

KWAZULU-NATAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH TIMOTHY SMITH, CONDUCTED BY RUTH LUNDIE ON 28
OCTOBER 1998, AT THE PACSMA OFFICES, LOOP STREET, PIETERMARITZBURG

(‘S’ shall signify the Interviewee and ‘L’ the Interviewer)

L This is a discussion between Father Timothy Smith, of the Jesuit order, and Ruth Lundie, at Pietermaritzburg on the 20th of October, 1998. Timothy, the subject of this interview is a people’s history of a struggle against apartheid in the Natal Midlands over the last forty years. So, you see we’ve got a wide spectrum opening before us. And before we get onto your story, could I just talk to you a bit about the issues that are at stake. When you gave evidence to the TRC, at first glance it would seem a clearly defined conflict between the two differing forces, UDF and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), the one a racial mix, the other a Zulu force. But as you point out the issues were primarily a failure of the rule of law. For a particular reason there were two personalities, Buchner and Ntombela; I think we could start discussing from that point of view. When the IFP revived, in 1975, it provided not only an area where Ntombela would spread the wings of power, but also a weapon which could be used by the trained forces of apartheid Buchner. So, in that it slots in very nicely into our little brief. His arrival, in 1987, seems to have been the beginning of the end as far as the rule of law was concerned. And the horrendous violence that followed could at more than one point have been checked. The Sarmcol Strike seems to have played a huge part in the history of the Midlands. That was in 1985. You say that it was after the 1986 killings, of two Sarmcol people, two COSATU people, that polarisation between the IFP and the UDF sympathisers began. So, would you agree that these are the forces at work, these are the ones we are considering?

S Yes, they are completely, ja.

L Yes, so I think we might go, if you don’t mind, straight into your story. Because you’ve put it as before 1990, where the forces were sort of meting it out, and then the actuality of the ‘Seven Days War’

- 1 S: Mmm. Ja, I mean if you - I think if you go back to the strike in '85, of course, we were
2 not really involved in that - being in Elandskop, it's far away. But the deaths in 1986,
3 those - it was two, or three?
- 4 L: Two men found in the river, up at Mpophomeni.
- 5 S: That's right, and one escaped...
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 S: ..with his life. That definitely seems to have set off a whole polarisation. We didn't feel
8 that un til '87. And then during '87 it was very clear that, number one, that the UDF was
9 growing in popularity. I can remember, vividly, a - it was a funeral in the latter part of
10 '87, at a place called Mafagathini, which is right at the top of that long road that goes
11 from Merrivale up to Bulwer - to where it gets to the highest point.
- 12 L: Yes.
- 13 S: And I remember doing this funeral and being aware that there was a whole crowd of
14 youths at the funeral, who were not of that area - they sat apart and it made everyone very
15 nervous, you can imagine.
- 16 L: Yes, quite.
- 17 S: But they knew - the person who'd been killed was a youngster who had been stabbed, I
18 think. They knew the whole political background, I was totally ignorant at that stage. I
19 remember at one stage going across to them and asking them please just to respect our traditions
20 and respect the funeral and that.
- 21 L: Yes.
- 22 S: And there was no response at all. And then after the funeral they did little toyi-toyi
23 around the grave and they immediately set off down the hill and they set a house on fire,
24 just below us.
- 25 L: Really?
- 26 S: They knew who'd been responsible for the killing of this youngster. And they were UDF
27 and this youngster had been UDF, and they said .
- 28 L: So, they were pointing fingers.
- 29 S: Ja, and they set house, I presume of an Inkatha man's house, on fire. And they then got
30 onto bus which they had hijacked to get up there and they rode off in this bus, smashing
31 windows and shouting - and the girls, of course, all going crazy, screaming ?

