workers involved in the strike. :

Now, you are not talking about strikes in the trade unions sense, are you? You are talking about strikes as a political weapon of struggle? --- Well, that is correct, the way SACTU sees strikes.

No, not the way SACTU sees strikes, the way the politician would see the strike? --- That is correct.

I am talking now about strikes in a trade union context? --- Yes, but I see the distinction being made, but a trade union can carry out a strike with various motives, it could be purely an economic motive a legal strike. 10

Yes? --- Or and in fact ...

Or an illegal strike with an economic motive? --- With an economic motive or it could be a legal strike with a political motive.

Now, strikes are taking place here all the time? --- That is correct, Your Worship.

Those strikes are strikes with an economic motive in the sense that workers are striking for better wages, better conditions of work and various other types of benefits which workers consider they are entitled to. --- That is correct, Your Worship, however, if one studies the theory it is stated specifically that it is necessary to organise workers on an economic level in order to raise them to a trade union consciousness from which stage one then raises their political class and then openly revolutionary consciousness. So, its part of a continuing ... 20

Yes, and when a trade union, a specific trade union organises a strike in a particular industry you don't suggest that that is the type of strike which you are speaking about now? --- Well, in certain instances it could be, Your Worship. 30

Show me an example? --- No, Your Worship, I am talking theoretically/.....

theoretically.

Yes, I am talking factually. I am talking about in South Africa in particular industries. --- I am not an expert on the strikes that are taking place, Your Worship. All I know about them is what I read in the newspapers and perhaps in internal documents.

Can you show me examples of strike action in which SACTU has participated? --- I cannot, Your Worship.

Boycots, what sort of boycotts do you envisage when you speak about boycotts as a method of struggle? --- Well, Your Worship for instance what the Rowntree Wilson boycott.

Yes? --- Or the boycott against the ...

The Fattis and Monis boycott? --- That's right, the Fattis and Monis products.

The red meat boycott? --- That's right.

Now, do you have any objection to those in principle? --- No, Your Worship, where those are carried out as a legitimate form of trade union action they are absolutely legitimate.

In the case of those three boycotts, do you accept that they were carried out as part of the genuine trade union activities? --- I accept that, Your Worship, but I also believe that there were elements involved in those boycotts who were unfortunately manipulating the legitimate trade union activities for political ends.

Well, take the Fattis and Monis boycott, that was a boycott arising out of the dismissal of certain workers? --- That is correct, Your Worship.

The boycott continued for some time? --- Correct, Your Worship.

It was supported by many people across the board so to speak? --- Correct, Your Worship.

And what was the outcome in the end, do you know? --- I believe the workers were re-instated.

Right, and that per se was perfectly acceptable to you as a form of trade union activity? --- That is correct, Your Worship. :

The fact that some people and I don't know about this and I don't know what evidence there is of it, the fact that some people may have been for their own ends manipulating as you say doesn't alter the nature and the purpose of that particular boycott? --- No, that is correct, Your Worship. In¹⁰ any society system state there are legitimate grievances which people can take political or economic action against and I have got no objection to that. The objection that I raised and members of my organisation raised is when legitimate grievances are used by revolutionary organisations to further their aims and objectives. :

Now, you are not suggesting and I don't understand you to be suggesting that SACTU per se was manipulating or involved in the Fattis and Monis boycott? --- I believe that some SACTU²⁰ members of sympathisers, ANC members or sympathisers, communist party members or sympathisers definitely were involved in all of those boycotts. :

Yes, that may be your belief, but in fact there is no evidence of this before this Court, that is what you believe and if they were, they certainly weren't doing so in their capacities as such? --- No, Your Worship, I believe they very much were doing it in their capacities as revolutionaries. .

Ja, but openly? --- No, Your Worship. .

Declaring who they were? --- Of course not, Your Worship,³⁰ clandestinely. : If they did it openly it would be very easy to lead evidence in Court about those activities. .

And the fact that you say that it was clandestine and

that people don't know about the fact that if they were doing so they were doing so in that capacity means that we are actually not in a position to controvert that or even contradict it in any way. We have to accept your say so for that or your belief? --- It is up to counsel for the defence whether he accepts my belief or not. ;

The same thing would apply when it comes to the red meat boycott or the Rowntree Wilson boycott? --- That is correct, Your Worship. ;

Perfectly legitimate grievances being voiced and boycotts being used in order to try and remedy these grievances? --- 10
That is correct, Your Worship, with the further element which I have already outlined. ;

And if that element was in fact present, it is not something which is publicised? --- No, Your Worship, it is underground revolutionary activity. ;

Right. --- By its very nature it is kept clandestine. ;
COURT: Is that merely an opinion that the other elements were involved? --- Sorry, Your Worship?

