

**PROCEEDINGS IN TERMS OF SECTION 29**



**ON 26 NOVEMBER 1996**

**[VOLUME 3 : PAGES 204 - 293]**

ON 1996/11/26

APPEARANCES AS BEFORE

RECORDING MACHINE OPERATOR SWORN IN

FRANK SANDY BENNETTS (Sworn states)

CHAIRMAN: (Microphone not switched on) And you are aware of the nature of the proceedings. I read out to you last time what this is. An investigation inquiry. We're not making a finding against you. You are under an obligation to speak the truth and that you ... (inaudible) ... your right to legal representation? --- Yes, I understand that, Sir.

UNIDENTIFIED: (Inaudible - microphone not switched on)

CHAIRMAN: Yes, because of the fact that we allowed your wife in, this is in fact a public hearing at which members of the public could come in to ... (inaudible). As ~~ARDIV~~ explained to you last time section 29 investigative inquiries are ... (inaudible) ... private affairs. Only staff of the Commission may be allowed in but because you requested that your wife should be here we granted that request, it means that other members of the public may be able to come in.

--- No, I understand all of that, Sir. There's no problem. Sorry, can I just - Sir, before we proceed, there's just a couple of points from last time I'd like to clear up before we carry on, if I may.

Yes. --- All right. Sorry, it's probably just take about ten minutes. First of all, is so far as the whole duration of my service at Chesterville, I was known as Sergeant Frank to the local community but also other members of the riot unit working in the area at the time also identified themselves to persons

as being

/Sergeant

Sergeant Frank. I didn't worry about this too much at the time. It did cause a bit of an inconvenience with allegations and things against me but the results that they obtained by doing so were quite good and therefore I just left it. In so far as the A-Team are concerned, at this point I would like to say, yes, I did in fact and I think all the members with me did in fact show a bias towards supporting the A-Team as opposed to the UDF in the area. The reasons were numerous for this but basically the A-Team were assisting us as I explained last time. We made use of them. I made use of them specifically and I must say at the time, whether it is now so or not, I was not aware that the A-Team were possibly being used by other forces, branch or anybody else. We did attend scenes where the UDF were the victims and I must also admit that we didn't exactly rush in in a hurry to attend these scenes. This was not specifically done to support the A-Team in these attacks but from my point of view it was also, while in soft vehicles, a fear of an ambush. Most of the roads in Chesterville are dead-end roads, difficult to turn around in, especially if you end up with other vehicles behind you approaching such a scene. So in the case of an ambush you'd effectively find yourself cut off and cornered in such an area. I also want to admit at this point that I was in fact involved in certain violations in which people were shocked or tubed. Shocked making use of one of these telephone winding devices as I explained but not in all of the

allegations that were made against me at the time.  
All right. My primary objective in doing so was the recovery of weapons. I

/felt  
felt at the time I was justified in doing so as any unlawful weapons that we could recover was one less that would be used against ourselves. I was never ever involved in supplying the A-Team with firearms, with ammunition, with anything else. We spoke last time, if I recall correctly, about assisting them with petrol. The petrol, as far as I was aware at the time was not to be used for the manufacture of petrol bombs. I don't believe morally I would have assisted them even with petrol or petrol bombs to burn people at the time. And as I sit here now, I did not supply petrol for the manufacture of petrol bombs. I also did not teach anybody to make petrol bombs although I was aware how it was done. There was a scene that we discussed as well last time. If I'm correct in the road numbers, it was at the corner of Road 13 and Road 8 where babies burnt in a house. I was not involved in the planning of this. I was on duty at the time and I did attend the scene. I did not assist the A-Team in any way. I did not provide them anything. I did not point out the house to them to burn. I became aware of the incident only when it was reported to us. I did attend the scene and what stands out in my mind about the scene is the fact, as I tried to point out last time, the three babies were actually left by the ambulance personnel to die in the ambulances because of the condition that they were burnt in. Also two of the members working under me at

the time broke down the door of this burning house, ran inside and fetched these babies and the unbelievable part is that there was actually a complaint made against them for breaking the door. This incident in itself,

/the fact

the fact that members of the UDF then turned around and attempted to charge us for breaking down the door and rescuing babies, had the effect on myself which was extremely negative to the point where from that point on, I believe that this was almost like the straw that broke the camels back, where - excuse the expression now but I just didn't give a S-H-ONE-T any more at that point. From that point I was not prepared to risk myself for anyone in the location. Okay, pertaining to the envelope which was delivered in Road 24 by myself and Warrant-Officer Kruger, I was told by him that there was money in the envelope. As I recall, he mentioned a figure of R500,00. I could be mistaken with this figure. I did not see the money. Also, I cannot say for certain that the necklaced victim, the chap how was burnt behind the school, was in fact the person for whom this envelope was intended. Warrant-Officer Kruger only indicated to me at a later stage that the deceased was in fact the person for whom the enveloped was indicated - was intended and that as far as he was then concerned, the result of what we had done had been successful. Pertaining to the shooting of the gentleman on my birthday by Constable Sean Fourie, I want to say although the comment was passed, that we should go out and shoot somebody, it's not quite the way it was

said. The comment was passed possibly I would say in jest or as a bravado. Being my birthday, it was more or less in the lines of a comment in, "It's your birthday. Let's get you a birthday present and we will go out and see if we can shoot a kaffir." We did not plan to shoot this guy. At the time of going to his house, we were in fact /in possession in possession of a sworn statement if I recall pertaining to activities with recruiting, etcetera. The details I don't remember but I do recall now that we did have a sworn statement. The statement was later, after the shooting, given to one of the security branch members who attended. I cannot say if it was Andy Taylor to whom it was handed. I don't know. Also during the time of the incident, I've given it some thought again afterwards and I recall that I'd suffered ~~prior to this~~ torn ligaments in one of my knees, knee or ankle, and I'd had my leg put in plaster-of-Paris by a medical practitioner. The plaster-of-Paris had been irritating me and I'd cut it off myself and strapped my leg up in a bandage. I was at the time still limping quite badly and in pain from this. While inside the house, if I recall correctly it was Constable Fourie at the time who found the suspect hiding under a small table with a cloth hanging over it. While we were still searching the room, the suspect assaulted Constable Fourie and fled. All right, I attempted to run as best I could with my leg in the condition it was and I ran through the front door of the house and Sean Fourie through the back door. While outside the front of the house, I heard shouts from Constable Fourie and a single shot

fired. I went around the corner to the rear of the house and I saw the suspect stationery up on a bank at the rear of the house. He was holding his buttocks and then he began to fall backwards down the bank. He came to a stop, lain on the ground obviously in pain and upon examination, if I recall correctly, he had been hit just below the left buttock in the leg obviously with a

/shotgun  
shotgun round. Okay, we contact the army medic who was at the time stationed at Chesterville and he treated the chap who was later removed by an ambulance. I feel right now, as I sit here, as I did then, that the shooting of this guy was justified.

All right. Pertaining to the train incident that I spoke about last time, I just want to stress the fact that it is only my impression that the suspect was killed at the time. I'd only heard bits of the conversation on the radio and I've also given this some thought and tried to throw my thoughts back quite a few years and it's possible that I was mistaken that in fact this chap was arrested. The incident itself was not discussed at the office. I was not present there and so I cannot say exactly what happened to the guy. All right. The Inanda incident that I've described I admit my involvement in. Besides this incident and during the period of my service in the security branch I was not involved in any other assaults. On the farm where I stayed as a caretaker, working under Colonel Andy Taylor, I was not involved in any incidents. I went out with the askaris twice, as I described, once to Jozini. I recall that I was

at the time definitely - or accompanied, let me put it that way, Colonel Taylor and Lieutenant - or I don't know if he was a captain by that stage - Basson, Wouter Basson. What exactly was done up there I don't know. I spent a lot of the time with myself and also travelling around with members from the security branch at Jozini. The second occasion I described when I went to the farm at Newcastle, the team, if you can call it that - the askaris and the policemen - did not arrive. I found out /later later that one of them had become ill. I spent the night on the farm - well, the evening drinking at the canteen at Newcastle police station and the night sleeping on the farm. The following day I did wiring work on the house and I then returned back to the farm. I eventually took a transfer to Thornville police station as branch commander. It was basically as a result of pressure from my wife. I had been drinking heavily during my period towards the end of the riot unit but specifically in the security branch to the point where, when at home, I was finishing no less than one bottle of Red Heart rum a night. Since my transfer to Thornville and also prior to my involvement in the riot unit, I was not involved in any violations or assaults in any way. After being at Thornville, or during my period at Thornville police station, I in fact became very involved with the local communities. I was responsible for the formation and the getting going of the community police forum in the area. I was also responsible for a liaison forum set-up between the farmers and the local blacks who, upon my arrival there, did not have a very good working



relationship. As I sit here now, I believe that in all the communities in the Thornville area where I worked for approximately five to six years I was well liked by all elements of the community excluding(?) those of the non-criminal element. I'm known in the area to be just and fair but the blacks and whites alike and I believe that the incidents in which I was involved in the riot unit were as a result of circumstances that I found myself in at the time. I didn't go in there with the intention of

/becoming becoming a violent person and treating violence with violence. Circumstances in general caused me to become a person of that nature and calibre. Basically as a young white member of the South African Police prior to going to the riot unit and prior to the formation of the riot unit as such, there existed in most of the areas that I'm aware of, but I know in the Durban area, a unit known as the mobile unit. Okay, this unit had very, very few permanent members and it consisted of members at other stations on station level receiving regular training for riot situations and then being called up when required. Part of the problem, I believe, was from the time that I first began to attend courses including the riot course, the border course and this sort of thing. While attending training sessions with the mobile unit a very subtle type of brain-washing was used in so far as comments were regularly passed by the senior members whom you were in a position that you were to believe, trust and learn from and on a regular basis the comments were passed pertaining to blacks being kaffirs and shooting

kaffirs, etcetera. This did have the effect that it rubbed off eventually onto most of us in so far as we just didn't care at the end of the day. It became the thing to do. I honestly believe that if the circumstances had have been similar in a different society, had it been Indians or other whites that we were dealing with at the time, I believe the results would have been the same. They would not then have been blacks, they would not have been kaffirs as such, probably something else. The circumstances were just such that they ran away with us totally. Policemen,

/looking

looking back with hindsight now, 18, 19 and 20-year-olds are subject to this sort of thing, or were at the time and at the end of the day they are actually still kids. I mean, the year before they ended up there, they were still sitting in matric. That's about all I want to say at this stage, Sir. I don't believe, as I sit here now, I'm biased against blacks, whites, Indians or anybody else. I'm totally non-biased although I must admit that what I've been through has left some sort of - I don't know the correct word I want use here without using the word bias but it has had an effect on me that my feelings towards humanity as a whole in this country at the moment are very, very low. Crime wise and otherwise I just don't see much of a future in any event. I'm sorry if I've wasted your time with what I've had to say. I'm now prepared to carry on answering any questions.

MR LAINLAX: : Thanks, Mr Bennetts. --- Okay, thank you.

MR GOVENDER: Thank you, Mr Bennetts. Mr Bennetts,

following from what you've just said to us now, are you generally remorseful of what has happened in the past and things that you were involved in? ---

Yes, Sir, I am.

And do you understand that the Truth Commission is trying to arrive at exposing the truth as to what happened in terms of the conflict of the past? Do you understand that? --- Yes, Sir, I do.

And you're willing now to make full and total disclosure of all incidents that you know of or you have been involved in? --- I am.

/Now, Mr Bennetts,

Now, Mr Bennetts, I just want to go back to - we will come to what you've said later on but just to complete some of the things that you've left out from the last. You've mentioned at some stage a person by the name of John Coetzee. I'm sorry, I didn't hear the name.

John Coetzee? --- John? Johan.

Johan Coetzee. As being a person either from the NPA or the DSB. He was involved, you said, in MI activities. --- I know of a Johan Coetzee who was there but I don't believe he was the gentleman I was referring to last time. I think - if I remember correctly, I was speaking about another chap who I thought could have been a Johan who was the township supervisor in Chesterville.

Yes. --- That is not the same Johan Coetzee that you are referring to here. I do know of a Johan Coetzee who worked with the NPA at the time.

Yes, and was he involved in any undercover work for military intelligence of any of the security

forces? --- Sir, I honestly do not know.

You don't know? --- I became friends with Johan Coetzee only after I'd left the riot unit. In fact after I was married.

I see. --- I mean, I had met him in the scope of my work in Chesterville with him coming in and out.

Yes. You mentioned a army person that you said would possibly have been involved in supplying the A-Team with ammunition and weapons at the time. ---

Yes.

Is it not the same? --- No, it's not the same /guy. I've guy. I've - actually as you've mentioned that now, I recall the guy's name was Allister.

Allister who? --- I do not know his surname, Sir.

You knew his rank? --- Hell, he was a private or a one line corporal. I'm not sure. He was right down low. He was going his national service. You see, the rest of the guys in the location, most of them were doing camps at the time. All right. This Oleaster was doing his national service, his 18 months or two years, whatever it was at the time.

Yes. And you say that he was involved in supplying weapons to the A-Team? --- Ammunition, I believe. I don't know about weapons.

Ammunition. Well, did he do this with the knowledge and consent of his commanding officer? Do you know that? --- You see, the difficult one is this, Sir, that he didn't fall under the commanding officer who was in Chesterville. He was the intelligence officer from Group 10 although not an

officer. He was the intelligence liaison person or whatever you want to call it.

That was stationed at ... (intervention) ---  
He was stationed permanently in Chesterville. This is the same guy we're speaking about with the Mini.