- 1 L Yes.
- 2 S It was real introduction to me to what was happening. Now that, that indicated that
3 already, by then, the UDF, amongst the youth, especially, it spread right up to the places
4 as near to us as that. And that's very strong Inkatha territory.
- 5 L Yes, certainly.
- 6 S So, all through '87, the UDF was spreading and it increased. Remember there were
7 floods, at the beginning of...
- 8 L I do remember... largely...
- 9 S I think it was October
- 10 L ... it affected Sobantu
- 11 S ... September, October, ja, big floods, but even up to ? As well...
- 12 L Yes
- 13 S: And we went around helping people, because many people were homeless after that.
- 14 L Uh, uh.
- 15 S: And then it even it even, it even increased after that
- 16 L Yes.
- 17 S: In fact to the point where round about early December, there was rumour that the chiefs
18 had all fled
- 19 L. Oh?
- 20 S Yea, I don't think it was true.
- 21 L Oh, it was rumour?
- 22 S: But it indicated the depth of disarray in the Inkatha ranks. The people said the Inkatha
23 Chiefs have all fled, what they had probably done is gone to Ulundi
- 24 L. Yes.
- 25 S For a meeting.
- 26 L Of course - to be briefed.
- 27 S: ...to be - but they were, they were really worried, I mean, the the whole Inkatha leadership
28 was in real disarray.
- 29 L. Yes.
- 30 S. Now Buchner arrived, I think at the beginning of September '87, and that's when things
31 turned around, or began to turn around. He started getting together, I presume, with

- 1 people like David Ntombela and the other chiefs.
- 2 L Yes
- 3 S And not great deal happened during the rest of .. so that would be October, November,
4 December. but things began to happen on the 1st of January 1988
- 5 L Yes.
- 6 S: And I was actually - got involved in that part - by accident.
- 7 L Tell me about it
- 8 S. Well, what actually happened was that, during the last week of December, youngster was
9 murdered in the Elandskop area. now he was UDF youngster. And the kids, of course,
10 all being on holiday, got together to go to the funeral. I think the funeral was somewhere
11 down in Chief Ngcobo's area, which is Mafunzi. An area we used to call Imbubumane but
12 the kids got together to go to the funeral and they made the mistake of going into the
13 village at Elandskop and demanding food for the funeral. You know this kind of style of
14
- 15 L Yes, yes.
- 16 S The Post Mistress and various other people panicked and called the police and the police
17 seemed to have followed them down from the village down to the funeral and then at one
18 point, simply arrested them all. I think it was more than hundred, it was about hundred
19 and fifty kids
- 20 L As many as that?
- 21 S: Ja, it was a large number of kids, ranging in age from 14, 15 up to the 20s - late 20s
- 22 L Mmm
- 23 S. Now, we didn't hear about that - that all happened on the last day of 1988, 1987
- 24 L Yes.
- 25 S The 31st of December. We didn't hear about that until the next morning. I remember,
26 I said mass on the 1st of January, because it was the Big Feast, and some of the parents
27 came to me and said 'do you know all our children have been arrested?'. Well, we didn't
28 know, and then, of course, all the story came out and immediately we tried to find out
29 where these kids were. So, we started 'phoning around police stations, and I 'phoned
30 Edendale and the emergency regulations were in force, they were not supposed to reveal
31 anything. But I got a policeman on day off - public holiday, who didn't know the