Is that merely an opinion that the other elements 20
were involved or do you know that it was in fact so? --- I know there were other elements involved. ;

MR KUNY: If you know as a member of the police force with access to information which the ordinary man doesn't have, is that what you are saying? --- Yes. ;

I want to get onto a different topic for the moment, Major Williamson. Something that we have dealt with in a previous trial, the question of the sort of surveillance that is kept on people, on campuses at the universities, in trade unions and generally in South Africa today, something 30
that you know well about and something that you participated

98.

Craig Michael Williamson

in? ---- You mean the surveillance by security authorities?

Yes. --- Yes, Your Worship.

You have under the guise of being a student operated on the campus, in NUSAS and generally in other organisations as a security policeman? --- That is correct, Your Worship.

And you agreed previously with me, in the Burger trial, there is a fair degree of paranoia around in regard to security police surveillance? --- I agreed, Your Worship, I also qualified it by saying that much of the paranoia is justified.

Ja, maybe.

10

COURT: Sorry. I take it in the other trial it was dealt with me fully. Paranoia on whose side? --- Paranoia on behalf of the targets of security surveillance in South Africa, students, members of other organisations. I agreed that there is paranoia amongst these people due to the activities of the security authorities, but I qualified it by saying that much of the paranoia is justified.

MR KUNY: And in many cases people have been detained, have been banned, have had administrative action taken against them as a result of the sort of clandestine activities of 20 people like yourself? --- Yes, Your Worship, I agreed, and I also added that a lot of people have been convicted as a result of this type of - --- A lot of people have been ...

COURT: Just a moment, Mr Kuny, allow the witness to complete his answer because both microphones are on, and your voices are overlapping and the typist won't know which person has said what. Just complete your ...

MR KUNY: As Your Worship pleases. --- I agree completely.

A lot of people have been banned, had passports removed and other administrative actions taken against them and many have 30 also been convicted as a result of clandestine security

operations.

Yes. Take many trade unionists, for example, the trade unionists seem to have been a particular target of security police interest and action over the last few years and a number of trade unionists have been banned. Do you agree? --- I agree, Your Worship, but again ...

Without having been charged. --- I agree, Your Worship.

A number have been detained and released without having been charged. --- I agree, Your Worship. I must qualify my agreement and that is that the security police per se have¹⁰ got no interest in interfering with legitimate trade unionists or trade union activities. But where there are individuals who are mis-using any institution, be it a trade union or otherwise, it is the duty of the forces of law and order to protect the state against revolutionary activity.

I am not going to debate this with you, Major Williamson, but I merely wanted to put to you the facts of the matter, the fact is that there is surveillance of the nature that you have agreed to? --- Correct.

People operating in disguise so to speak? --- Correct, 20 Your Worship.

Reports being furnished by such people to their superiors as a result of which administrative action of various kinds is taken against various people rightly or wrongly? --- Correct, Your Worship.

This is something that people in the should we say trade unions or other anti-government institutions are very aware of? --- Correct, Your Worship.

Let's take the accused himself for example. Are you aware³⁰ of the fact that in 1975 he was detained? --- 75 or 76, I am not..

76 as well, he was detained twice. --- 76 I remember, 75

I don't/.....

100.

Craig Michael Williamson

I don't.

At a time when he was still working, I think he was a student working at NUSAS? --- Yes.

At a time when you, yourself were working with NUSAS? --- That is correct.

In fact it is conceivable that he may have been detained as a result of something that you reported? --- 75 were the Breytenbach detentions.

No, it wasn't in connection with that.

COURT: Just repeat that? --- No, I don't remember the 75 ...10

MR KUNY: The point I make is that twice he was detained, twice he was released, but he was not charged? --- I accept that.

Jeanette Schoon before she left South Africa was a banned person? --- That's correct, Your Worship.

She left South Africa whilst still under a ban? --- Correct, Your Worship.

She herself has been detained if I am not mistaken? --- Correct, Your Worship.

Now, you at the time that you were still operating under cover until the beginning of was it 1980? --- Correct. 20

Were functioning between Botswana, Geneva, Lusaka and with your own communications network within South Africa? --- Correct, Your Worship.

