

## JAN DE BRUIN SMIT

## ADULT WHITE MALE, NAMIBIAN POLICE WINDHOEK

## STATES :

I am a Deputy Commissioner in the Namibian Police. I am stationed in Windhoek as District Detective Officer. Prior to 21 March 1990 I had also been attached to the South West African Police and had the rank designation of Colonel then.

On 12 September 1989 at approximately 20H36 a person, Anton Lubowski, was shot dead in front of his house in Sandberg street Windhoek. Various shots were fired on Lubowski with an AK 47 rifle which eventually caused his death. The assailants made use of a red sedan vehicle.

Anton Lubowski, late member of SWAPO, was also the first White reported by the media as having joined SWAPO. It is known to me that in subsequent years Lubowski received various death threats.

According to me no doubt could exist that the murder of Lubowski was an assassination attack with political motives. For this reason I personally took charge of the investigation into the case.

On 1989-09-13 at 13H00 I arrested one Donald Achesson in Windhoek. The arrest ensued from information received that Achesson had acted suspiciously before the murder. He also drove a vehicle shortly after the murder which was similar to the one spotted at the scene of the murder.

I interrogated Achesson and he informed me that he was an Irish citizen presently residing in the RSA. He came to Southwest with the aim of obtaining employment with a newspaper in Windhoek. His occupation was that of a cartoonist. Upon subsequent interrogation he again related that he was a professional shoplifter. He ostensibly intended to form a syndicate of shoplifters in Windhoek and his followers would join him soon.

Enquiries revealed that Achesson had entered Southwest on various occasions. He supplied false addresses and reasons for his visits upon entry. According to his passport he again entered the RSA through Swaziland. He told people in Windhoek that he was a journalist for Times magazine. His movements and other activities in Windhoek were utterly suspicious.

Achesson later admitted to me that he was recruited in Johannesburg by a person who introduced himself as Van Staden. He was recruited for one or other unknown organisation. He could make contact with van Staden only by means of a Radio Pager, the number being 3313561 channel 784 code 18.

Van Staden again handed him over to a certain Derick with Pager no. 3313561 channel 1200 code 18. Derick made certain payments to Achesson and also instructed him to go to Windhoek. In Windhoek he was required to rent a "save house" and wait on further instructions.

With the available evidence it was not possible to charge Achesson with the murder. It was then decided to detain him in Southwest as an illegal immigrant. In so doing I would get the opportunity to do the necessary follow-up work in Johannesburg.

In Johannesburg I gathered the following information with reference to the Radio Pagers : Both pagers had been rented from the firm Executive Communications (Pty) Ltd.

Pager 784.18 Rented by : Mr. H.J. van Staden, 11 Rose Street, Florida.

Pager 1200.18 Rented by : J. Malherbe, 75 De Villiers Street, Joubert Park.

I followed up the mentioned addresses and found that no persons with the mentioned names were residing there. I determined that the account of H.J. van Staden was paid by a certain Ferdinand Barnard. The payments were as a matter of fact done from the bank account of the said Barnard.

Barnard had indeed previously been running a business from 11 Rose Street. Barnard was later traced and I had an interview with him at Brixton Murder and Robbery. I'll now further refer to Ferdinand Barnard as Ferdie.

Ferdie related that he had been released from prison in 1987. He afterwards worked for a Willie Smit as a tracing assessor. At one stage he was approached by a person who arranged an appointment at an hotel in Pretoria. He met the person, who introduced himself as Hans, in a room of the Hotel.

Hans informed Ferdie that he was working for a group of businessmen. Ferdie was offered a post as recruiting agent. Ferdie was regarded as a suitable person as he was familiar with Johannesburg and especially had a big circle of friends in the underworld. The businessmen needed agents who could monitor the various political parties or organisations. The information would enable the businessmen to safeguard future investments.

As compensation Ferdie would receive a monthly salary as well as a motor vehicle. The activities would be clandestine in order to protect the involvement of the businessmen.

Ferdie later received a sum of money (R27 000,00) with which he bought himself a motor vehicle. Instructed by Hans he rented a Pager under the name of H.J. van Staden.