- 1 regulations.
- 2 L: What lucky thing.
- 3 S: He gave me every single name . I .
- 4 L: Marvellous! What absolutely
- 5 S: Oh, the writing - I've still got the sheet of paper - I just wrote as fast as I could, and it was
- 6 all kids and we knew it was kids from our school. . .
- 7 L: Of course, you
- 8 S: ...kids from our mission, kids who served on the altar. So, as fast as we could, we wrote
- 9 all these names down and discovered that the kids had actually been farmed out to
- 10 different police stations, so some were in Plessislaer
- 11 L: Yes.
- 12 S: Some were in Howick, some were in Maritzburg - in Alexander Road.
- 13 And we decided then that we would go and visit these kids, at least to find out what's
- 14 going on
- 15 L: Of course...
- 16 S: ...and say "what's your ...?" you know, express some interest and also make the police
- 17 aware that we knew that these kids had been arrested . So we, I remember we dressed
- 18 up in black, two of us.
- 19 L: Habit
- 20 S: Oh, ja. The collar and everything. And we decided to go different ways, the other fellow
- 21 went towards Howick, so he went on the Mpophomeni Road, and I decided to come
- 22 down to Plessislaer. It was about 10 o'clock in the morning and - and drove down that
- 23 hill, that Elandskop hill, and straight into the beginning of Ntombela's attack. It was ... it
- 24 was ...
- 25 L: Where was it?
- 26 S: It was pure providence. It was about ...
- 27 L: Yes.
- 28 S: It was about ten o'clock in the morning, it was beautiful hot day .
- 29 L: Yes ...
- 30 S: And the Inkatha forces were just in - running across the road - spears, shields, knives,
- 31 pangas, the whole bit - in their hundreds.

- 1 L Good heavens
- 2 S: It was an amazing sight. I mean (They chuckle)
- 3 L And it was real!
- 4 S: Yea. I mean it, I was just, in fact I think I drove just in front of them
- 5 L: Yes.
- 6 S: ... Stopped the car immediately, got out, furious. (He laughs)
- 7 L Of course, you got caught ? in your innocence
- 8 S: 'What did they think. ' - exactly! 'What are they doing in my parish?'
- 9 L: Mm.
- 10 S: Rushed across to the side they were attacking, where there was actually no one visible.
- 11 L: Oh.
- 12 S: ...strangely enough, yea, it- it was the so-called UDF side on the right hand side
- 13 L: Yes.
- 14 S: On the right hand side, an area we called Sangozema...
- 15 L: Yes.
- 16 S: No one visible, except one man, whom I knew very well, it was my parish Council
- 17 Chairman and he was standing in the only gate that existed on that side.
- 18 L: Yes.
- 19 S: ...with his hands up in the air like that - very, very bravely, I mean trying to stop all this
- 20 mob. So I rushed up to him and was - there was a great moment of confusion, the, the
- 21 man leading the attack who is a deputy of David Ntombela, is a man called Benghu -
- 22 Gripper Benghu - whom I also knew..
- 23 L: Yes
- 24 S: ...he was builder. Came up screaming and shouting and very incoherent, and we managed
- 25 to calm the situation down for a few minutes and I said 'Well, what's the problem?' He
- 26 said 'No, the - someone had attacked them on the Inkatha side and they were now taking
- 27 revenge.' I said 'No, no, there is no revenge, if there's a problem, we call the police.' At
- 28 which point ...
- 29 L: ...he smiled?
- 30 S: No!. Well, at which point, he pulled out from his pocket, the police telephone number
- 31 L: Goodness me!

- 1 S: The Riot Police telephone number - now that should have told me something .
- 2 L: Yes.
- 3 S: I found it little puzzling, but anyway, I said 'Okay.' I gave it to the man who was my
- 4 parish Council Chairman
- 5 L: Yes.
- 6 S: And said 'Go and 'phone the police.' And he went off to 'phone the police. So I said to
- 7 this man, Benghu, said 'Now you get your men back on your side of the road and we wait
- 8 for the police.'
- 9 L: Yes.
- 10 S: And he did it. (He laughs) I mean that would never happen today
- 11 L: Yes...
- 12 S: ...but in those days it happened!
- 13 L: It happened!
- 14 S: Something to do with white skin and roman? -
- 15 L: Yes, exactly
- 16 S: ...which worked in - in 1988. So I then, this was, this was weird. I then walked back to
- 17 the tarred road and all these Inkatha warriors now put themselves on their side of the tar
- 18 road.
- 19 L: yes
- 20 S: And I walked up and down the tarred road, making sure they stayed there. It was the
- 21 weirdest, strangest experience, and none of them crossed that road, as long as I was there
- 22 It was so...
- 23 L: How extraordinary, yes
- 24 S: I just walked up and down, every now and again they'd look like they were moving one
- 25 way or another and I'd just walk up .
- 26 L: Yes.
- 27 S: I remember there was moment of , of - when I looked at one of these guys and he was
- 28 sharpening his panga..
- 29 L: Yes...
- 30 S: ...on the edge of the tar
- 31 L: Yes, yes