And you were monitoring so to speak communications of any kind that passed from Jeanette Schoon to people in South Africa and vice versa? --- We were monitoring some communications.

Well, you would have to take the communications first in order to see whether they were the communications that you were interested in? --- Yes, I agree; Your Worship, all I don't know is whether all her communications went in a way that

enabled us/.....

enabled us to read them or not. . .

Yes. So that any communication of hers went through you whether innocent or not, would have been monitored by you and presumably copies and kept in a file? --- Well, not by me, Your Worship. . .

Well, by your network? --- I believe so. . .

And the same would apply to many other people whom you would keep under surveillance, both in and outside of South Africa? --- Well, not necessarily; Your Worship. She was communicating clandestinely with South Africa and she was 10 using a method which she believed to be an ANC network and it was not, it wasn't only an ANC network. But with other people unless those people were communicating via a member of our organisation, we wouldn't be monitoring their communication. . .

You see, you said in your evidence in chief and I would like to get clarity on this because it is not absolutely clear, you said that both the ANC and SACTU used clandestine methods of communication. Is that correct? --- I think I was asked if SACTU used codes and I said not to my knowledge.20

You started off by saying I know that ANC and SACTU make use of codes or secret writing techniques. Now, were you intending to confine that to the ANC? --- I would confine codes and secret writing to the ANC that I personally know of. The SACTU clandestine communications were done normally in open writing, but they were done through a courier which makes them clandestine. . .

The fact that a particular communication may have been in a code and communicated clandestinely doesn't therefore make it an ANC communication, you will agree? --- No, of 30 course not. . .

The fact that in the present case we have the accused having/.....

having communicated with Jeanette Schoon in a clandestine manner using dead letter boxes and knowing of the existence or having learnt of the existence of a code doesn't make his communication per se an unlawful communication? --- It doesn't at all, Your Worship, I mean the State also uses code. :

Yes, all I was trying to establish was that you don't suggest that because the communication in this case was through the use of dead letter boxes and perhaps code on occasions that that made it an ANC communication? --- No, Your Worship, all I say is that it makes it something that 10 somebody wanted to hide. :

Yes, and I will come back to the reasons why it may have been considered necessary or desirable to hide the communications, because there is widespread knowledge particularly in trade union matters of police interest and surveillance and of the fact that people get banned, that people are detained and that someone like Jeanette Schoon for example was the object of interest on the part of the police? --- No, I agree, Your Worship, but unfortunately we have a chicken and an egg situation. Did the people involved communicate 20 clandestinely because the Security Police were having surveillance on them or did the security police have surveillance on them because the people were communicating clandestinely. :

Yes, and one would never be able to break that until you knew of the nature of the information that was being communicated, isn't that so? --- Precisely. :

And in this case we know that the information that was being communicated was trade union information which as my learned friend said in his questioning of you was on the face of it innocent information? --- Yes, Your Worship, then I don't understand why it was communicated clandestinely. 30

Well, I/...

Well, I thought that I had put forward a reason to you why that was so? --- Yes, but then I - we come back to the chicken and egg, Your Worship. I mean was there security police surveillance before those communications, or was there security police surveillance because of people transmitting perfectly innocent material clandestinely.

Let's be frank about it, Major Williamson, if I were to be seen by to be communicating regularly with Jeanette Schoon, you would be very interested to know what the nature of my communication was? --- Certainly. 10

And you would do everything you could to get hold of my communications? --- Certainly.

And its the sort of thing which would lead to a person being pulled in, detained, interogated and regarded with a great deal of suspicion? --- Your Worship, if the communication was perfectly open and readable, I doubt whether it would have that result. It is when the communication is clandestine that the suspicion is caused.

Okay, if I were to openly furnish a hole lot of trade union information to Jeanet Schoon in Gabarone by way of 20 post or by way of someone going up there, you would say that is perfectly in order? --- No, Your Worship, I wouldn't say it was in order, but I probably wouldn't request detention on that basis. I would continue with an investigation to make my mind whether an offence was being committed or not.

Right, but having looked at the information and satisfying yourself that it was of a trade union nature? --- As we said previous, Your Worship, even a telephone book would be information useful to the ANC.

So, then ----- I am not interested in the information 30
per se. I would be interested in whether there was a furthering
of the/.....

of the aims of the organisation. ;

So you say however I communicated you would be interested in what I was communicating? --- That is correct, Your Worship, but ...