Yes. --- All right, he was stationed in Chesterville and he reported directly to Group 10. Or was it Group 9? Here in Durban. Group 10, I think it is. All right. The rest of the guys in the location were simply there was back-up to the police and they were only there for short periods, like six week, two /months months at a time and they rotated.

When you say he was involved in supplying ammunition, did you see him supplying ammunition? How did you get that information. How did you know that he was in fact supplying ... (intervention) --- I heard at the time that he had been supplying ammunition.

Did you see him supplying or did you ... (intervention) --- No, never in front of me, no.

Well, who did you hear from? --- I'm sorry, Sir?

Who told you that he was supplying? --- Just in conversation in the location at the time. It would have been amongst the guys I was working with.

Did he ever tell you that he was supplying? --- No, he never told me he was.

During your time with the - both with the riot unit and the special branch, were you or your unit involved in telephone bugging? --- The unit was - the security branch was, yes.

Tell us about that, Mr Bennetts. --- To get a telephone bugged you had to get authority, I believe, from ministerial level. I don't know. You did an application - okay, let me put it to you this way. If I wanted to have a telephone bugged, all right, of a certain individual or a company or something, the procedure wasn't simply to get the telephone bugged. The procedure was to make an application which was then forwarded up to Pretoria. I believe ministerial level, I don't know where it was approved. Once it was approved, we were informed. The telephone was then bugged. It was hooked to a tape with a switch mechanism /which which would switch on an off so the tape didn't run 24 hours a day. The tapes were mainly kept at C R Swart Square. There was a room there specifically used for it and the person who made the application for the bug then had the option of either listening to the tapes himself or making use of personnel that worked with him to actually listen to the tapes if he didn't have time and if they came across something, they would report it to him.

Who would make the request for - or an application for bugging? --- Any member at the branch.

Any member. Did you have occasion to make any such application? --- Yes, I did.

In relation to who? Who were you ... (intervention) --- The search for one Spoo(?) Mkhize who was at the time in the Umbumbulu area. He'd been involved in attacks on the policemen and all sorts of things down there. We had at the time, that

I recall, information that he was receiving assistance from certain members of the Indian community in the Isipingo Hills area and we did application and had telephones bugged there.

You had the telephone bugged? --- Yes, Sir.

And did you make application to do that or did you get ... (intervention) --- No, we made application which was approved.

Who did you make the application to? To the Minister? --- No, it goes via the offices here. So we did an application - was handed in to our senior officer. It went through the channels. We were later informed.

/That

That you could go ahead. How did you go about bugging this chap? --- Once the application was approved we went back to the staff that were stationed at - the room where all the tapes and things were all in and they had liaison with the Telkom people.

So his private phone was tapped, is that correct?

--- A private house phone was tapped, yes.

A private house telephone, okay. --- As far as I recall it was somebody who had something to do with those Dass Buses.

With the? --- I think it's Dass Buses. Dass Buses. They own a bus service, ja.

Yes. --- Out that area.

And was that useful? Did you get information as a result of the bugging? --- Mmm, did we? No, I don't believe we did on that occasion, no. How it worked as well, you were limited to a certain period in which you could keep the bug connected and you

would then have to make re-application or motivation to keep it going.

For how - what period would you get permission to bug? --- I think - I'm speaking under correction but I think it was about six weeks.

For six weeks? --- Ja. Originally it was six weeks.

Was that the only occasion that you personally requested permission to bug? --- If I recall correctly, yes. I think there may have been two or three chaps all involved with the same story there. It may have been more than the one house we bugged. I just honestly cannot remember.

On that one - relating to the one individual?

--- /Just  
Just relating to that, ja. I didn't have any reason to do it specifically. ARCHIVE FOR JUSTICE

Is there any other circumstances where you personally made an application to have a telephone bugged? --- Not that I can recall, Sir, no.

You cannot. Okay, now, tell us, the unit itself, are you aware of any circumstances where they had a telephone bugged? --- Yes, yes.

Tell us about that. --- I mean, if you went in there - oh, it's probably about 20 or 30 tapes that they had lined up inside there most of which at any one time were connected somewhere.

Do you know of any specific people that were targeted? --- Linda Zama. I remember Linda Zama specifically because that actually - it was the first I'd know it was possible, they actually had her fax line bugged.



Fax line? Okay. --- That's why I remember that one. And what other - I'm not quite sure on the technicalities of it but they played the tape back into a fax machine and printed out a copy of every fax that she ever sent or received.

Was there anybody else that you remember? ---  
Specific individuals, no, Sir.

Mac Maharaj, the present Minister of Transport, was his phone every tapped? --- I think it was. I don't know. I think it was by - or one of the chaps who was involved in the listening to us was Alfred Cave - I think it was Alfred. We called him Fred - Cave, C-A-V-E.

He was listening to this? --- I think he was

/involved .

involved in listening to that.

He was involved in the bugging also? --- He worked I think intelligence section and they were the guys that did mainly all the bugging.

MR LAINLAX: Sorry, Mr Govender. Who was in charge of that bugging unit? It was a separate unit, wasn't it? --- It was a separate unit, yes, Sir. I think they fell directly under the intelligence unit and the chaps inside there that worked inside there were all mainly retired policemen at the time or after a guy retired he could come back again as a special. I think they just called them a special or something. I don't know.

Get a bit of extra sheltered employment? ---

Ja. Well, he was then pulling a pension every month and a salary again that he was earning previously and they were all retired - mainly all retired warrant-

officers inside there. Who actually ran it, I don't know.

How many lines would they tap, or how many lines did they have the potential to tap at any one time?

--- 20 to 30.

And that would have been for the whole Durban area or would there have been other places in other stations where they could tap from? --- They would have had to tap at other stations because I think you're limited in the distance that you could tap from. I mean, I know we learnt - we were told something about it at some stage that, for example, if you went out like to Amanzimtoti or Isipingo, the lines are too far for Telkom to get you a safe tap to town here. There's too much interference with the distance. So everything out that area they would have to find a place and put machine in

/down  
down there. Isipingo I know we managed to do from Durban, from here, that one that I was involved in.

So where would these tapes have been kept? At which places if they were for other areas, say, that you know of? --- Someone - whoever was involved - whoever was responsible for it would have to go there on a regular basis and change the tapes and bring them back.

But these 20 to 30 machines, they were at C R Swart. --- They were at C R Swart, yes.

Whereabouts in C R Swart? --- On the 13th floor.

And how many people would there have been supervising those 20 or 30 machines? --- Hell, it

was a group of like I say these old retired warrant-officers that used to come and go in a Kombi. I'd say about eight, ten of them. I'm speaking under correction there obviously.

From what you say, this bugging process seems to have been sort of legal in the sense that you made application ... (Side A ends. Side B begins mid-sentence) ... it wasn't actually approved in any way... (intervention) --- None that I'm - none that I'm... (incomplete)

You chaps just went in and put the taps in. ---

None that I know of but I do know that the technical guys that were with us here - we had two of them - had the capabilities very, very easily to do so.

Right. Who were those technical guys? ---

Budgie was his nickname, Bernard van der Berg. He's the same guy I think I referred to last time that went over

/there there with us from Chesterville - from Lamontville when we went from Chesterville. Those are the two groups. And there was a warrant-officer - I can picture his face. He used to be with the radio technical section and then he went over to security branch as a technical guy. I cannot recall his surname. He's got scars.

Listen, if it comes back to you while we're talking you can ... (intervention) --- I will give it to you. I know he's got scars and that - burn scars, I presume - on the side of his face and neck.

Right. I want to just take you back, Mr Govender, if you don't mind, just to - you mentioned

this chap Coetzee, Johan Coetzee. We're talking about Johan Coetzee. Where was he from? --- I met - if it's the same Johan Coetzee that you people are referring to - Johan Coetzee who used to work at the NPA down here in Durban or the Development and Services Board, one of the two. How they all work together, I'm not sure. I had met him on a couple of occasions while I was in Chesterville. Never ever involved in anything. I then probably about 1991 or 1990, I'm not sure, maybe a little bit earlier, I met him again at a braai that I was invited to on a farm up in Cato Ridge area and we stood looking at each other, you know, recognised faces but, you know, in chatting trying to figure where we knew each other from. We went through schools and all sorts of things. And eventually we linked ourselves together to Chesterville and since then I stayed in touch with him for a while. Went for a braai also at his place, myself and my wife, met his family and that and hell, he's since lost his place and I believe he's

/somewhere

somewhere now in Umhlanga Rocks and he'd divorced. But I haven't seen him in probably five years, four or five years, ja.

Johan Coetzee was a security policeman. ---

No, then we are not talking about the same Johan Coetzee.

The same chap who was in Cato Ridge. I knew him.

He was a client of mine. --- I don't know if he was a security policeman, Sir, and that is - honestly, I don't know.

He certainly told us he was a security policeman.

--- Who told you?

He told us. --- Well, I'll tell you something else he did too. I can tell you it actually was a big joke because I know he wasn't in the SAP at the time.

Right. --- But he went to the station commander then of Camperdown, Captain Johan Vermaak, and I remember him mentioning it in conversation once that he went and introduced himself as an officer in the SAP and in fact went and attended a couple of shooting incidents and accidents and not even being a policeman. So that you may want to have a look at. At the time Captain Vermaak was only a warrant-officer and he went in their so say now a senior and while they were in the office, if I recall from the conversation, there was a call then of a shooting or something like that and the captain to - or Warrant-Officer Vermaak said to him, "Well, you're an officer, let's go and attend it," and he went and attended it and did all the paperwork and apparently got ... (inaudible) ... at a later stage because he wasn't in the force at all.

But he obviously knew how to do the paperwork.

/--- Ja, he

--- Ja, he must have. Must have.

Otherwise he would have picked that up straight away. --- Look, Sir, I don't know him from the force at all.

Sure. I'm just asking you because he told us he was a security branch policeman based in Durban at that time. If he was, you would have known him. ---

Well, at the time I was in the riot unit and when I met him again it was towards the end of my stint on

the farm.

But the point I'm making is you would have heard of him at the very least. --- I'm sure I would have. ja. If it's the same guy. What I do recall from a conversation with him is that he mentioned that he was a nephew of the ex-Commissioner Coetzee. Whether that's true or not, I don't know.

Ja. Anyway, let's not get sidetracked on Johan Coetzee. --- Okay.

Carry on, Mr Govender.

MR GOVENDER: Mr Bennetts, those tapes that were - recordings, tape recordings, where were they kept. - from the buggings? --- On the 13th floor.

Do you know if they're still there? --- No, I think the tapes were re-used and re-used until such time as they just couldn't be used any more. They had like a big magnet thing that they used to place them on to just blank them out once we'd finished with them.

And apart from those incidents that you've outlined, is there any other instance involving telephone bugging that you'd like to tell us about?

--- Nothing specific I can recall.

/Involving

Involving yourself or involving the unit or anybody that you know of. --- Nothing specific I can recall as I sit here, no, Sir. Look, it was an on-going thing. From the time I got there it was going on. Until the time I left there it was going on.

What do you know about intercepting of post?

--- The same chaps, same people did that as well.

Tell us about that. --- Ooh. I think it was

a similar procedure that was followed, I believe, where application was made, it was approved. How it was done, I don't know, but the post was taken out by someone from the post office here at the sorting office or something, that was addressed to specific addresses.

So you're saying again an application had to be made to intercept somebody's post? --- Application was made. Ja, I'm talking about now where it was done like legally.

Yes. --- An application was made, the post was - I think they tried to limit it to like a delay of overnight or something like that. Specifics of that I'm not sure but it used to come in. The same warrant-officers that used to sit there used to steam it open - they had like kettles there with long copper pipes on - steam it open, look at the contents, photostat the contents, put it back into envelopes and glue it up again.

You mentioned that application was made where it was legally done. Were there instances where it was illegally done? --- Not that I'm personally aware of, no. I recall one incident. What it was, I'm not sure. Someone was involved in following a chap

/somewhere somewhere and this guy went and posted something at a box down here at Point into the post box and we asked if we could try and get this thing out of the box. We tried there with the postmaster and what have you, what have you but as far as I recall, we didn't get it out. They wouldn't give it to us without an order - court order or something.

What access did the members of the security branch have to the Telkom, to the post office? At that time it was the telephone section of the post office - the exchange, telephone exchange? --- Access to it? I don't know if they would have had access to it. Even now - come on, if I want to get your phone bugged at home, I mean, this is what I do for a living now. There's enough telephone technicians out there who will for a bottle of whisky or two hook a line up to put a tape on to.

Tell us about this hooking the line up at the exchange. Is that an easy process that anybody could do or do you need a technician to do it? --- No, you would have to have some sort of knowledge because, I mean, you look into that lot - I've got no idea and, I mean, there's just a box of wires inside there. You would have to know what you were doing.

And if the security branch wanted to illegally, if you want, tap somebody's phone, would these technicians that they were using, these retired people, be able to walk into an exchange and be able to hook on a line? --- No, Sir. They would not be able to. But Van der Berg and this other warrant-officer, this was part of their training. They would have been able to.

/Budgie

Budgie - this is Budgie? --- Budgie, ja.

Would have been able to. And do you know of any incidences where he had in fact done that? --- No, none that I know of.

Would you have known if he had done that? --- No, not specifically unless it had specific dealing



with somebody that we were involved with as C Section.

What was going on with the other sections, I don't know.

Well, given the situation, do you think there was a very high probability that that was in fact done?

--- I would say it was more than likely done, yes.

Yes. Why do you say that? --- They wouldn't have had these guys on doing nothing for years on end.