- 1 S You know it
- 2 L Yes, yes.
- 3 S: it sometimes the tar is like that ..
- 4 L: yes. uh. uh
- 5 S: and I suddenly thought how soft my neck was when I saw this.
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 S But not one of them came near me. It was - it lasted about half an hour, in the extremely
- 8 tense. During that half an hour, couple of things happened, one was that a taxi - from
- 9 the Sangozima side, which is the UDF side, came driving past and the Inkatha people
- 10 recognised it and they stoned it, they threw stones at it. Didn't really, didn't really hit it
- 11 The other was that a priest whom I know from Port Elizabeth arrived, from down the
- 12 South Coast, arrived and asked what was happening and went and he said 'Are you the
- 13 referee?' And I said 'Yes'. (They chuckle). So he drove off to the mission, thank God,
- 14 because he then alerted the others what was happening.
- 15 L: Yes, of course.
- 16 S: Then, at about, about half an hour after this had started, the police did arrive.
- 17 L: In what force?
- 18 S: Riot Police, two young white policeman, very small - I mean two young white policeman,
- 19 may have been couple of Black policemen as well, and almost simultaneously, David
- 20 Ntombela arrived.
- 21 L: Yes.
- 22 S: And then we had real sort of
- 23 L: Was it a set-to?
- 24 S: It was quite - well, we had little conversation on the side of the road. I was quite
- 25 impressed with the one White policeman, because he was extremely angry with David
- 26 Ntombela.
- 27 L: Oh good.
- 28 S: He said 'every time there's trouble, it's your people who cause it'
- 29 L: Yes.
- 30 S: Well, of course, Ntombela didn't like that at all
- 31 L: No..

- 1 S: Tortured this kid and then they got everybody in the hut to stab that kid so that everybody
2 would have joint responsibility
- 3 L: Oh, no, what terrible thing
- 4 S: Terrible! And then the body was left next to the road - the next morning
- 5 L: Yes.
- 6 S: ...and was found the next morning
- 7 L: Yes.
- 8 S: So, now that, of course, that whole event, the whole event of the, of the 1st, sorry, I'm
9 jumping little bit - we - I went down to the police station. I found the kids,
- 10 L: yes.
- 11 S: Then they actually let me see them, I think, which was quite surprise, found that they'd
12 been detained under the emergency regulations. I got more of the details of their names
13 and that and I decided to get lawyers and so on.
- 14 L: Yes
- 15 S: Well anyhow, you know, then I went to see my family - that was the original idea of the
16 day ...
- 17 L: Yes.
- 18 S: But when you reflected on that whole day, then you - we suddenly realised the whole
19 nature of the game had changed. That..
- 20 L: That there were no hold barred
- 21 S: Exactly! And ...
- 22 L: It was sheer brutality
- 23 S: And, but more important, that the police were now fair and square on the side of Inkatha
- 24 L: Yes
- 25 S: So that there is no re-dress for the people who were UDF.
- 26 L: Yes
- 27 S: And no protection.
- 28 L: Yes.
- 29 S: And that was - that's terrible thing to realise for those people who live in mud huts, with
30 no telephones, no firearms, no means of defence - they are going to be defenceless
- 31 L: they have recourse to no one

