

1. On Thursday afternoon 27 February 1992, an attorney acting for the African National Congress informed the Commission that an informant had identified a farm in the district of Heidelberg, Transvaal, where he and other men were trained as members of a hit squad. He alleged that he and others were involved, inter alia, in the murder of train commuters on the Witwatersrand. He furnished the ANC with considerable detail including the precise address of the farm, the name of the owner, the names of white and black instructors, the number of vehicles employed on the farm, the nature of the sleeping accommodation for 30 of the trainees and other information. The attorney for the ANC informed the Commission that neither he nor the ANC had

reason to doubt the accuracy of the information but that they had no means of verifying it.

2. The Commission decided on Thursday evening that, having regard to the seriousness of the allegations and the impressive detail furnished, it should use the powers of search and seizure given to it by the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation Act 1991 in order to conduct a raid on the farm. Adv. JJ du Toit and Lieut-Col Heslinga both members of the staff of the Commission, were duly authorised and requested to seek the assistance of the South African Police in order to enable them to carry out the raid on the farm. In this regard the informant had told the ANC that the farm was guarded by armed men.
3. Lieut-Col. H Heslinga was informed of the general nature of the operation on the morning of 28

February 1992. He was given no information at all concerning the location of the farm or of the alleged nature of the activities conducted there.

4. At 04h00 on Saturday 29 February 1992 Adv du Toit briefed a large unit of the South African Police on the precise nature of the operation. They moved to the farm with the support of a some 52 policemen and nine Police helicopters. They had the support of a medical doctor and para-medics and a para-medic helicopter. General De Swart was in overall control of the operation. Adv Du Toit was accompanied by two attorneys acting for the ANC and two officials of the ANC.
5. The information given to the ANC was false. The informant was brought to the area of the farm and led Adv. du Toit and the Police to two other farms. Again his allegations were proved to

have no factual basis. After some nine hours the operation ended.

6. The Commission would like to express its sincere appreciation to the South African Police for the prompt, professional and complete cooperation which it rendered to the Commission.

7. The Commission would like to make the following comments concerning the foregoing:

- (a) It accepts the bona fides of the ANC and its attorneys in providing the information to the Commission;
- (b) It is hoped that the prompt action by the Commission and the support given to it by the South African Police will publicly demonstrate the Commission's resolve and ability to use its powers in order to inquire into current public violence and intimidation and that people with accurate information in that regard will come forward and furnish it to the Commission.
- (c) These events again demonstrate the danger of relying upon unchecked reports concerning

public violence and intimidation and it is hoped that the public and the media will take due notice of this danger.

8. In conclusion the Commission would like to commend Adv du Toit and Lieut-Col Heslinga for their efficiency and for having not hesitated to lead the operation. It would like to apologise to the owner of the farm involved and to thank him for his understanding and the hospitality he gave to members of the South African Police.