Yes, I see. Now, the intercepting of post, who was that directed towards mainly? Whose post ... (intervention) --- I honestly don't know. I think, from what I recall from our section, there was a few items where post was addressed to people obviously from overseas, guys that were out for training or what have you.

Which guys ... (intervention) --- That sort of post was watched.

These were - which guys were out for training?

--- ANC supports. MK members. Specifics I don't know.

Okay. Just the people who went for training? Was any organisation's mail intercepted that you know of? --- That wouldn't have been done by our section. That would have been done again by the intelligence guys.

I see. But you have no knowledge of any of those things happening? --- No personal knowledge, no.

/But you

But you know, in fact, that post was intercepted, steamed open, photocopied and put back again? --- And delivered the following day so there wasn't too much of a delay, yes, Sir. It actually afterwards,

the way I understood it worked, it went back to the post office or sorted and the normal postman delivered it.

Bugging generally, not telephones, bugging of prison cells, do you have any knowledge of that? ---

Yes, I do.

Tell us about that. --- Well, C R Swart cells were bugged for quite a period of time.

Which cells in C R Swart? --- There was a group of - portion of cells.

Which portion was that? --- Hell, I don't know how to describe it. Right at the end of the cell block on the left. That's about the best I can describe it.

What type of prisoners did those cells house?

--- Political detainees, section 29 detainee, but not only specifically for them. There was also normal detainees put in their when they weren't in use for the section 29s.

Now, you say that they were bugged. Describe to us how were they bugged? --- I can't tell you how they were bugged. What I can tell you is going right back to the period where I probably spent about eight, nine months or so guarding section 29 detainees before I even went to the riot unit when I was still stationed at C R Swart Square and on an occasion I was called upstairs to the security branch. I can't tell you who I spoke to or what it was about, but I was just advised nicely to limit my conversations to the detainees and to /what what I'm supposed to be doing and not sit and chat to them. There was one chap I recall, at the time I was

busy studying to try and do my law matric and he was a legal man - whether he was an attorney or not, I don't know - and we used to spend, ah, a couple of hours in the evenings just chatting about the law in general and politics and this sort of thing. And I suppose I was over-friendly to the guy as far as they were concerned and I was walked in and I got wrapped over the knuckles and told to limit my conversations. And this led me to wondering as to how they would have known what the hell I was talking about. So I took some time and I walked around there and I saw what looked like pipes and things that just didn't belong. Led me to believe the cells were bugged ...

(intervention)

By just looking at the pipes? --- Sorry?

By looking at the pipes? --- Ja, it wasn't water pipes and it wasn't electrical pipes and they went into drains. It just didn't make sense.

You don't have any knowledge of how that got there and who put in those bugging devices? --- No idea, Sir. They were there when I got there. At the time, I say, I recall, that was probably about 1983, '82, '83.

When you discovered that these things were ...

(intervention) --- When I saw those pipes there, ja.

You said you were deployed to guarding the section 29 detainees. How did you do that? --- The section 29 detainees never went through the same occurrence book or cell register as the normal detainees or prisoners in the cells, awaiting trial prisoners. I don't know if you know what C R Swart

cell block looks

/like

like but you've got a passage going down with passages leading off on either side and at the end of the main passage going down, if you want to call it that, there's like a T-junction, for want of a better word and a uniformed branch member was responsible for looking after these guys, totally separate from the other cell staff. And a desk was placed there and that's where you sat and every hour on the hour without fail you went in and woke everybody up who was a section 29 detainee, made sure they were all right.

Not just lying on the bed, actually made the guy get up so that you could physically see that he was okay and we were also responsible for giving them medication that had been ordered by the district surgeon.

You were at that stage a member of the uniformed branch or were you a member of the security branch ... (intervention) --- No, no, no, uniformed branch. I was normal - ja, I worked shifts at C R Swart Square and on each shift a member was posted to go there. I actually volunteered to sit there for that length of time because it gave me an opportunity to do some studying.

And would the detainees be visited by the security branch members on a regular basis while they were detained? --- Not on a regular basis, no.

How often would they be visited? --- Hell, if they were lucky, once a week.

Once a week. And were they taken out of those cells? --- On occasion, ja.

Away from C R Swart or ... (intervention) ---

Well, I wouldn't no where they - at that time, I

/wouldn't

wouldn't know where they went to. They were booked out, removed, brought back at some time later and booked back in.

Do you know of any incident where the security branch was involved in disinformation? --- (Pause)

By disinformation - distribution of pamphlets, this sort of thing.

That sort of thing, yes. Creating false, if you want, propaganda, political or otherwise. ---

Well, whether it was the security branch specifically, I'm not sure, but during my period in Chesterville, ja. We were regularly given boxes of pamphlets to go and throw out while we were driving around.

You were as members of the unit? --- Ja.

What type of pamphlets were they? --- Phew. Hell, that's difficult. All sorts of things. It happened on a regular basis. It was just a common thing.

Well, what was the contents of these pamphlets? Do you remember any one of them? --- No, it was all political stuff, you know.

Yes. Directed at who? --- I'd say directed specifically at the people in the areas but it seemed to be a general trend. It wasn't, for example, in Chesterville directed at the Chesterville occupants. It was a general printed pamphlet that you would get an instruction to come in and come pick up some pamphlets at the riot unit. There was boxes for Chesterville, Lamontville, Umlazi, all over the place.

Well, what was the contents of them? --- Hey, all sorts of things, Sir. I don't know. Specifically /I can't I can't say. You know, we'd read the things. Obviously we were interested but it was all - man, everything from support the government, do away with crime, hand over your colleagues, all this sort of rubbish. It was - I can't tell you exactly what it was. It was pamphlets. A4 and half-size, about that size pamphlets. Some in colour. Some just black and white.

Well, whatever was written there, was it directed against any political organisation, person or grouping? --- No, I wouldn't say it was directed against anybody but I'd say it was more, from what I recall, in general, a general trend was in support of the current government and support the police and support the army and ... (incomplete)

These pamphlets came from whom? --- Where they came from, I don't know originally but we would collect them at the riot unit main office at the Point prison, where the old Point prison was.

Well, did you get the impression that they were issued by the security forces or the government? ---

Ja, definitely, I would say they were issued by the government.

Were the security forces or your unit ever used to distribute political pamphlets for other political organisations in the area? --- No.

For Inkatha or ... (incomplete) --- While I was at security branch, no.

As the riot unit? --- Riot unit, ja.

Did you? --- Yes.

What pamphlets did you ... (intervention) ---

This is all these that I'm referring to now, Sir.

/No, but

No, but I'm talking about specific political organisations on their behalf distributing pamphlets.

--- Oh. No, not that I recall, no.

You were never involved in distributing pamphlets for political organisations? --- No, I honestly don't know. Not that I recall.

You don't recall. --- No. You know, sometimes you'd get in there and you had like, you know, ten different pamphlets in the boxes. You know, so - ja, I didn't read them all.

Are you aware of an incident where the phrase or the sentence, "We demand justice for Stompie" was stencilled on walls and buildings and so forth? ---

Yes, I do.

Tell us about that. Who was involved in that?

--- Well, it appeared all over Durban some years ago obviously addressed against Winnie Mandela at the time and it was obvious it was a stencil used with spray paint and at a later stage we became aware that it was actually done by the branch people in Durban.

But the branch people. Were you involved in that? --- At the time, no.

When were you involved in that? --- At a later stage we continued. When it first started, I wasn't involved in it.

Yes. And what was your involvement? What did you do? Describe to us what did you do? --- Painted a couple of stencils onto electricity boxes

and telephone boxes in town.

You personally did that? Was that an order given by a commander? --- No. No, it was not an order

/given

given by a commander.

How did you come about - how did it come about that you did it? --- If I recall, we'd been drinking in the canteen the evening again, usual story, with - hell, no, who was it? Again, I'm not trying to avoid this. I think - but I'm speaking under correction - there was a blond woman by the name of Jenny, who she was - surname, I don't know, at the branch there and possibly Fred Cave. I don't know. Now, they worked at the intelligence section as such.

Where's Fred Cave at the moment? --- Got no idea. During the whole time that that big change-over occurred in the security branch, I think as I tried to describe to you where Hentie Botha and all of them went their different directions, Fred Cave bought discharge to do and do some work at Hippo Quarries or for Hippo Quarries or something like that.

Continue your story about how you came about to do these things. --- All right. Ja, well, we had been drinking and then the conversation came about that they were going out to go and do some of this painting and I accompanied them ... (intervention)

Who was with you? Who was there? --- That's what I'm saying, I think it was this Jenny woman - I'm speaking under correction - and Fred Cave.

Anyone else? --- Others, ja, but I can't recall who. There wasn't only two, three of us. I think we went out with about two, three vehicles. Who



it was, I don't know.

Okay. Which ones do you remember painting?  
Which areas? Which boxes? --- Smith Street. It  
was

/either  
either Smith or West Street about two or three here.  
That was it. It was these like brown - I don't know  
if it was metal at the time - it's the  
electricity/telephone boxes that stick up on the  
pavement with a padlock on them or a Yale lock. It  
was those. And a wall. I think one was on a wall  
somewhere. Maybe Victoria Street area, I don't know.  
I was lekker on the night.

Okay. Do you know of an incident where the  
security branch was involved in putting paint remover  
into glue? --- Ja, I was aware of such an  
incident. I wasn't personally involved. There were  
stickers that came out some years ago, bumper stickers  
for cars that said, "Support the indaba". I think it  
was "Support the indaba". Something along those lines  
but to do with the indaba. And the stickers - again,  
the intelligence guys had come across a whole - or  
somehow laid their hands on a whole lot of these  
stickers. Now, whether it was done in the place that  
was printing the stickers or afterwards but there was  
paint remover placed between the backing of the  
sticker and the sticker itself and a lot of these were  
stuck on to better cars up Umhlanga Rocks way and  
amongst your Black Sash movements and this sort of  
thing. You got a nice metallic Mercedes Benz and you  
stuck a sticker on "Support the indaba", it looked  
good till three days later it started to bubble and

fall off. So it was also a bit of a disinformation type thing.

Who placed the paint remover in the glue? ---

Security branch people.

Where did they do it? --- That's what I'm

/telling

telling you. I'm not sure whether they did it and then stuck the stickers on or whether they actually got it into the stickers which were distributed. I'm not sure.

Did they not perhaps get to the factories and do it ... (intervention) --- That's what I'm saying.

It's possible.

Well, what does your information say? What knowledge do you have of that? --- There was talk at the time that they had done it in the factories. I don't believe that possible because the guys making the stickers and things purchase, I believe, the stickers and things probably already made. They just print on them or silkscreen on to them. I believe that they got into the factories and got a whole lot of stickers out. Whether they stole them or what - probably stole the things - wherever they were being printed and then at the scene or just prior to going to stick them on to the cars they would apply the paint remover to the sticker.

What do you know about the sticker "Adopt a cop" or "Love and adopt a cop" campaign? --- Ja, okay, that was another one. At the time you had your whole end conscription campaign and the whole things going on at the 'varsities and we took a whole lot of these "Love and adopt a cop" stickers and stuck them on to

as many cars as we could find on the Natal University campus.

Which Natal - Durban University? --- Durban campus - on a Friday evening and then went back on the following Saturday and smashed every car that had a sticker on it. Again, the effect and the results were that the students turned round and said, "Look at my car". Only the ones that have got the stickers on were

/smashed.

smashed.

So you stuck the stickers on, you did the smashing of the cars? --- Ja, that is correct.

You were involved in that? --- I was involved. Again lekker drunk the night - it's the usual thing we did. Before we went out go and got a good couple of drinks down at the canteen then went and did it.

Who was involved with you in that one? --- Again, I think Fred Cave. He was the - it was the intelligence chaps, man. Who else? I don't even know who else was down there at the intelligence section. Again, I think it was Fred Cave. I was there.

And the lady, Jenny, was she there? --- No, I don't think she was there. I don't think she was there that night.

But it was definitely ... (intervention) --- There were some Indian guys as well. I can't remember all these guys names, man.

It was definitely more than you and Fred Cave? --- Ja, again we went with about two, three cars. When applying the stickers quietly on the Friday

night. The okes just - some guys watching, some guys quietly walking round sticking on stickers through the campus. When I say Friday night, probable more - easier or better to say early hours of Saturday morning and then returning early hours of Sunday morning and smashing what we could but on a quick spree through there. Like twenty minutes in and out.

So you can't recall the other people involved in that. What about security people using T-shirts, UDF T-shirts and toyi-toying in the campuses. Were you

/involved

involved in that? --- Personally, no.

But do you know of people who were there? ---

I know of - at the time that we were a the riot unit on one occasion also when we were up here at the 'varsity campus, we were told not obviously as a whole group going up there but via the command structure down to just be careful there not to overreact because there where security branch people on the scene and inside.

That were wearing UDF T-shirts? --- Ja, they're inside toyi-toying with them.

They were security. And did you identify anybody or any of the people when you got there? --- Hell.

Two women - two female members of the branch. Lynn is the one's name. I don't remember her surname. She owns a bar in Pinetown now, I understand. Cheers. I think it's Cheers in Pinetown.

Was she a member of the branch or was she a student? --- I think she was a member of the branch.

Lynn. And the other? --- And another woman

who - hey, no, I can't recall her name but a big woman. Close on like 5 foot 6, 5 foot 8, dark hair. I cannot recall her name. Lynn - I got to know Lynn afterwards because she was then at some stage, at a later stage, stationed at the CIDs at C R Swart.

So these people had UDF T-shirts and were toyi-toying with the students on the campus? --- Ja.