- 1 S. exactly! And that began whole process of attacks - the attacks that took place during
2 those weeks of January and February and of large Inkatha rallies. I remember, I think it
3 was about the second or the third week of January. I was actually in the Ngcobo
4 chieftainship - which is that same valley, Ingambani? And I was coming out after mass
5 on Sunday - it must have been about ten o'clock in the morning and this enormous impi
6 came down from Ntombela's place, actually, mostly kids, mostly youngsters.
- 7 L. Yes.
- 8 S. All, highly regimented, it was very well organised. There were about ten abreast and
9 probably about twenty or thirty long, and in groups, uh - so it - almost like - like
10 regiments
- 11 L. Yes
- 12 S. with their little weapons. Some of them had the Inkatha badges and stuff, but at that
13 stage not too many
- 14 L. Yes.
- 15 S. And I saw them coming down, marching down the hill, so I stopped at the river and
16 watched them and while I stopped and watched them, a kombi-load, with five White men,
17 came and stopped near me. And they were taking pictures of this. And I thought 'this is
18 odd.' You don't often see White men up here, you see farmers - but on their own - but
19 you don't see young White men
- 20 L. How were they dressed?
- 21 S. Taking pictures. They wore khaki, that sort of thing - they were policemen..
- 22 L. Mmm.
- 23 S. but I mean it wasn't obvious to me then.
- 24 L. No
- 25 S. They were filming the whole thing.
- 26 L. Yes.
- 27 S. Now ..
- 28 L. Were they?
- 29 S. They were filming, taking photographs of it..
- 30 L. yes.
- 31 S. Obviously going to report back to Buchner... whoever

- 1 L. Yes.
- 2 S. And then eventually the - the - all these kids came past - and I knew lot of them.
- 3 L. Yes.
- 4 S. You know, they were smiling and laughing, some of them - clearly they had been
5 dragooned into the thing.
- 6 L. Of course
- 7 S. they weren't doing it voluntarily. And they went off then to the Chief's house at, at
8 Umabambai, Chief Ngcobo, there was big rally. And apparently, during - at the end of
9 that day - I mean, the usual kind of Inkatha rhetoric and so on, Ntombela was given
10 special powers - which he did not have in that area. Ntombela was - is an Induna, in
11 KwaNeane - which is different chieftainship and he had no right, in fact, to be in that
12 area. But he was given by Chief Ngcobo, special right to come into the area and to hunt
13 down UDF people and at the end of that rally, they in fact chased and killed three UDF
14 lads.
- 15 L. Oh, no.
- 16 S. Ja. From that - from that area. So then the message was very clear - if you are UDF in
17 this area, get out
- 18 L. yes
- 19 S. And even if you are UDF and you join IFP, .
- 20 L. you're suspect
- 21 S. you are suspect and quite few of them were killed
- 22 L. Mm
- 23 S. So, it was, it was very dramatic days.
- 24 L. What pitiful story
- 25 S. Yea, it was awful..
- 26 L. You know,
- 27 S. Ja.
- 28 L. Yes.
- 29 S. And then what we - we were still working, of course, to try and get these kids out of
30 prison ..
- 31 L. Yes

- 1 S: So, I would - I got lawyers from Maritzburg to come up - oh, and it was endless, each
2 parent had to fill out form, the name of the kid, the ID, and so on and so on and then we -
3 had to apply for each one, individually, to the Government. 'Why are you holding this
4 child under what law and so on and so on, and eventually, round about March, April, they
5 started releasing these kids, in small groups, groups of ten and twenty and so on. And the
6 kids began to come back to Elandskop. But then it was worse, because the kids who
7 came back from prison were actually hunted down
- 8 L: Oh, what
- 9 S: And quite few were killed. Ja
- 10 L: Oh
- 11 S: I remember doing funeral for one, one kid, from Umbabane, who was killed of that
12 crowd, it was the first time I had ever heard that song 'Zenzenena'.
- 13 L: Oh, yes, that we know so well now
- 14 S: Yes, yes, it was revelation to me and they sang it beautifully. But it called, you can
15 imagine now, the parents of these kids know that their children are UDF, know what the
16 situation is, that they are all forced to be Inkatha members, they'd actually have preferred
17 their kids to be in prison.
- 18 L: Yes.
- 19 S: ... because as the kids came home they were just targets ...
- 20 L: Yes.
- 21 S: And these kids, it - just had no life, in Elandskop - so many of them, in fact went down
22 to Edendale again.
- 23 L: Right, right
- 24 S: Didn't stay. But it was terrifying. The community was also very aware that I was, was
25 making a lot, big efforts to get these kids out of prison. And one man said to me
- 26 L: Yes, yes.
- 27 S: ... said to me...
- 28 L: 'Don't work too hard
- 29 S: Ja, he was saying to me one day 'Father, we know you're running up and down getting
30 these kids out, but maybe these kids better stay there.' If it's ...
- 31 L: Really, I remember all that