Even the most innocent of communications with someone like Jeanette Schoon would be regarded by you with suspicion. ;
--- Well, of course, Your Worship, I mean in Israel any communication with Yussar Arafat would be regarded with utmost suspicion. ;

So, therefore, my point is that it comes to the accused's communication with Jeanette Schoon whether it was done in a 10 clandestine fashion or whether it was done openly, it would have been the object of a great deal of interest and perhaps concern on the part of the security police? --- I agree totally with that, Your Worship, the only thing I don't agree with is the result. There was the suggestion that there would be immediate harrassment or detention or ...

No, I didn't say immediate harrassment or detention. ;
I am saying that it would be the object of - --- An investigation. ;

Yes, whatever the nature of the information turns out 20 to be? --- That is - I agree. ;

So that even to furnish perfectly innocent information such as the information given by the accused by Jeanette Schoon would arouse suspicion and would arise concern and would probably lead to some kind of investigation? --- Of course, Your Worship, Jeanette Schoon is furthering the aims of revolutionary organisations and if she was using information supplied to her by whoever it was, there would be an investigation. ;

By whoever it was and however innocently it may have 30
been supplied/.....

been supplied to her? --- Of course. :

So, the point is how she made use of the information is what you were concerned with, not necessarily what the person who sent the information knew about how she was going to make use of it? --- Well, I think the entire chain would be subject to an investigation. :

In fact I get the impression from the evidence you gave, I don't know whether this is the way it was put that there is a kind of attitude of possible guilt by association in the minds of the security police. For example you mentioned someone like Richer, you mentioned Robertson as these people associated with the ANC. Why did you make specific reference to them? --- Well, I was asked about them. :

Yes, but do you - does it follow from your evidence that the mere fact that the accused may in his statement have said I met them on occasions when I was in Botswana mean that he was therefore guilty by some association with them? --- That is not for me to say, Your Worship. All I am saying is that I met those people and that they worked for the ANC.

That is the only implication of your evidence? --- That is all I am saying. :

But as far as someone like Jeanette Schoon is concerned she is if one may use a colloquialism poison for people to be associated with in your mind? --- Well, poison ivy. .

And anybody who has contact with her would be - would probably be the object of your interest? --- Would definitely be the object of our interest. .

Right. : Major Williamson the State has annexed to its charge sheet with the further particulars a copy of the Freedom Charter, the Freedom Charter spoken about both by you and in documents handed in in this Court. Now, the Freedom

Charter, I just want to get on record has never per se been banned as a document or as a programme. --- I don't believe so, Your Worship. .

No. In fact it has been described as a laudible, social democratic programme to strive towards by a number of people? --- Yes, Your Worship, the Freedom Charter is an extremely sophisticated document allowing a veritable jungle of interpretations. .

In fact I saw in the newspaper that two weeks ago at a public lecture in Cape Town in the University of Cape Town a well-known American academic was extatic about the terms, content of the Freedom Charter as a desirable form of organisation? --- Yes, Your Worship, the Freedom Charter is the basis of the so-called united front and it is a document which can be whole-heartedly accepted by the most woolly-headed liberal and equally by the most hard headed member of the communist party as being a statement of immediate demands. .

And even by a person like yourself? --- I think so, Your Worship, there are a couple of items which I perhaps would worry about, but in broad terms most of the - in fact most of the Freedom Charter has been implemented in South Africa over the last twenty years. .

Right, I am sure there will be some people who will be happy to hear that, and therefore to strive towards the attainment of the Freedom Charter may be a very laudible struggle? --- Your Worship, if one is striving towards the attainment of the Freedom Charter or the statements contained the Freedom Charter that is one thing. If one is striving towards the overthrow of the State or if one is striving towards the objectives of the African National Congress,

and in their interpretation of the Freedom Charter, that is another thing. .

So, you say its a matter (a) of interpretation and (b) of means rather than ultimate ends? --- That is correct, Your Worship. .

Your Worship, may I at this stage ask for a short adjournment. I would like to just collate certain of my notes and it may be that the cross-examination won't be much longer. .

COURT: Certainly. .

10

COURT ADJOURNS

COURT RESUMES

COURT: You are still under Oath to tell the truth. .

MR KUNY: Major Williamson, I just wanted to get on record the fact that until fairly recently this book Organise or Starve was banned for possession and distribution in South Africa? --- I believe so, Your Worship. .

We heard on Monday from one witness that the ban on possession has now been lifted although it would seem that there is still a ban on distribution, do you know about that? --- 20 I don't, but I believe that is accurate. .