But they were members of the special branch at the time? --- Yes. No, again, I think it's Lynn. I think it was her that I saw there.

What do you know of the bugging of the SRC on the -in the Durban - in Natal University and Westville /campuses?

campuses? --- Ja, I know it was bugged.

You know it was bugged. --- Yes, Sir.

How did you know that? --- Because the intelligence guys were sitting outside listening to what was going on, on a regular basis.

Outside where? --- Outside the campus.

Both the campuses? --- No, Westville campus.

Westville. Do you know whether Durban Natal was also? --- I don't know.

You don't know but you know of Westville. ---

I can presume it was. They wouldn't have done the one with out the other one.

But you know specifically if Durban-Westville campus was bugged? --- Specifically I believe it was, yes.

The SRC offices? --- Yes, Sir. Well, I don't know if it was the SRC offices. I think it was a hall of some sort near the - I don't even know what the campus looks like. I've driven through there once or

twice.

But you say you've seen security people sitting outside and listening to ... (intervention) ---

Ja, at the branch there was guys listening there. At the time ... (intervention)

At the branch? --- Ja. While I was at the branch. Okay, the intelligence guys were listening to meetings and things that were going on inside but from outside, from a vehicle outside, yes.

What do you know of a hotel in Pretoria that's owned by the SAP? --- I don't know of a hotel owned by them but I know of a place referred to as the hotel.

/Okay,

Okay, tell us about that? --- It's the - I don't know where it is. I've been there but it is the place where the technical staff go for training.

It's called the hotel. You don't know where exactly it's located? --- I don't know where it is. I also don't know if the SAP own it. It could have been possible that it's owned by BOSS, or what do they call them now? National Intelligence.

The technical people being the ... (intervention) --- Budgie and them.

Technical in the sense of just telephone devices and bugging devices? Does it include explosive devices also? --- No, not explosive devices. That's totally separate.

It's separate. And they got their training at this place? --- Ja.

How did you know that? --- It was mentioned to me by Budgie. He said it's actually set up - you

go inside like a hotel too. There's couches, all sort of things. The idea is for you to go - at the end of the course, he said they had to go and plant bugs and the instructors would try and find them. (Side B ends) (Subsequent tape commences mid-sentence) ---

... occasion that I recall.

(Inaudible) ... occasion. Did he ever come to the farm? --- It was on the farm that I met him.

Ja. And did he ever stay at the farm? ---  
Not that I know of.

You don't know. You don't know whether he stayed on the farm or not? --- No, I don't believe that he would have slept on the farm, no.

/While

While you were there you never saw him sleep on the farm? --- No. He was there, I met him, I left. That was it. 

The askaris that were used by the branch, you said the last time they were paid monies for each task they performed, like either killing somebody or spotting someone. --- I'm sorry, I can't hear what you saying.

The askaris that you spoke about that were used by the branch, they were paid sums of money for certain tasks that they would do. You said that the last time, correct? --- Yes, Sir.

The amount you said was what? Something - just remind us of that again? --- Well, it was a good couple of thousand rand. (Pause) I'm trying to think what did the guy say. Probably - I'm trying to recall again. I think I said that to you as well last time but probably in excess of ten, twenty thousand rand.

Ten or twenty thousand? --- Ja, probably.

You know, I have handled the money. I never handed over any money. I recall that there was actually an agreement with the guys on the farm that as opposed to at a later stage and individual getting paid for a successful arrest or trace or what have you, that the entire team that was associated together and working together would then split the proceeds of it.

Was it - there was a lot of money actually paid out by the - sorry, before we go to that. When the askaris were discharged do you know whether they were paid sums of money? --- When they were discharged?

Yes. --- You mean ... (intervention)

/At the

At the end of - what happened to them? A lot of them were discharged once the farm closed down, isn't that ... (intervention) Ja, well, I'd left by then but heard from one of them that I ran into at a later stage that he had been paid, if I recall correctly, a good R80 000,00.

R80 000,00? --- I think was R80 000,00 or so, ja.

The money that was paid out to the askaris, where did much of that money come from, do you know? ---

From the branch offices here in Durban.

Yes, do you know where they got the money from?

--- Government or police budget. I don't know,.

Well, was there any other source that you know of that the special branch would accumulate money from?

--- (Pause) Legally, no.

Illegally? --- Illegally, ja. One occasion that I'm aware of where - it more than likely happened



-or did happen on more than one occasion - was persons believed to be or know to be couriers for the ANC. Well, not specifically only for the ANC but on this occasion I believe it was an ANC courier who was - I can't even tell you if he was coming in or doing out through Louis Botha Airport - briefcase full of cash and the briefcase was opened quickly and portion of the cash skimmed out.

Was opened by whom? --- Security branch people.

Did they arrest him at the airport? --- No, he was allowed to carry on. He would have to explain where the money was wherever he got to.

Was the bag - sorry, could you just explain to /that. that. I don't understand what you're saying. At Louis Botha Airport you say that he was carrying a sum of money in the bag. --- In a briefcase.

Yes. --- All right, in a case. Right, the case would go through. Prior to going through ... (intervention)

Unaccompanied? --- Unaccompanied.

I see. --- Ja, once it's handed in and it goes through on the procedure through to the back it will be taken off ... (intervention)

But the security branch? --- ... and quickly opened up, had a look and then allowed to continue on its way. Ja, by the security branch person.

What was the reason for that? --- Well, if you yourself, Sir, were one of the big couriers that was travelling in and out, and you arrived that you'd left your - wherever you left from with R100 000,00,

you arrive at your destination with R80 000,00 and you've, so say, had your briefcase in your hand the whole time, you've got quite a bit of explaining to do when you get there. Also that money was, in all likelihood, used to purchase certain items and things that were needed that could not be obtained by official sources.

Apart from that was there any other method of obtaining money illegally? --- That's about all I can think of now. I don't know.

MR LAINLAX: Sorry, Mr Govender. Did you chaps keep records of money that was obtained in that way? ---

No, Sir.

So if you wanted to help yourself to it? ---

You would help yourself to it too.

/Did your

Did your members help themselves to it? ---

Well, I used a portion - no, it wasn't from there. No, that was from somewhere else. Ja, I would say so. Not the whole lot.

What was to stop your members using it somewhere else? --- Nothing.

I mean, in their own ... (inaudible) ---

Nothing. Nothing. There was - no one knew how much was taken - a couple of handfuls out. It was the word of the guy who took it out to say whether he took out R1 000,00 or R20 000,00. And most of the time - what you've got to understand too is the workings of the branch were such that 99 per cent of what was done was not on direct instruction. It was intimated that something should be done. "Don't get caught. Don't get into trouble." That was the bottom line.

Okay. So you said to us that you got some money that you used from somewhere else. Tell us about that other money. --- It's not political so I don't know if I'm covered by talking about it here. I'm sorry, I'll probably end up dropping myself in the dwang. It wasn't from a political organisation.

Nothing you say here can be used against you - so -in a court of law. --- All right. We gave ourselves quite a bit of training in lock picking, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera, and look I'll say what I did here but I'm not going to implicate anyone else with me in this one. Okay, because this was straightforward theft.. Okay, we spent an evening travelling up and all the parking metres in town and emptied the whole damn lot out to purchase some ... (inaudible)... to purchase /a whole



whole lot more lock picking equipment and stuff like that. It wasn't from the branch. We weren't officially trained to do it so we weren't supposed to have it but 20, 30 per cent of the guys there were training themselves and then you had to equip yourself. And as I recall I think we still laughed at the end of the day. We worked out it averaged about R8,00 a parking metre. We must have cleaned out about 200 of them that night. The difficulty was explaining how we had so much change to try and do things with.

MR GOVENDER: Did you break those parking metres?

--- No, unlocked them.

MR LAINLAX: Lock picking equipment isn't that expensive. You know, your kit consists of a couple of bits of tensile steel. --- Ja, amongst others. And then you've got ~~ARCH~~ you know these alarm type keys you get.

Ja. --- I haven't got one so ...  
(intervention)

No, I know exactly what you're talking about. The round key that sits ... (intervention) --- Ja, the little round key.

Ja. --- Oh, well, you get a device. It's the same one we used on the parking metres. That costs about R600,00, R700,00 or you know, to do and purchase one.

Ja. --- Other odds and ends bought. Torches, some night vision equipment that we couldn't always lay out hands on.

MR LYSTER: You said that most of the - or the way the security branch operated was that it wasn't in

terms of direct orders given, it was just that,  
"Listen, sort

/this

this out. One of you guys sort this out." Are you saying that's how ... (intervention) --- Sir, I'm about now with these other sort of operation now. Like with the painting on the walls and this sort of thing. That wasn't given as a specific instruction. That was -hey, you know, there's an opportunity here now, try and thing of something.

But would that sort of attitude have gone, you know, up the line for more serious crimes? --- No, I don't believe so. I don't believe so.

Because that's the impression that's been given by other policemen where - even with assassinations, where people have intimated that it wasn't a direct order given from, you know, Pretoria or wherever, that people were acting on their own initiative and - would you say that's possible? --- Sir, no, I would say if it came to your murders and things like that, I would say no. But I can't also say no for all of them because I can tell you know, if I had been personally involved in a thing or I had have knocked a guy off, for example, on my own initiative, there's no way I would have gone and reported it to anybody. I would have found a hole or a river somewhere and dropped this oke in it.

But that - like the incident in which you said that you were involved in and André Fivaz and Fernandes - that Inanda incident. Where would that have come from? Do you think that was ... (intervention) --- I don't believe that was

Fivaz's own initiative.

Not? --- No.

Would he have made a report to somebody? ---

He would have had to discuss it with somebody. I don't

/believe

believe it would have been in writing or anything like that, but I believe it would have been discussed with somebody above him who would then weight up both sides of it.

Also in our discussions with other policemen it 's been suggested that the murder of Dr Rick Turner - I don't think you were in the police at that stage.

--- Never even heard of him.

Never heard of him. That it may have also been done informally or by somebody who was overzealous or a bit acting on his own account. You wouldn't know anything about ... (intervention) --- I don't even know who you're talking about here, Sir.

Never heard the name even? Rick Turner. ---

Never even heard the name.

Dr Turner, Rick Turner. --- Never heard of it. Honestly, I've never ever heard of it.

No, I accept that.

MR GOVENDER: Mr Bennetts, what do you know ... (intervention)

MR LAINLAX: Can I just take Mr Bennetts back to something that's ... (inaudible). You spoke about that incident where you went on to campus and you were smashing cars. --- Yes, Sir.

What did you actually do to the cars? ---

Smashed out windows, tail lights with a baseball bat.

Baseball bat? --- Ja.

Whereabouts on campus? --- Hell, let's see.

If you go I think it's Francois Road. Hell, I've been out of Durban for a while. Francois Road, you've got that turning in that comes below the bottom ...

/(inaudible)

(inaudible) ... past dormitories, reses and things. I think they've all changed it now too. You used to be able to go through there back up to the main road. I think it was Ridge Road or South Ridge or North Ridge.

Yes. But you go between all the different residences. --- Ja, up basically between the residences, I'd say on the sea side of Ridge Road. I say with the smashing we didn't go and smash like almost every car, we just went through quickly. Right through and out the other side and vanished. Obviously listening carefully on the time on the police radio to hear any reports form radio control sending anyone else out there so we could get out.

MR LYSTER: If you'd been caught in a situation like that by the uniformed branch from Mayville or Umbilo, who would have sorted it out for you? --- Talked out way out of it.

And if not, who would you have gone to? Who would have ... (inaudible) --- Well, like I say, they said, "Don't get caught. Just make sure you don't get caught."

And who would give those suggestions? Would it be your - at the branch, I mean, who would have made those suggestions or ... (incomplete) --- It was just like a common thing while you were with the crowd as like we are sitting here now. Nothing from - from

specifically from higher up, oh, well, this is what we're going to go and do. Just we mustn't get caught.

This is what we're hoping to gain or this is what the objective is. Make sure we don't get caught. "Are you not too drunk? If you're drunk, stay in the car."

We don't want to have

/to leave

to leave an oke behind or something. Now, we ourselves were not even supposed to be involved in these things being form C Section but, I mean, we worked with the guys so there were occasions where, drinking together, and there would be a comment passed, like I said, "Do you want to come for a drive?" and we went along.

MR LAINLAX: Do you know of any situations where people's homes were attacked or bricks thrown through windows or shots fired at a house or paint remover on cars besides the stickers? --- You mean from the part of the branch?

Ja. --- No. No, Sir. No, those are the only two that I know about where we'd been drinking and we went out with the guys. But again I believe that was - it was a common thing, I mean, if they weren't supporting the right team, made life as difficult for them as possible.

MR GOVENDER: I think, Mr Bennetts, the question about if you were caught in those circumstances by uniformed branch and you were not - where you were not able to talk yourself out of it, who would then assist you? Would your commander be able to give ... (intervention) --- No one, you would be left on your own.



Would you be charged? --- Probably if you were charged. If you were arrested, if you were charged, you would be left on your own to sort it out.

In other words, no one was going to admit to any knowledge that you were there, that this was a planned thing, anything like that.

But would your commander assist you in having the uniformed people cover up the incidents? --- I think /possibly possibly an attempt would have been made, ja. But it's a bit late once you've got cases opened, OB entries made, you know. As time goes on more and more people suddenly become aware of it. Again, that builds right back to what I was saying - the job of the white policeman with the askaris on the farm was while travelling around. The way I perceived it while I was there. If these ~~okes~~ pick up a problem it's your job to get there and break it before it goes too far.

What was your relationship with the uniformed branch in those circumstances? If you said you were a member of the special branch involved in some operation, would they back off? --- 99 per cent of the occasions, yes.