- 1 S Ja. But, oh gosh, there are lots of stories, the Induna of that area, Sangozima, wonderful
 2 man, Ngcobo. I don't know if he is still alive. But. I mean, he - he was - obviously he was
 3 Inkatha and he really didn't understand the UDF, but he wasn't
- 4 L: Yes
- 5 S: He wasn't into persecuting them or anything.
- 6 L: No.
- 7 S: Ntombela ridiculed that man in front of everyone.
- 8 L: Oh dear. He sounds ..
- 9 S: it was incredible ..
- 10 L: .. horrible. ?
- 11 S: I mean.
- 12 L: Just its sheer force of personality that got him up like that.
- 13 S: He's a psychopath
- 14 L: Yes, ..
- 15 S: He's psychopath.
- 16 L: Yes, he claims that, .. yes that's it
- 17 S: He's a highly intelligent psychopath.
- 18 L: Well, this is, this is often the case.
- 19 S: He is not fool at all.
- 20 L: No.
- 21
- 22 (The telephone rings and the tape is switched off and then on again)
- 23
- 24 L: Just about Ntombela's personality, because it seemed to me he got such tremendous
 25 power
- 26 S: Mm.
- 27 L: ..of his own force of will, as well as being a very able tool for Buchner.
- 28 S: We actually didn't meet very often and I avoided him - clearly - from..
- 29 L: Well, you would ?
- 30 S: From the very beginning, because at one stage he used to come to the mission and he'd
 31 have tea with the guy who was there before me - fellow called Mike Lewis.

1 L Yes

2 S And Mike took an instant dislike to him and said 'be careful of, of him, which I did

3

4 (The tape is switched off again and then back on).

5

6 S Well, I mean, I found out later various things which other people found out about him.

7 What I found out later is that he's actually originally from Howick, where he still has a

8 sister who is actually at Mpophomeni, she's an ANC member.

9 L: Is that so?

10 S We ...

11 L Yes

12 S But at some stage, when he was young man, or maybe not so young, but maybe it was

13 bit more recent, his father was actually attacked and I think was actually killed. So I've

14 heard from and I think it's probably true, that his father was actually killed by comrades

15 Now...

16 L: and that made him so prone to ...

17 S Yea, it would, it would explain lot that ...

18 L Yes.

19 S ... somehow or other they attacked him and the father was actually killed and that created

20 this tremendous bitterness in - inside him

21 L Mm, yes, yes

22 S ...about that. His actual story - it goes like this, that he was from Howick, he then moved

23 up to a place called Maswazini ...

24 L Yes...

25 S Where he became Secretary of Inkatha, so he was only secretary then, and then - now this

26 is the part that I'm not sure - that's been disputed. That his daughter married the young

27 chief, Zondi... that's the guy he was with ...