In this way Ferdie also got wind of an Irishman Donald Dolan. He recruited him and also handed Donald's particulars to Hans. Except for a CV which he received from the Irishman and a few conversation, he didn't work with the Irishman further. The latter indeed contacted him by means of his pager but this stopped later.

Ferdie denied that he knew a person with the name Derrick or anyone named J. Malherbe. He also denied having any knowledge of what the Irishman did in Windhoek.

Ferdie was very vague about the person of Hans. At one stage he consented to compile an identity kit of Hans. However, it was clear that this was hardly of much value. At this stage it was of cardinal importance to me to trace Hans.

Interviews with Hans showed that he didn't want to reveal the truth; further, that he was dishing up the Hans story merely to explain his connection with the Irishman and prevent with such excuse that he become involved or even gets arrested.

On 18 October 1989 I went to talk to Mr. Willie Smit, Ferdie's previous employer, at his offices in Florida.

I introduced myself to Mr. Smit whereupon he immediately told me that he knew why I wanted to see him. On a question he said that it had to be in connection with the Lubowski murder in Windhoek. He mentioned that it was about Ferdie Barnard and that the latter at one stage had mentioned that he was very worried about the arrest of the Irishman.

I requested Smit to provide me with Ferdie's background as well as the latter's connection with him.

Smit mentioned that Ferdie's brother, Calla, initially worked for him. On the request of Calla he negotiated with the Prison Authorities in Pretoria to take out Ferdie on parole. At that stage Ferdie had been serving a prison sentence in the Central Prison at Pretoria.

He took out Ferdie on parole in December 1987. Ferdie then worked at Smit's Insurance company as tracing agent and assessor.

After a period of time Ferdie told him that he was not happy in his job. According to Ferdie it was his life to "take out" people and he eagerly wanted to do such a job. Ferdie related that he had been in prison with a Defence Force "Recce". The latter had been visited by a general, who mentioned the possibility of work to Ferdie. He had now received an offer and mentioned that it was something like C1.

Smit explained that this conversation conducted by Ferdie was especially because he had graciously taken out Ferdie on parole and the latter was now leaving his service.

One day at night Ferdie, together with his brother Calla, turned up at Smith's house. Ferdie asked Smit whether he could still remember the Webster case. Ferdie related that they also had to "take out" a certain White at the United Towers. They were identified by a guard there. In the event of the Police then making enquiries Smit should say that on the particular day Ferdie had been driving his (Smit's) white BMW. Smit refused to help Ferdie in this regard with an alibi.

Smit related that Ferdie, in referring to the Webster case, wanted to make believe



and Lubowski cases could be related to each other. I personally had the suspicion that one or other subversive organisation could be involved in the murders.

This suspicion was affirmed when I later learnt that a firm of attorneys from Johannesburg was busy with an application to have Achesson released. It strengthened my suspicion since it was known to me that Achesson didn't have the necessary funds at his disposal to pay for legal costs. The Irish Government also informed me personally that they were not interested to finance his legal costs. The woman who thus instructed the firm of attorneys was completely unknown. From experience I knew that these costs would be sizeable. I had no doubt that someone was trying to get Achesson out of the way so that I wouldn't be able to expose a next link of an organisation net work.

I discussed the information concerning Achesson, Willie Smit through the Black Shark as well as the urgent application by unknown persons with S/W/O Rousseau as well as Brig. Mostert. I emphasized to them that Ferdie was definitely an important link. I especially asked Brig. Mostert for help. My investigation had then reached such a critical stage that I wouldn't be able to continue on my own.

The application for Donald Achesson's release served in Windhoek Supreme Court on 1989-11-06. Achesson was released and I officially charged him with the murder of Lubowski.

I then already had knowledge about Ferdie Barnard's arrest and detention in terms of Article 29. I used this detention of Ferdie to oppose various applications for bail for his release and also succeeded in this.

During later stages I interrogated Barnard in detention and also obtained statements from him. The interrogations and statements led to the exposure of the organisation CCB and proof of their complicity to the murder of Lubowski.

The detention of Barnard was in my opinion a necessity. The successes in my case wouldn't have materialised without this detention.

I am familiar with the contents of this statement.  
I have no objections to the taking of the prescribed oath.  
I regard the prescribed oath as binding to my conscience.

JOHANNESBURG  
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