They would? --- They would.

So you were quite confident you'd be able to talk yourself out of it? --- Absolutely.

Or even intimidate yourself out of it? --- Ja, I'd say even that, with whatever was necessary. Presuming I was busy smashing a car there, Mayville's van came round the corner and they jumped up. First of all we'd take off - take on - the way I see I would

have reacted was to take on a defensive stance, take the opportunity to identify ourselves, but in all likelihood with a different name because, make no mistake, I even carried around police IDs with different names on it, different force numbers, with my photo on.

Was it a standard procedure with all members?

--- I wouldn't say it was standard with all members but I's say, ja, most members did it themselves, ja, on the quite. Not supposed to have done. But if I was going

/to get to get caught, I would flash an ID to the guy concerned so he doesn't. Especially if he a oke on a van. I mean, what is he?, The maximum you're going to find on a van in those days would have been a sergeant. You rip out an ID identifying yourself as Captain So-and-so. "Now get in your van, turn round and piss off." "Yes, Captain" and he gets in his and, he'll turn round and piss off.

I see, so your ID would have a higher rank than you really were? --- That is correct.

Now, Mr Bennetts, just to move on. What do you know about the Tala farm? --- Tala farm? Behind Hopeville location, Thornville area, was a farm used by Pietermaritzburg security branch.

Whereabouts was this located? --- The Thornville/Eston road.

Yes. Do you know what happened on this farm?

--- No idea. I was there once for a bit of a piss-up but I think I was pissed when I got there. It was - as the Verulam farms were used here by the Durban

guys, I believe that was a 'Maritzburg farm.

Mainly for what? --- I presume it would have been used - I presume only - on similar lines to what was used at the Verulam/Tongaat farms here.

The Tongaat ... (intervention) --- People detained, that sort of thing.

For entertainment? --- No, not entertainment.

No. Later on it would have been used for entertainment.

What was it used for? --- In all likelihood also possibly the detaining, detention, locking away ... (intervention)

/Of detainees?

Of detainees? --- Of detainees that did not go through the books anywhere.

But you know of no detainees that were detained on those ... (inaudible) I know nothing of the 'Maritzburg operation there, no, Sir. I became more aware of the farm after I was transferred to Thornville because it was then in my patrol area. I mean, I've now met the owner of the farm and all that sort of thing.

Do you know of a break-in that occurred on the farm? --- A break-in on that farm?

Ja, Tala farm. --- I know of a break-in, yes, but that's only because I happened to come across that docket while I was branch commander at Thornville.

Yes. --- And I became aware that a break-in had occurred there.

Details of which, would you be able to tell us?

--- I cannot tell you, no, Sir. I had a case there. What happened I don't know.

Do you know if the docket it still available - will still be available at Thornville? --- No, it won't be.

It won't. --- It will be destroyed, ja. Unless there was fingerprints. If there was fingerprints or something I'm not sure how long they keep them for. Undetected, no fingerprints, no clues, I think is five years. I'm sure it will be done by now.

The vehicles - just to move on. The vehicles that the branch had, were they all registered properly or were they carrying false registrations? --- They were all regular - well, let's put it this way, okay. You had your normal standard police vehicle, an SAP

/number, number, registration number, unmarked vehicle. Then you had - what did they call them? There was also other vehicles made use of - fund - secret fund vehicles.

What are secret fund vehicles? --- All right.

They were funded totally from a secret fund. I believe possibly direct from Pretoria. I just don't know. There were registered not even in the police force's name. The engine, the chassis number, the whole works existed on record belonging to Joe Soap, whoever, whoever, whoever, and it was used to a point and then moved around to another area. And actually re-registered to someone in that area again.

In the area that it went to? --- Ja. I believe the one that we had up here, the Mitsubishi bus up here came from somewhere on the South Coast.

Possibly even so far down as Port Elizabeth, East London area somewhere.


And that vehicle was used for what? ---

Askaris made use of it driving around in it.

For committing what? What type of operations would that be used for? --- General operations.

It was there. It was registered to whoever, I don't know. Colonel Taylor would have to tell you ... (intervention)

No, the reason I'm posing the question because a vehicle of that nature which is in the sense registered to somebody, not to the police itself, must be used for illegal operations. Operations that would not be - the branch would like to ... (intervention)

--- Ja, I would say that the reasons behind doing it was going to just to be - make it not difficult but impossible to trace back. 

/So that

So that vehicle would be used largely for that sort of activity, wouldn't it? --- Ja, I would say so, yes.

Vehicles used for cross-border raids and cross-border operations, tell us about those. --- Well, operations and raids I presume we can talk about as being two separate entities.

Yes. --- Okay. Raids I presume we're talking about now, that's what the army did. They went through there as an open daylight raid. I never ever went across the border. But from I hear the guys drove in the vehicle. I mean, you had plates on it and you drove through. If necessary a disc too.

And for operations? --- Same thing. None of

the vehicles at the branch were marked in any way.

Are you aware of any vehicles being used by your branch for operations across the border? --- Sir, I'm having difficulty in what you mean by "operations", Sir.

Well, any activity that your branch wanted to do?

--- For going out, ja. Yes.

Tell us about it. --- Andy Taylor's Kombi, hell, he went into Swaziland. Durban guys here we mainly covered northern Natal, Swaziland area. Hell, I drove through Transkei during the time of the trouble there into a road block with a police vehicle, they didn't realise. I dropped my ID card into the door and took private firearms which I had a licence for and - the thing was unmarked, man ... (inaudible) ... a problem with it.

Tell us about Andy Taylor's Kombi. --- Well, on /the farm the farm - well, prior to going to the farm he drove around in a Laurel, a Nissan Laurel, which was boarded. He had a what? a regulation - I speaking of that Regulation 16(6) Kombi which is one of those vehicles that have been recovered by vehicle branch or somewhere. Owner cannot be identified and is then taken into use by the police force and it was a Caravelle Kombi or VW Microbus or Caravelle - I'm not - I think Caravelle - a pale blue and white one.

MR LAINLAX: Can I just ask a question? Aren't those vehicles supposed to be auctioned off by the police when they can't be traced? --- No, there's a provision that they can be taken into service by the police. I'm not sure how they work it. They work it

on a scale of the value as opposed to the cost of maintenance and all that sort of thing. But there's a number of vehicles, police vehicles, driving round.

Because the normal requirement is if the police impound a vehicle which they suspect to be stolen and the owner can't be traced, they're required by law to actually auction those vehicles off. --- No, Sir.

Not the way I understand it. This is this regulation or - ja, Regulation 16(6) - 16(6) I think it is.

What regulations would that be of? The Police Act? --- I presume of the Police Act. I don't know. They're just known as a Regulation 16(6) vehicle. Because I know the procedure with these vehicles is if you want to - okay, let me put it to you this way. If we recovered say a decent, nice BMW here in Durban and you just could not trace the owner, it was impossible. ~~Everybody's~~ tried what they want or could do.

/Originally

Originally that vehicle could be taken into service here in Durban area and there was speculation that it was going to be abused - these regulations. So one of the - I don't know whether it was actually just an instruction or whether it was an amendment to the regulations or what but they said it cannot be used in the area where it was recovered. That was to prevent your senior officer here covering something up to get himself a nice little BMW to drive around in as a police car. The procedure also to follow was that the vehicle had to be examined by the local police garage who would make a recommendation as to taking it into service or auctioneer or selling the thing off.

That's the way I understand it anyway. I was never specifically involved in recovering or having these things declared Regulation 16(6) vehicles.

Carry on, Mr Govender.

MR GOVENDER: You say that this VW Caravelle was owned by Taylor or just used by him? --- Used by him.

And do you know what he used it for? --- His general police car. He went almost all over in the thing.

Just for his personal use? --- Personal and business use, ja.

Was this vehicle used for any operations? ---

Well, I think it's that vehicle - or no, it's not, we went with that double-cab. No, he travelled all over in the thing. He went to Pretoria. He was away days on end with it. I don't know, he must have. It's what he drove around in as a police car. It was a police car. He filled up as police stations.

/Mr Bennetts,

Mr Bennetts, do you know anything about vehicles, stolen vehicles, being used - well, put it this way - that had been given to the ANC from the branch after they'd been filled with explosives and a trigger device? --- Do I know of it? No, I don't know of it. I believe in one incident that it did occur, ja.

Tell us about that. --- Again, let me just revert back here a little bit because it's a point that I didn't cover earlier again. I just want to state again categorically I was not trusted by Andy Taylor and the guys there to be involved in these incidents. I was simply on the farm as a caretaker.



What happened in my absence I don't know. Occasions used to arise where I was just told, "Take the car. Bugger off. Go fishing, if you like. Go and shoot pigs. Don't come back for two days." I did as I was told. That was the bottom line. On this occasion on the farm, whether - I think I was just leaving or I arrived back - I arrived back from somewhere and they were busy painting a Golf up obviously changing the thing. Whether it was blue or whether they were painting it to a blue colour, I'm not sure. And I heard again via the grapevine, I can't say I specifically told this, but I heard and again we get back to what you said, Mr Govender, last time about "I believe" but, yes, I believe that the vehicle was sent out north somewhere, Swaziland somewhere, with explosives in it and I heard that it was detonated. Where, I can't tell you, I think Gaborone area somewhere. But again it's grapevine. It's rumour via everybody else. I can't say it was the same vehicle even. I just heard - well, I - you know, I'm say now /putting putting bits of a jigsaw puzzle together. The bits and pieces that I did see, I'm presuming - a strong possibility that it was the same vehicle that exploded there.

Did the grapevine perhaps tell you where it exploded and in whose possession it was when it exploded? --- In whose possession, I don't know, but I heard it was Botswana. I'm presuming Gaborone area.

Mr Bennetts, I want to take you back to something we spoke about on the last occasion where you

mentioned that ammunition was tampered with. --- I believe so, ja.

Yes. Just explain that to us - a little more detail. What ammunition was tampered with and what was the reason for that? --- Shotgun rounds were tampered with.

By whom? --- No idea. I'm presuming from the branch. Again we were told, "Just don't pick the stuff ... (Side A ends) (Side B commences mid-sentence) ... we were told even if we recovered, for example, a home-made firearm with around of shotgun ammunition in it not to touch it, not to play with it.

But again, it wasn't a person sitting up there telling us at a lecture or something, "Leave this alone. Don't do that. Don't do that." It came down via everybody to us. I mean, you know, we would have heard about four, ~~five different~~ people on occasions say, "Listen, don't touch ammunition. There's ammunition that's being circulated that has been tampered with. Don't help yourself to it."

And did you see the effects of these tampered ...

/(intervention)

(intervention) --- Well, I'm presuming it was the same thing but it was guys losing fingers, hands, home-made firearms exploding on them which under normal circumstances could happen but in all likelihood not.

Have you seen that happening? --- I've seen the results of it, ja.

The results of it. Now, just explain to us, how would they have tampered with this ammunition to give that effect? What would have happened? --- Filled

it up with some sort of high-explosive device as opposed to the gun power, I presume.

And what would be the result of that? ---

Well, I'm not an expert on it but the result is going to be what I saw. If you've got a normal piece of water-pipe inside there with an explosive device going off in it, it's going to work like grenade. The pipe - the whole gun is going to explode as opposed to a round of ammunition firing out the front.

Okay.

MR LAINLAX: Sorry, Mr Govender. Well, Mr Bennetts, even an ordinary rifle not designed to take high explosive, it'd most likely explode as well. ---

Well, even an ordinary - you take yourself an old 303 rifle, plug something in the barrel to stop the round coming out and the whole thing blows up in your face.

But take - what I'm saying, take that shotgun round, I mean, compare it with a 9mil, try and put high explosives into a 9mil, the quantity I believe that it can hold as opposed to a decent round of shotgun ammunition ... (intervention)

(Inaudible) --- Ja.

/But a

But a nine - I mean, in a shotgun cartridge you can put quite a substantial charge of high explosives ... (intervention) --- That is what I'm saying, yes, Sir.

A piece of plastic or whatever. --- Ja, that's what I'm saying. And anybody with a press can close the thing up again afterwards and it's look like it's untampered with. I mean, that's one of the simple ones to do, man. It could have been done by

anybody. And again, at the time, your firearms mainly in use in the locations were your home-made - I think it's your half-inch water-pipe is exactly the right size to take a shotgun round. 9mil ammo and that sort of thing becomes difficult. You're got to start try and wire around it and all sorts of things.

No, fine.

MR GOVENDER: Mr Bennetts, who were the likely people in the branch to have done this? Who would have knowledge and the technical skills? --- Only the explosives people.

Only the explosives people. And they were? --- Quite a few. Hell, they must have a record here somewhere of it. Who was the explosives guys that I recall? Sam du Preez, Hentie Botha, the De Beer brothers - both colonels, I believe, now - Tony Fernandes who was ~~here the other day~~. Who else was explosives guys? Piet Nel. Ja, but he only came up after that whole story. But he was an explosives guy here at Durban. Tjaard Fourie wasn't - who else did we have in explosives?

So if anybody would know, these are the people who

/would  
would know? --- Ja, they would be the guys that were involved in something like that.

Just going back to the painting of that Golf you described earlier. Who in fact was going that? ---

Sam du Preez.

And? --- I remember seeing him there, that's it. I can't recall. I mean, I was in and I was chased out so quick.

Was Hentie Botha there? --- No. I don't believe Hentie Botha ever went on to that farm. Andy Taylor would have strangled him. They didn't get on the two of them.