And importation, would there also be a ban on that? --- Well, that goes together with distribution. .

Right, so there is now a ban on its importation and distribution but not on its possession. --- I believe that to be so. .

Do you know when the ban was lifted? --- No, Your Worship.

Certainly since the time that the accused has been in detention and custody which is since September of last year?

--- I have got no idea, Your Worship. .

30

And there was just one other apsect that I wanted to point out, I think we touched on it and that is that although there has/.....

there has been handed in a booklet which contains extracts photocopies of various pages of the book, they are I think you agree fairly selective of the points you wanted to illustrate? --- That is correct. .

And that the book which is altogether 520 pages in length deals broadly with the whole history of SACTY and really with the history of the trade union movement and particularly the black trade union movement in South Africa? --- That is correct, Your Worship. .

And the section dealing with SACTU and the congress 10 alliance is merely one of sixteen chapters in the book? --- That is correct, Your Worship. .

So, you know, I just want to put it into perspective that that is not what SACTU is all about. SACTU is spoken about here and dealt with as a genuine trade union confederation? --- Yes, Your Worship, carrying out numerous activities. .

Yes? --- All of which are summed up in this book. .

Yes, the book in fact represents a very good account of the whole history and activities of SACTU? --- Correct. . 20

And I suppose you in producing the book saw that it was as balanced an account as possible? --- Your Worship, I took a revolutionary perspective when I was shown the manuscripts of this book. .

You didn't edit it though? --- No. .

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS BY MR KUNY

COURT: Re-examination?

PROSECUTOR: Thank you. Do you, Major Williamson, on the basis of your experience in the ANC and in SACTU and your experience in the Security branch of the Police have any knowledge of the scale on which literature is distributed 30 in South Africa by and on behalf of the ANC or SACTU? --- Yes, Your Worship/.....

Your Worship. :

On what kind of a scale is this done? --- Well, it is difficult to define it, but literature from ANC, SACTU, the South African Communist Party is found from time to time in South Africa. As I said during my cross-examination, this is normally available to people who are either members of or involved with those organisations. :

Major, you were also questioned about strikes, and about various boycotts. Do you know which Trade Union was involved in the Wilson Rowntree boycott? --- No, not specifically, Your¹⁰ Worship. :

And the other two, the Fattis and Monis and the red meat boycott? --- The red meat I know it was the General Workers Union. :

Are you aware of the existence of the trade union called the South African Allied Workers Union? --- I am, Your Worship. :

Now, you were questioned about bannings of trade unions and detentions and subsequent release of trade unionists, are you aware of any trade unionists that have been charged 20 recently during the last year or so? --- I have seen it in the press, Your Worship. :

Do you know which Union was involved? --- SAWU.

That is the South African Allied Workers Union? --- That's right. :

Do you have any knowledge of whether strikes occur for reasons of getting recognition of trade unions? --- Again, Your Worship, from publically available information I know that. :

Do you know whether the accused in this matter was 30 arrested as a result of surveillance by you or your network or whether/.....

or whether he was arrested for something quite unrelated to you and your network? --- Your Worship, I don't really know for what he was arrested. I know there was an investigation in which the accused was involved which has been going on since probably 1978 and that certainly had something to do with his arrest in this case, but whether there were any other matters involved, of that I am not aware. ;

Do you know whether Jeaneatte Schoon keeps ANC or SACTU literature in her house? --- She does, Your Worship. ;

Is it stored away or hidden or? --- No, Your Worship, 10 it is quite openly displayed. ;

From your own knowledge do you know whether the accused has been abroad? --- Not from my own knowledge. ;

Do you know whether Jeanette Schoon was involved with trade unions before she left South Africa? --- She was, Your Worship. She was at one time the Secretary General of NUSWEL, which was the welfare arm of NUSAS which was very interested in labour matters and later on either 1974 or 75 she was involved with the Industrial Aid Society in Johannesburg and in fact I hired ... 20

COURT: The years again? --- The Industrial Aid ...

The years? --- 74 or 75. ;

She was involved? --- With the Industrial Aid Society and she in fact asked me to hire their premises for them which I did. ;

PROSECUTOR: Major, from your experience with the ANC and SACTU do you know whether if a person is used by any of those organisations to gether information for the organisation whether that person is given any training usually or not?

COURT: Any? 30

PROSECUTOR: Training. --- Your Worship, in every instance I know of/...

Collection Number: AD2021

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS, Security trials 1958-1982

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.