

10:31 AM STATEMENT TO THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
COMMISSION BY MR. R. PALAZZOLO

I, the undersigned

Vito Roberto Palazzolo

state hereby under oath as follows:

On 26 June 1997 I was approached by Mr Malan and Mr Kooijmans of the T.R. C. In connection with the death of advocate Anton Lubowski. In the presence of my lawyer, Mr. Prisman, we had a discussion, further to which I now make this statement.

I met Mr. Lubowski for the first and only time on 1989 in Belinzona, Switzerland. At that time I was living under police custody in an hotel, pending the outcome of criminal proceedings against me. I was looking for a new country of residence. I also had property at that time in Namibia. Mr. Prisman had met Mr. Lubowski when the latter gave a talk on the future of SWA in Cape Town. He was of the opinion that Mr. Lubowski might give me useful advice on the topics mentioned above and suggested a meeting between the two of us.

Mr. Lubowski 's air ticket was paid for by my father in law, Mr Grunfeld. I did not pay Mr Lubowski any money at any stage, nor was he paid by someone else on my behalf. The payment of R 100 000 to Mr Lubowski in June 1989 has nothing to do with me at all.

Mr. Lubowski went to Europe on a mission of raising funds for SWAPO. On this trip he came to see me. Our discussion centred around the political and economical future of SWA and particularly the matter of expropriation of land by the new government (SWAPO). I remember that we also talked about two South African submarines held at that time by the French Government. I do not recall that we talked about information of such a sensitive nature that it could have endangered Mr Lubowski's life.

After our first talk my police guards told me that they had found Mr Lubowski to be under surveillance by someone, presumably South African agents. At a meeting the next day I had the impression that we were being photographed. I mentioned these things to Mr Lubowski, who said he was used to it, it happened all the time.

I gave Mr Lubowski introductions to certain German politicians, for his fundraising mission. He then left. I was still in Switzerland when I learnt of his murder through a TV broadcast.

From what I know of Mr Lubowski I find it hard to believe that he should have been an agent for the South African military. In fact, all I know about him points to the opposite: he was a firm SWAPO supporter and firmly against South African policies, and devoted his life to the SWAPO cause.

When I returned to South Africa, I was granted Ciskei citizenship by Lennox Sebe, for whom I acted as financial adviser. This had nothing to do with Mr Lubowski.

During the sitting of the Harms Commission I was approached by two Namibian lawyers regarding the investigation of Mr Lubowski's death. Immediately thereafter I was taken by the South African Security Police to a safe house in Port Elizabeth and placed in isolation. Not even Mr Prisman was allowed to see me. According to my guards, Genl. Basie Smit gave the order. I found this strange, and do not know why this was done.

I have made a statement to Dr d'Oliveira regarding this matter. Personally, I have no objection if that statement is made available to the T.R.C.

In summary, I do not know why or by whom Mr Lubowski was killed and deny that it has anything to do with the meeting between us.

Signed in Cape Town this day of July 1997.