Where's Hentie Botha at the moment? --- No idea, sir. He vanished at the same time that this whole change occurred - involved in some underground operation of sorts that was just never ever discussed.

Do you know if he's still alive? --- I don't - honestly, I don't know. I haven't seen him since before I sent to Andy Taylor's farm. That was the last time I saw him.

Mr Bennetts, I want to move on to something completely different now. During your time as a member of the riot unit you would attend incidences that took place in the township like necklacing and killings and so forth and so on. --- That is correct, yes, Sir.

Now, I ask you whether you remember some of these incidences that you may have visited. 1987, some time in April, the 21st of April at Road 16, Chesterville, there was a stabbing and necklacing and the suspects were A-Team members Paulus Mtwane and Vusi Dubasane. Do you remember that incident? ---

Not at all. I don't

/even

even recognise the names.

Did you attend that scene, do you know? ---

It's possible, I don't know.

Well, according to the docket, you did. ---

Then I must have. I don't recall. There were so many.

And you in fact took the statements from these guys. --- I took statements?

Yes. --- From?

From these suspects. --- Their warning statements.

Yes. --- No, I don't believe I would have done that.

You don't remember it but you could have been ... (intervention) --- I could have. I don't remember at all.

31st December 1986, Road 25, Chesterville, a person was stabbed and set alight. The suspect was Khanyeke Masoboyi and another person Linda, the surname is unknown. You attended the scene. ---

Possible. Again, I don't know.

24th of March 1987, Road 11, Chesterville, stabbing - a person ~~was~~ stabbed and shot. You attended the scene and you made a statement? ---

Sir, I can't place where Road 11 is. I'm trying to think.

But it's possible you've been there? --- It's possible, ja.

And there's many more, Mr ... (intervention)

MR LAINLAX: Sorry, Mr Govender. Would you have made a statement in a matter if you hadn't been there?

--- No.

Might you have made a statement to cover up some /actions actions of some of the guys in the A-Team? --- No.

Provided an alibi - something of that nature?

--- No, Sir.

Carry on.

MR GOVENDER: Again on the 13th of May 1986, Road 1, Chesterville, near the Chesterville Primary School, a person was stabbed and set alight, the suspect again A-Team involvement. You attended the scene. --- Possibly. I don't recall. Primary School? There's no primary school in Chesterville, is there?

Primary School. Or is there not. Probably secondary school. --- Okay.

26th of April 1986, Road 5, House 381, Chesterville, a necklacing. You were there also ... (intervention) --- I'm trying to think where Road 5 is.

... suspects were Vernon Ndebele, Musa Bhengu. They were questioned. --- Again, possibly. I don't recall it.

13th to 14th of February, victim was Cebekhulu, Siphon Cebekhulu. Place, or Road 26, Chesterville, suspects unknown. You were there also. --- Again, possibly. I don't know.

8th of December, Chesterville, a person was hacked to death. Pitez Joko Hlengwana. You were there first on the scene. --- At where in Chesterville?

I don't have the actual place but Chesterville.

--- Then again, possible. Don't know.

22nd of May 1986, place - Road 17, Chesterville. A person was stabbed and burnt. Motor vehicle also was burnt. Suspects unknown. --- Where was that?

/At Road 17,

At Road 17, Chesterville. --- (Pause) I think the only motor vehicle that I recall burnt was that one behind the school. Is that - I think that's

Road 17, I don't know. Possible. Don't know.  
Unlikely, I don't recall being at any one where ...  
(intervention)

MR LYSTER: It's not unlikely. All the docketts are upstairs. --- Where a car was burnt?

Every one of these docketts is upstairs, so it's not unlikely. You were - and you're recorded as being first on the scene and as having taken warning statements. All these docketts. So you may not remember ... (intervention) --- I only recall one where a car was burnt, Sir, and that was the one behind the school and I don't know if I was first on the scene there. I doubt it.

MR GOVENDER: Why would the docketts reflect that?

--- I don't know, Sir. Show me the statements. I'll tell you if it's mine, if it's my signature. I don't mind. I honestly, ~~I'll~~ ~~you know~~, bring the stuff, let's have a look at it. I'll tell you. You know, this was a period where incidents were happening almost daily.

And then there was one on the 20th of August 1986, Chesterville again. A person was shot dead, possible involvement of Natalia Development Board, D van Zyl. Do you know anything about that? --- Van Zyl, no that's the guys name I was trying to think of earlier, Mr van Zyl.

Yes. --- He was the superintendent in there.

And he was? Tell us about him. --- Okay, if he was involved in a shooting there, I don't know. I can't recall. But he was the township - Van Zyl, that's the

/guy I was



guy I was thinking of as Johan. This Van Zyl was the township supervisor/manager. Quite a tall guy.

What was he involved in, apart from this, that you know of? --- Nothing. I believe that he was involved with this whole CCB thing and what was going on.

Do you say he was MI intelligence - military intelligence? --- No, that's not the same Allister that I referred to earlier.

Yes. --- But I'm saying again with hindsight I believe that these guys were involved.

You're saying this guy was possibly CCB? What makes you say that, Mr Bennetts? --- Again, discussions in general afterwards as to what actually went on.

Discussions with whom? --- With colleagues, with friends, guys that we worked with.

Did you ever have a discussion with this Van Zyl chap? --- Pertaining to exactly his involvement or anything like that, no.

No, but just a discussion with him. --- Ja, I spoke to him in the location on a regular basis while he was there.

What did you speak to him about? --- Just in general as to what was going on in the location.

And did you find that he had information or had knowledge of things that would be something beyond a man who held the position as a township manager? ---

No, I can't say that. I can tell you he had - he came across as a lover-boy.

A lover-boy? --- Ja, as a real lover-boy and we / stayed

stayed in touch with him because of his involvement. He was the township manager. He and our superiors in Chesterville liaised on a regular basis. We knew the guy. We stopped in. We had tea. We had coffee.

And when you say that you thought he was CCB because of discussion with your colleagues, is that right? --- Ja.

And what type of discussion would lead you to believe that? Did ... (intervention) --- I'm talking about now since I've left Chesterville.

Since. --- Since I've left Chesterville.

Yes, what has been told you that makes you believe that he's CCB or was CCB. --- Well, this he was obviously very supportive of the ANC at the time - ag, of the A-Team, let me correct myself, of the A-Team at the time. He assisted - I think he was directly involved with assistance of this Phemba chap to become a member of this NPA police unit thing, whatever you call it, there.

Which Phemba is this? --- Phemba. I spoke to you about him last time. I think his name is Phemba who is currently a member of the South Africa Police somewhere out there.

Okay. And what did your colleagues tell you that made you believe that this guy was CCB? --- Nothing. It's discussions in general, Sir.

Did somebody say to you that he was CCB? --- No. No one said that to us. But what I'm talking about is - we didn't just - I didn't just turn my back on Chesterville and walk away. We used to sit around with our drinking, everything else, you know, socialising -

/let's put

let's put it that way - and discuss as to what the hell happened in that place. I mean, to this day three quarters of it I still don't understand what the hell happened there.

And during those drinking sessions you would speculate that this guy possibly was CCB? --- Ja, it was speculation on our part - the SAP guys that were there together - as to what the hell actually happened.

And can you remember what reasons you all arrived at this speculation that this guy may have been ... (intervention) --- No, that I arrived at.

The others didn't? --- Well, we didn't sit down and say he was or he wasn't CCB.

I see. --- Only later on when we - I think there was a couple of things in a newspaper and that about the CCB and the CCB involvement - conversations about it later on at the branch. Also just in general as to who and what and it was military based and military supported them and paid them and everything else, then I realised that this guy obviously was in a position that the military would have wanted to maintain contact with this guy.

Do you know where this Van Zyl is presently?

--- No idea. Haven't seen him since Chesterville.

I think that's about it unless the Commissioners want to ask questions.

MR LYSTER: Thank you, Mr Bennetts, I don't think that we will be calling on you again. It's possible that we may if other information arises at which stage we will make contact with you and ask you to come in.

MR LAINLAX: Sorry, Richard, I've just thought of some

/questions  
questions I want to ask. If I can just - sorry, I made a note earlier to follow up on a line of questioning. When you were on the farm, which people from Pietermaritzburg would come to the farm on a regular basis? --- Nobody. Okay, let me explain a little of the farm. I think, as I said earlier, it was Colonel Andy Taylor in charge on the farm. Captain, Major, Colonel, whatever he is now ... (intervention)

Basson? --- No, Vorster was the second senior man there. Now, he came from Pietermaritzburg.

Okay, listen, you don't have to tell us this. There're specific individuals I'm interested in that I want to ask you about. Tell me the names and I'll tell you whether he was there or not.

I'll do that. I'll do that. --- All right, I'm prepared to do that.

Ja. Jerry Brooks. --- No, not that I saw, no.

Jerry Brooks worked on the Thornville farm. --- Probably, ja, that now being the Tala farm.

Yes. --- Known as Tala farm.

Yes. --- I don't know. I was only every there ... (intervention)

In your time as station commander or as branch commander at Thornville did you ever have dealing with him? He would have been from security branch Pietermaritzburg. --- No, Sir.

Who would you have had dealings with from the

branch at Pietermaritzburg at that time? Because they would have investigated incidents in Hopeville and other places within your jurisdiction. --- Ja, I'm trying to think who it was that used to be there.

There was a

/black

black chap there with the surname of Potgieter that covered that area.

Potgieter? --- Mmm.

Ja, that would be Petrus Fana Potgieter a sergeant? --- Sergeant Potgieter, ja, I don't know his first names. Actually just at the time - well, when he first introduced himself as Potgieter, I didn't believe him. I mean, for obvious reasons.

Yes. --- That's why I recall him.

Sorry, just - which areas did he work then that you were aware of? Well, by that stage I was out of the branch, so - but Thornville, Hopeville, Baynesfield, Ntombeni, I think, was the areas that - or, that was basically the only areas that we covered and that's what he came and asked about.

Okay. And Baynesfield you said, hey? --- Ja.

Do you know whether he ever went to the Tala farm? --- I don't know, Sir. As I say I was only ever once on the Tala farm and that was the evening we had a little bit of a braai or something there then I left again.

Who else was present with you at that farm that night at the braai? --- I think Larry Hanton and some of the 'Maritzburg guys. I don't even know them all.

I want you to try and think back and see who you

can remember from 'Maritzburg that was there. Do you know Jerry Brooks? --- Ja, I think I know Jerry Brooks and I don't mean that now - I'm not being funny.

He's got a bit of a baby face. --- Plump face?

Yes. --- Balding?

/Not balding

Not balding. He's got around face, slightly babyish looking. --- If I see him, I'll probably know.

He's about my height. --- If I had to see him, I'd probably know him.

Okay. Try and think back who else was there that night at the braai. --- I think Willie Venter was there.

Would you guys have had black members at your braais? --- Mm-mm, no, not on this occasion.

Just white members. --- Ja, it was just whites. Also I didn't stay long. I think all I did was drop Larry Hanton there.

How many of you would be at a braai like that?

--- On occasions a lot. On occasions a few.

On this occasion, you dropped Larry ... (intervention) --- I didn't see any much of it. I stayed there, I had a drink a drink and left, because I dropped Larry Hanton off.

So you remember Willie Venter being there. ---

I remember seeing - ja, but I know Willie as well because we worked together here in Durban.

Right. --- So I think he was there.

Okay, I want you to go away and try and remember

exactly who was there and let me know, please. ---

Right, I can do that, Sir.

Okay, just cast your mind back. --- Right, I'll definitely do that.

I'm sure with a bit of effort and consideration you'll come up with the people who were there. ---

Do you want me to try and find out if that docket

/pertaining

pertaining to the house-breaking and that still exist.

Please. --- I can do that because my wife is actually still stationed at Thornville.

That's fine. --- So I can make some inquiries. I still stay in touch with the guys there.

Ja. Okay. --- If I do find anything, I'll just get hold of Mr Singh.

Please. Did you ever work with Simon Makai?  
--- Yes, sir.

Where was he based? --- He was on the farm with me during the period I was on Andy Taylor's farm.

How long was he on the farm? --- From the time I got there until the time I left.

Had he been there before you got there? --- Ja, the farm was established - you see, at the time that they moved to the farm originally, I was still stationed as such, strictly speaking, at the riot unit and it was only after my transfer to security branch became official that I went up to the farm.

But you obviously went to the farm on the odd occasion before that? --- Never. Never saw it until the day I got there. I had no idea where it was.

Okay. So do you have any idea how long Simon

Makai had been there? --- Well, I would say, at the time, the farm had probably been going no more than two, three months before I got there. Because it was prior to this was the time as I explained when this big change was occurring and for some time prior to this Colonel Taylor had been asking us to try and find and keep our eyes open for a place somewhere. And then obviously I knew, I'd discussed it with Colonel Taylor that I would come

/out and out and he was assisting with the transfer, with everything else and they went to the farm. Obviously I saw them when they came to C R Swart on a regular basis.

And obviously Simon was with him at that time.

--- Simon would have been with him at the time, ja. I'm presuming so, ja. You see Simon would have come along with Colonel Vorster, Captain Vorster, from 'Maritzburg.

Did he work quite closely with him? --- Ja. And then Basson brought a chap from Newcastle with him as well and then Andy Taylor and Spyker Myeza were the two from Durban.

Right. Now. How long - just refresh my memory - how long did you stay on the farm for? --- Possibly about 18 months, two years.

18 months, two years? --- Ja.

And was Simon there the whole time that you were there? --- Yes, Sir. Well, I mean going home at night and what have you, but ja, he was working from the farm, yes.

He was working with them from the farm. And that



was during which period? --- '89/'90. When was I married? Ja, '89/'90, '90/'91.