28 L Yes.

29 S Now, I've heard that disputed so I'm not sure about that.

30 L Mm.

31 S But, certainly, he was promoted and made an Induna at KwaMncane, probably it would

- 1 probably be the late 70s - yes, probably around there and, and very soon gained
 2 reputation for corruption, because I've spoken to people who were in Elands kop before -
 3 long before me and one man in particular remembers that Ntombela asked the people to
 4 contribute money for a co-operative store - that people would, would, each family would
 5 have to give, I don't know, ten, twenty rand. .
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 S: And he would build store for everybody, well, he built store for himself
- 8 L: Yes.
- 9 S: That's what happened there and another occasion, money was collected for a school
 10 And Ntombela used it all for himself, so there was really a reputation of man who was
 11 very untrustworthy with money and exploits people.
- 12 L: Yes, one heard lots of stories about the money he required every month or whatever
- 13 S: Oh, yes. Now that, that pre-dated this whole involvement with Inkatha, with the, with,
 14 you know, with hunting down UDF people I mean, even, even in his own area, I can
 15 remember people telling me 'I Induna, mubi, mubi'
- 16 L: Yes, yes
- 17 S: They - it was bad Induna this, so there was no love for him even amongst
- 18 L: No, no
- 19 S: . the people of his own side, they - oh there was real hatred And then, that's right. In
 20 1985, on Christmas day, he killed his own brother There was a fight
- 21 L: yes.
- 22 S: I think it was, I mean, I, I obviously wasn't there, but .
- 23 L: publicly???
- 24 S: but the story seems to be - publicly - it was very public action. And I think the brother
 25 may have been drunk and there may have been fight, but anyway, David Ntombela killed
 26 the brother, in view of many people.
- 27 L: And no action was taken
- 28 S: No action was taken And then what happened was, that the men of Mpunuza all
 29 credit to them
- 30 L: Yes.
- 31 S: Got together, and I used to see them - meeting - they used to meet over the hill, near our

1 mission, our of, out of view of .
2 L. view, yes.
3 S. of even collecting money, to get lawyer to get him persecuted
4 L. Really
5 S. yes...
6 L. But that's an extraordinary thing...
7 S. They were fed up, they were fed up.
8 L. of course they'd be .
9 S. And they
10 L. I mean, absolutely .
11 S. They decided it was time to get rid of this Induna, we collect money. Of course, they
12 didn't know what they were up against
13 L. No
14 S. Because already he had connections with the police. Some people say he was security
15 police, but I'm not sure about that.
16 L. But it was before Buchner came
17 S. Oh yes.
18 L. that he .
19 S. Oh yes. .
20 L. The police must have been colluding.
21 S. Oh yes, this goes back . Certainly he was known - he was known in Plessislaer police
22 station, because I've, I've missed out whole event That was killing of Angelica Mkbize
23 L. Yes.
24 S. Which took place in
25 L. This was ...
26 S. End of September, I think .
27 L. This was '87
28 S. I think in '87, Yes
29 L. And that, precipitated great deal
30 S. It did, and that actually precipitated his fleeing from Elandskop for while
31 I. I see.

- 1 S Yea, because he was arrested. Actually
- 2 L Oh, I didn't realise that
- 3 S Yes, the Mandla Mkhize, the son - was her son, got him arrested, but he was immediately
- 4 arrested
- 5 L Oh.
- 6 S There was an inquest, but nothing, nothing happened
- 7 L No .
- 8 S: ...after that, so he was very well known in Plessislaer police station. So that's - that's his
- 9 history And then of course he rose through the Inkatha ranks.
- 10 L Of course, of course
- 11 S Um
- 12 L And then of course he was so very useful
- 13 S Oh yes. I mean, he's - he's certainly courageous. He's not afraid, he would, you know,
- 14 he'd go - I mean a young policeman, young White policeman described to me, in all
- 15 innocence, going with David Ntombela to hunt down UDF people at night and, and
- 16 L: Really?
- 17 S: you know, Ntombela would lead the charge, ja. And he described this to me as if it was
- 18 sort of, you know, part of police work to hunt down the UDF
- 19 L: But wasn't it- that tells us something enormous about the psychology of the police.
- 20 S: Oh, yes. I mean
- 21 L as to what was acceptable and ...
- 22 S: For sure, ja. We used to see White policeman after this, the beginning of 1980, we used
- 23 to see them, sitting in his yard, around his house, with their shirts off, sunning themselves,
- 24 drinking beer Day after day
- 25 L: Yes.
- 26 S: And it was quite - that was their port of call.
- 27 L Oh, my goodness.
- 28 S That's where they went to in Elandskop.
- 29 L terrifying..
- 30 S: Ja.
- 31 L: Terrifying