When did they close down that farm? --- I think end of '91 or end of '92. Tell me try and - I've been married - Sir, can I just ask my wife when I got married, please? '90? So then it would have been the end of '91 they closed down.

So that would have been about three years that that farm operated? --- Ja, it's about two, three years, ja.

/The whole

The whole of '91, the whole of '90 and some of '89. --- I think so, yes.

You got there quite soon after it was established. --- A couple of months after it was established, yes, Sir.

And that would have been when? Towards the end of '89, the middle of '89? --- I'd say towards - probably towards the end of '89, more than likely.

Okay. --- I think so.

And to the best of your ability was Simon ... (intervention) --- The best way to try and find out is to see when I actually got my official transfer to security branch. It would have been within a couple of weeks of that that I got there. That'll be on paper somewhere.

Okay. I'm just interested in Simon. He was - sop he was there till the end as far as you're aware?

--- As far as I'm aware, ja. I left as well before the end.

Ja. What were his duties while he was there?

--- Out with the askaris on a daily basis, sleeping

out when they slept out and accompanying them when they went into to go and do their thing around the ranks and that, like I explained last time.

Would he have to run cover for them the same as you? --- No, he would have been involved with them to the point where - in other words, he was now the link between us and the askaris but to the point that, if they were working in the rank, he would probably be hanging around in the same rank in a different place.

MR LYSTER: Sorry, did you talk about Simon Makai before? --- I don't know if I mentioned his name,

/Sir.

Sir.

MR LAINLAX: He mentioned his name but he hasn't supplied any detail.

MR LYSTER: You said a couple of seconds ago that he was - he went out ~~with the askaris~~ to the ranks just like he told you last time. --- No, no, as I stated last time the way the askaris worked. That is what I meant by that, Sir. I don't know if I gave all the correct names last time but the point I was making was the three officers and each of them brought a black member with them, one of those being Simon Makai. I don't know if I mentioned his name last time. I may have had some difficulty with it. And then myself, Larry Hanton, Warrant-Officer Smit on the farm and the two labourers. And then I was later replaced by Rodney Bradley after I left.

MR LAINLAX: Rodney Bradley? --- Yes, Sir.

So if I understand you correctly your modus operandi would be that it was agreed that the askaris would go out to a particular place. You'd know in

advance where they were going otherwise you wouldn't know how to run cover for them. That seems obvious.

--- That is correct, yes, Sir.

And you would also ... (intervention) ---

Well, that was the way they worked, not myself.

Pardon? --- I say, that is the way that they worked on the farm.

Yes. --- But myself, no, like I was trying to explain. I think - I think at that stage Andy Taylor was still trying to take me up towards that point, if I can put it that way, but he didn't trust me outright to

/the point

the point where he got me involved. He had a saying - Andy Taylor had a famous saying that he always said was, "Slowly, slowly, catchee monkey". It's like anything you ask him, "Wait, we'll see. Wait, wait, wait." And I think as far as he saw anything I presume also that he perceived me in terms of a long-term investment in what they were doing. Not someone that they required immediately to go out as was put to me last time but to possibly - how would you say? - almost guide me to a point where I could be used. It just never ever came to that.

Right.

MR GOVENDER: Who did Taylor trust? Who was his closest within the branch, which member? ---  
Spyker Myeza as the blacks and, sjoe, what was his surname - the colonel who was in charge of the show at that time. Steyn, I think it was Steyn, red-haired Steyn. I don't know what his first name was.

Did he trust Makai? --- No, I don't believe

he would have trusted Makai. Not indefinitely.  
Makai, like I say, came with Vorster. Shall I say, as you can say like Spyker Myeza being Andy Taylor's right-hand man, for what of a better word, Makai came with Vorster and - I wish I could remember this other guy's name, man - from Newcastle.

MR LYSTER: Basson? --- Ja, Basson, but the chap that came with Basson. I just - I cannot remember his name.

MR GOVENDER: Do you know Nelson Shabangu? ---  
Nelson Shabangu? Yes, I do.

How do you know him? --- He was stationed at  
/Thornville

Thornville. I arrested him twice.

MR LAINLAX: What did you arrest him for? Sorry.  
--- Drunken driving, possession of stolen property.

What happened to those dockets? --- The dockets themselves?

Or to the complaints against him? --- I believe he was found not guilty on both counts due to technicalities. The drunken driving being - I don't know, Mr Singh was the magistrate - Mr Ashon Singh was the magistrate on the drunken driving charge.

Ja. And the stolen property charge? --- Was done in 'Maritzburg. It was thrown out because of a lack of a search warrant. Some technicality. He gave us permission but a search warrant became a problem.

Okay. I'm just going back through my notes trying to pick up who you worked with at that time.

--- There was - I tell you - I recall last time you asked me who was at C Section with me.

Yes. --- All right, I've been trying to get

that through my head as well. There was a Piet Nel as well with us there. Sergeant, explosives expert. There was a girl with us there, Amanda. I don't recall her previous surname but she eventually married Piet and then they split up and got divorced again. (Side B ends.) (Side marked B of subsequent tape begins mid-sentence) ... from C Section and the other sections. I'll give that to Mr Singh at a later stage. I'll sign it too if necessary if that's the way it's got to get entered or something.

You said to us there was a chap called Michael Engelbrecht that worked on computers. --- Yes,  
/that's  
that's correct.

And then you mentioned a woman called Jolanda?

--- Jolanda. Jolanda, ja.

Now, is this ~~Amanda a different~~ woman? --- A different woman. Jolanda, I think, is still stationed here. I don't know where Amanda is. Amanda married this Piet Nel. Amanda, she was Afrikaans. So it wasn't Amanda it was Amanda.

Okay. You did mention Piet Nel to us as an explosives guy, Chris de Jager, Capie Niemand, Sean Fourie, Fernandes, Tjaard Fourie. I'm going to come back to Tjaard just now. This is another thing I wanted to ask you about but I'll come back to that. Let's just finish with the farm and with Simon Makai.

Where did Simon work ... (intervention) --- I don't know what you mean.

... with the askaris? --- All over.

What's all over? Which areas? --- All over.

They left in the morning to wherever Andy Taylor was

sending them. I was not always aware of where. Durban, 'Maritzburg, South Coast, North Coast. Slept away. I mean, saw them packing sleeping bags. I made them sign for equipment that they were taking. Camping equipment, gas bottles, all this sort of thing.

MR LYSTER: He told us that when he was there, when he was doing that work with the askaris, they didn't make a single positive identification which resulted in an arrest. Is that right, as far as you know?

--- That is incorrect. Okay, who it was and where it was, I can't give you details of, but I recall an incident where they were then being paid out by Colonel Taylor in /the office the office. The askaris were being paid out. As I said earlier, as opposed to one being paid, he got them to work as a team where they would then split the money and a portion of it would then go to the policeman because the policemen were not entitled to a split, you see. So the policemen were actually doing the same job as them, the way it was put was, you know, at least give these okes R50,00, R100,00 or something. I don't know what all it was. But, ja, there were occasions when they were paid and definitely they wouldn't have got paid for nothing.

MR LAINLAX: More than one occasion? --- More than one occasion, yes, Sir.

How many do you think? --- Hell, it's difficult to say but - it's difficult. I don't know if they had successes elsewhere that weren't mentioned.

More than five, more than ten? Can you - you see

what I'm trying to get at. I'm not expecting you to remember the exact number ... (intervention) ---

Ja, I would say approximately about - ja, between five and ten. Oh, there was the one - there was the other one of the guy that was shot here in the Warwick Avenue bus rank I mentioned - I think I mentioned.

Ja. --- That was also one.

Was Simon there? --- I don't know if he was there, Sir. I was away. I was ... (inaudible)

Thank you. Sorry, you don't know whether Simon was at that Warwick Avenue ... (inaudible) --- I don't know, Sir. I didn't go there myself.

MR LYSTER: Just from a cost effectiveness point of view, it seems to be a complete waste of time, do you

./agree,

agree, to keep a farm that was rented - we've got the lease of the farm actually. It was rented for R5 000,00 a month - and having policemen there full time, askaris who were paid, vehicles, equipment, food, you know, just for half a dozen - less, over a period of years - people to be identified. I mean, it seems like a complete waste of time and money. --- I agree with your there, Sir, yes. Well, the way I see it is that in a two-year period I probably spent no more than a total of 50 hours being productive in some way on that place.

MR LAINLAX: You see, the point my colleague's trying to make, Mr Lyster, is in essence there must have been a hell of a lot more going on on that farm than you're telling us about or that you know about for it to have been a cost effective exercise. --- I agree with you.

And it's high unlikely that the State would have wasted that sort of money unless it was a more or less productive exercise, now. --- Ja, in so far as pertaining to - if we're saying that all they were used for was for identification purposes ... (intervention)

Precisely. --- ... I say mainly this is what they ran around doing, on a regular basis, in the morning out to a rank and back, that I was aware of.

You see, I'm suggesting ... (intervention) ---

But, ja, I would tend to say that from a strategic point of view, if that is solely what they were employed doing, then it was definitely a waste of time.

You see, I'm suggesting to you that if they were used for assassinations and if they were used for covert operations of various kinds around the country, /particularly particularly around this province and around Swaziland and places like that, then they would have made some financial sense to go to all that expense to use that sort of unit. --- I agree with you, Sir, yes.

Now, I'm just going to take you to - I'm just picking up my notes on Makai. Did you ever work with another chap called Kleinboy? --- Not that I know.

Not by that name.

Ja. He was a black member. --- I don't recognise ... (intervention)

Did you ever hear of him? --- I don't recognise the name at all, no, Sir.

MR LYSTER: Did these chaps ever work in Pietermaritzburg as far as you were aware? --- The



askaris?

The askaris. --- Yes.

Did you ever hear of them going to Sobantu - Sobantu village, being involved in a shoot-out there?

--- No, I didn't hear about them being involved in a shoot-out there, no. The only one was - the only shoot-out that I heard about was this guy that was shot at the Warwick Avenue rank here. You see, like I say, 99 per cent, almost 100 per cent of the conversations that took place in my presence between Colonel Taylor and these guys was in Zulu.

Sure. --- I'm only now reaching a point where I'm starting to understand a little bit of Zulu. I don't even speak it very well.

MR LYSTER: Does Colonel Taylor speak Zulu? ---  
Fluently, fluently, Sir, like a black. In fact he used to carry around ~~or he had a file~~ which had - for  
/example,  
example, I know that certain of the Ndlovu people a name that you addressed them with to use respect is "Gatshen". Now, he had files and files of this stuff that he drew up himself with surnames of people, how to address them, all the rest of it. It was like - I don't know - a thing of his.

What is his home language? English? ---  
English.

MR LAINLAX: The chap from Newcastle was Nkosi. ---  
Hey, sounds familiar. Do you have a surname at all?  
I'll confirm it for you.

Ja, that's his surname. --- Nkosi. Ja, I think it could be. Do you have a first name, Sir.

I don't at this stage. And ... (intervention)

--- Well, another way I can suggest to you ...  
(incomplete)

... there was a Philip Zungu there as well who was one of your labourers. --- He was a labourer, yes, Sir.

And a Thusi. --- And Thusi, yes. He was also known as Mashe. He didn't like the name.

And there was an Inspector Smith with you. ---  
Ja, Warrant-Officer Smith, same chap.

Basson, Myeza. --- Ja.

Ezekiel Nkosi, that was his ... (intervention)

--- Ezekiel.

Ezekiel Nkosi. --- Ja, I think it could be the same guy, ja. He's quite a plumpish guy. At the time he wore square-framed - almost square-framed glasses and he was from a location - I tell you, I was at his home once ~~too live for~~ dropped him up there.  
Locations outside

/Newcastle?

Newcastle?

MR LYSTER: Madadeni. --- Madadeni. He lives in Madadeni or he did at the time.

MR LAINLAX: Now ... (intervention) --- Ja, it must be the guy. Nkosi.

He said that he was involved in bringing in Sikakane, Neville. --- He was involved in bringing him in?

Ja. --- I wouldn't know that, Sir.

And he was quite involved in debriefing him in the first instance and so on. Do you know anything about that? --- I don't know anything about that, Sir. All I know about - well, basically what I know

about old Neville Sikakane is that I once had to go and assist or fetch his wife so that she could be calmed down, for want of a better word. There was certain promises made to her about South African citizenship and all sorts of things that just wasn't happening.

Right. --- And she was in a flat at the time in Pietermaritzburg.

There was a guy called Humphries that worked with you guys out there. --- Yes, Rob Humphries. I know Rob Humphries. He wasn't on the farm with us.

Ja. But he worked with that unit, did he, C Section. --- Ja, 'Maritzburg worked it on a slightly different scenario from what I understand but, ja, he would have been involved with C also as an explosives expert. He's now a captain.

Where's he based now? --- At District Commissioner's office, Pietermaritzburg. I ran into him the day that I got my subpoena to come here because I

/went  
went there to go and apply for an attorney and he was sitting there right next to the legal resources section.

So Humphries was also an explosives expert? ---  
Yes, Sir.

Okay. So Makai was there for a long time? ---  
Definitely, definitely, definitely. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

If he tells us he was there for six months, would he be lying? --- Ja, he'd be lying.

And you don't really know what sort of work he

was doing other than going out and accompanying the askaris? --- No, no idea, Sir.

Potgieter? --- Was not on the farm at all. I met Potgieter only after I was at Thornville. It was the first time I ever met him. Just making enquiries about trends in general in the locations he used to do every so often.

You see, Potgieter told us he didn't work at all round that side of Pietermaritzburg. He said he only worked Edendale area. --- Potgieter called on me on more than one occasion at Thornville. He used to phone me on a regular basis as the branch commander, specifically where we had cases of a criminal nature that he would phone up and just try and get some information on what was going on on the thing.

What sort of criminal cases would these be? ---

Your normal shooting where you had a shooting occur maybe in Hopeville location, Foxhill area, which we would look in at that time just as a straightforward criminal thing, nothing political about it.

Did you have jurisdiction over, say, Shenstone

/farm,

farm, Ambleside, Shenstone, that new camp there? ---

Yes, Sir. That was part of the Thornville area.

Okay. All right. Did you know anything about the Elandskop farm? --- Elandskop farm.

Ja. --- No. It's the first time I'm hearing of it.

Really. Neville was kept on the Elandskop farm for a while, up towards Taylor's. --- Never knew there was - that they had a farm out there, Sir.

Ja. There was another farm at Greytown, Kranskop

area. Taylor went there quite often. --- Mm-mm, I don't know if they had any farm out there.

You don't know anything about that farm? ---

No. I know coming back there once with Taylor he had a battery pack up and we stopped at Kranskop, I think it was. No, it was Tugela Ferry or something, we got a battery for the car, for the Kombi and kept driving. He didn't stop in anywhere there.

Okay. Let's just talk about Tjaard Fourie for a moment. You worked with him for a while when you were in Durban. --- Yes, Sir.

What was his job there? --- Investigation.

Investigation of what? --- C Section investigation of the ANC - of specifically of cases, explosives, explosions.

Did you ever work with him on any joint operations? --- I assisted him with investigations and that was all.

I went with Tjaard Fourie once up to, hey, Transvaal - Eastern, Western, I don't know where - with a section 29 detainee who was to go and point out /supposedly supposedly what they believed was an arms cache which was never ever found and back again. That was it. Now, I can't recall - I don't think we had the oke with us in the car. I think we met them up there somewhere and dealt with people up there whom I have no idea who they were. That was one occasion I actually went away with Tjaard Fourie. We slept the night up there and came back.

What sort of person was he in the force? ---

Honest. I'd say biased to the point that we all were

by circumstances but I'd say him no more than others and probably even less than others. The word I want to use here now. He is - I can't think of the word I want to use. Not "committed".

MR LYSTER: Dedicated? --- No, not quite, Sir. Well, let me try and explain it this way. The thing is with Tjaard Fourie is that unless you give him a reason to come to loggerheads - let me put it to you this way. While you are on good terms with the guy, while you are working together you will stay like that forever. Once you give him a reason to distrust you or you come to loggerheads with the guy, he will never ever forgive you for it. He will hold that against you for the rest of your life.

MR LAINLAX: Did you ever have such an occasion with him? --- No. No.

Okay. --- ~~You're obviously~~ referring now to my comment last month about the irony of him being here.

Ja. --- Well, the irony of it is that - and it's just my opinion here - presuming - I don't even know if you guys have it in operation now is a witness  
/protection  
protection plan. I presume you must have something if he is your witness protector.

MR LYSTER: No, he's not. He just works with ... (intervention) --- Or he works with them.

.. with the team. --- With the team. I mean, you are taking guys from the security branch, guys that I worked with, other people who are coming forward here worked with, putting them with a chap who's still got strong links back to the office and to

me that is the irony of it. Presuming that I came forward and I had some major thing to disclose to you guys and I said, yoh, put me in a cave in a tunnel somewhere. Well, let me out it to you this way ... (intervention)

MR LAINLAX: Let me be blunt to you. Are you saying he's a security risk to us? --- Well, look, let me put it to you this way. The day after I was here last time I had a phone call and - I know who it was - and the guy just said to me, "Frank, I understand you're becoming Catholic." So I said, "Ja, well, my wife is Catholic and you know, the kids are being brought up. I'm trying." He says, "No, you know what I mean. You've been to confession." Well, I bought papers and things and I had a look and there was no mention of my name anywhere that I was here. Okay, so, who from? Tony Fernandes? From where? Well, I had a phone call ... (intervention)

Tony Fernandes - was it Tony that phoned you?

--- No, no, no. It wasn't Tony.

Who phoned you? --- The guy returned my phone call that I had some business with.

Who was it though? --- Don Clark. Oh, there's

/another  
another guy. Right. He's not on my list there. He was there in C Section.

Don Clark? --- Don Clark, head of Security Officers Board. I phoned him with an enquiry of a guy I'm trying to trace for business purposes who is, or was, registered with the Security Officers Board.

Was Don one of your previous C Section guys?

--- Ja, he was at murder and robbery, then C Section and back to murder and robbery I think.

Ja, and then what? Has he left the police now?

--- Ja, then he went and opened his own picture framing business or something and now he's running the Security Officers Board offices here in Pinetown.

So he's the oke that phoned you back and then mentioned to you hears you becoming Catholic? ---

Ja, he returned a call that ... (inaudible) ... I'd left and then he said to me, "I hear you're becoming Catholic", ja. So where he would have heard it from, I don't know. But ... (intervention)

What is your guess? --- ... Tony Fernandes did see me here last time, so - look, let me put it to you this way. If your concern is that Tjaard Fourie is a risk, I'd say ... (intervention)

I'm not saying we have any concern. I'm asking you ... (intervention) --- Ja. No, I'm just saying ... (incomplete)

... why you - what your concern would be. ---

Ja, my concern would be that there's no ways that his ties are gone from there and I would - my - look, I don't presume to tell you guys how to do your job but if you are wanting me to come forward here and sit down and /testify, testify, make no mistake, the guys who are then going to be responsible for looking me should not be from where I came from and contact with the people who I'm testifying against. So that it the point I was trying to make.

No, I just wanted you to elaborate on that irony, you see. --- Okay. No, that is just as point I'm



trying to make. Make no mistake, he hasn't just walked out on them. He still sees the guys. He still has drink with them and the problem is that when you socialise things can be said. No intentionally. I don't honestly don't believe he would go and do it intentionally. He is not that type of person. But it's possible in conversation that it would be said.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about?

Anything I haven't tweaked our memory about or anything else that's come to you while we've been talking? --- No, that's just about it. (Inaudible) ... Mr Lyster said about these dockets and things. I honestly I don't know. I spent half the time there pissed, half the time running around, half the time shit scared - excuse the expression - there in Chesterville location. If you want me to come down again at some stage, I'm prepared sit down, have a look at the things. I'll go through each one and confirm for you, yes, that it my signature, yes, I did take a statement, yes, that is my handwriting. I am prepared to come and do that. Like I said, the incidents were just so numerous that it just became a flow of one headache into another one, one necklace into another one.

Can I just say this to you. It's hardly likely

/that

that if we go and find a whole lot of dockets and there're statements there purporting to be statements signed by you that someone would have gone and fabricated those. I mean, those dockets were closed.

They were undetected, whatever the case might be.

--- Right.

No one would have gone and fabricated a statement from you in that kind of docket. It seem highly unlikely. --- It seems highly unlikely, ja.

So, I mean - but I think if ... (intervention)

--- But like I said, the thing on the go here where obviously you guys are now looking at specific incidents there in Chesterville and you've got dockets pertaining to those incidents. Ja, what I'm saying is if I can sit down, I'll sit down with that thing and it might jog a memory. But it's so out of date and the place now it's ... (intervention)

No, I understand. It's not very fair. All I'm trying to say is we've had witnesses who've testified before the Commissioner who've related incidents that happened in Chesterville that meant we went and looked for some of the dockets that related to those incidents. --- Right.

Do you follow? We weren't just investigating you and that's how we got to those dockets. We got to the dockets by another route. It just became obvious that your name kept cropping up in some of them. --- Yes, right.

Do you hear what I'm saying? --- Yes, I do, Sir.

So we haven't gone after we've spoken to you and /looked looked for a whole lot of dockets. We had the dockets already for other reasons and it's just your name cropped up. --- Right, that makes sense.

So I'm just trying to explain how I understand it so you understand we're not looking to nail you in that way, you follow? --- Mmm. Okay, but it's

just like I say, all I'm doing is I'm offering to now, if you need some clarification on any of those specific incidences or dockets, I am prepared to sit down and see what I can remember about it.

Thanks, we appreciate that.

MR LYSTER: Did you ever work with a security policeman who had a Greek surname, first name Theo?

--- I didn't work with him but I presume it's the same guy who owns Theo's Arsenal.

Ja. --- But I think that was before my time.

He was on good terms, if I can put it that way, with Larry Hanton, Lorry Wasserman and them, but it was before my time at the branch.

Was he - what - was he explosives? What was he?

--- I don't know, Sir. I don't know.

He now owns the gun shop - a gun shop. Ja, Theo's Arsenal. --- Theo's Arsenal.

MR GOVENDER: Mr Bennetts, you spoke about security members having different passports, different identify identity documents and different passports. ---

Passports, I don't know.

Did they have? --- I've heard so, ja. I haven't seen any. I don't know of any but, like, it's this plastic police ID card I'm talking about. That's what I was talking about. This one that identifies me

/as a policeman.

as a policeman. Your appointment certificate.

Did Colonel Taylor have more than one ID document? --- I don't know, Sir. I presume so, ja.

Presume so. You don't know whether he had more than one passport? --- Don't know.

You wouldn't know that.

MR LAINLAX: (Microphone switched off) (Inaudible)  
... what vehicle did Makai drive? --- Different vehicles. They had - like I say, that Mitsubishi - that secret funds vehicle. It was a Mitsubishi Kombi thing that they drove around in. Like a brown coloured one. I think it was a Mitsubishi. What else did they have there? They had an E20.

MR LAINLAX: Did he ever drive a cream Isuzu 4 by 4?  
--- Not on the farm that I recall, no. We had a Safari, a white Safari on the farm.

Ja. It might have been after you left the farm.

--- Possibly, ja. I don't recognise it as one of the farm vehicles.

It would have been one of the 'Maritzburg vehicles most likely. --- More than likely, ja. They would have had an array, an assortment of vehicles there anyway.

Thank you.

MR GOVENDER: Commissioner, I think Mr Bennetts has indicated that he's willing to co-operate with us in the future. There wouldn't be any reason to warn him on the subpoena but we'll contact him whenever we need his co-operation. If we do need to subpoena him again, we can do that. --- It's not a problem, sir.

MR LYSTER: Is that okay with you? --- Ja, that's /fine.

fine. I don't know - if you want to talk to me if you've got to do it formally or informally. I'm prepared to do it informally and then confirm everything again formally at a later stage if

necessary.

MR LAINLAX: That's fine.

MR LYSTER: And - I don't know whether you were asked this last time but did you indicate that you did not intend to apply to amnesty for anything? --- I did indicate that but now I'm actually starting to have second thoughts here.

Your realise that for the incident relating to the Inanda shooting that that would open you to charges of ... (intervention) --- Of an accessory.

... an accessory, conspiracy ... (intervention)

--- Ja, I do realise that.

... obstruction of the course of justice. ---

Would I then - well, I don't know, maybe you can just enlighten me here because I'm not going to go and pay an attorney for advice but I'm just not sure. What is the procedure. Can I just fill in another form, come back and testify on that incident again?

Ja, you'd have to do that - you'd have to do that at a public hearing. You know, you may have seen these ... (intervention)

MR LAINLAX: These amnesty hearings.

MR LYSTER: ... amnesty hearings on television, haven't you? --- Ja, I've heard they're on the go.

I heard you guys had a problem last week in 'Maritzburg.

No, that wasn't - that was ... (intervention)

MR LAINLAX: That wasn't an amnesty hearing. ---

Wasn't it.

/ MR LYSTER:

MR LYSTER: No, no, that was just an investigative sort of - that is where people who have committed

crimes or who believe that they may be prosecuted come forward and apply for amnesty for crimes that they committed between the years 1960 and 1993. ---

Right, okay.

And you know a whole range of people have applied. Very senior security policemen in the Transvaal or people who ran Vlakplaas and they haven't been charged or convicted of anything but they expect that they may be charged. Jack Cronje, Venter, a whole range of senior brigadiers and colonels. People like Captain Brian Mitchell has applied for amnesty.

--- That was this Feeds(?).

Trust Feeds. --- Ja.

So I just - I leave you with that and the amnesty cut-off date is the 14th of December. If you haven't applied for amnesty by that date ... (intervention)

--- Who do I approach?

UNIDENTIFIED: (Inaudible)

MR LAINLAX: Singh can get you a form - the special form that's required for that purpose and you can either hand it in at the office here or send it on to Cape Town to the amnesty ... (intervention). ---

Can I give it back to Mr Singh?

You can. --- I don't want to drive all the way back to Durban just to hand in a form.

Ja, I'm sure if you filled it out - the forms relatively simple to fill out. Some of the questions might be a bit harder than others to answer. They basically require your motivation why you think the act was politically motivated, etcetera, all that sort of

/stuff.

stuff. But seriously we would recommend to you that you make as complete an application as possible because that date closes, as I say, on the 14th of December and after that the door is shut in your face.

--- I will do that, Sir.

Okay, thanks. --- All right.

UNIDENTIFIED: (Inaudible) --- Okay, I'll do that. Okay, if I can just ask two things. Are they still going to guarantee there's no prosecution in terms of the Official Secrets Act?

MR LYSTER: I'll give you a letter. --- All right. And then Mr Singh has asked me for a statement to sign before I leave pertaining to the distances I've travelled and all that.

UNIDENTIFIED: (Inaudible) --- All right.

MR LYSTER: Thank you.

MR LAINLAX: Thank you. Thank you, Sir.