- 1 S: Ja. It was
- 2 L: Because it is after all an abnormal psychology.
- 3 S: Oh yes. no, he is definitely disturbed
- 4 L: Yes. well, let's not get onto other abnormal psychologies for the bit ... we've heard tell
- 5 of, yes
- 6 S: Ja
- 7 L: Yes. Tell us about the Mkhize killings. And the daughter, what was her name?
- 8 S: Gippa. no Angelica was the mother
- 9 L: Was the mother.
- 10 S: And there was a daughter.
- 11 S: And there was a daughter - I don't know her name.
- 12 L: I've got her name down somewhere, because that ...
- 13 S: Well, yes, I think it was the end of September..
- 14 L: Yes.
- 15 S: .. somewhere around there or October..
- 16 L: Uh. uh.
- 17 S: I mean we obviously weren't there. we only heard about it the next day. Bit what seems
- 18 to have happened is that Ntombela went there with six men
- 19 L: Yes.
- 20 S: One or two of whom were his sons. I think.
- 21 L: Uh. uh
- 22 S: There was Zondi - there were various people. - they are all listed in the inquest.
- 23 L: yes
- 24 S: And they were looking for the two young men of the house who were Union, COSATU
- 25 members.
- 26 L: Yes
- 27 S: Mangethi? I think might be one and Mandla might be the other. Fortunately they weren't
- 28 there. But Ntombela then got very angry and shot the mother, apparently
- 29 L: yes.
- 30 S: And. and shot the daughter - I think he shot both of them himself.
- 31 L: I think he shot both of them

- 1 S: There was witness who was child then, a girl and she saw it - she was hiding - and she
2 saw it through the crack in the door. They then moved away and shot another man,
3 young man, just nearby. I'm not clear that he was a member of the same family, I don't
4 think he was, I think he was a Dlamini, or something and then they went on. Now
5 Immediately, things in rural area travel very fast
- 6 L: Yes
- 7 S: Immediately everyone knew about that next day, and knew that David Ntombela had done
8 it
- 9 L: Yes
- 10 S: And I was thinking the other day, the reaction to that was amazing because it was horrific,
11 people were still, in those days, horrified by that kind of thing
- 12 L: you see, this is the terrifying thing
- 13 S: Ja
- 14 L: We open the Natal Witness today, and every morning there are five killings. .
- 15 S: Yes. .
- 16 L: . . . over the weekend, or six killings . . .
- 17 S: And absolutely, we're,
- 18 L: and we,
- 19 S: We're numb to it. But then it was horrific
- 20 L: Yes.
- 21 S: And I remember people's reaction. They were horrified and everyone knew who had done
22 it.
- 23 L: Yes.
- 24 S: Then Ntombela was, as I say, this fellow, I think it was the son, Mandla, went to the
25 police in Plessislaer and because it was so well known, laid a charge against David
26 Ntombela and David Ntombela was then arrested, and released.
- 27 L: Immediately?
- 28 S: Almost immediately. I presume there was bail set, I think there must have been, The
29 police at Plessislaer treated Mandla abominably, he was made to wait there - he had to
30 wash the policeman's car while he was . . .
- 31 L: I wouldn't take this . . .

- 1 S It was recorded in
- 2 L Yes
- 3 S one of the books on the Ntombela story and then it went to inquest and the inquest
- 4 judge, after looking at the case said there was definitely case there
- 5 L Yes
- 6 S That - that definitely there had been foul play and he named David Ntombela
- 7 L Yes.
- 8 S And those other six men, but it never went any further than that, and talking to the
- 9 lawyers, it seemed as if the, the witness were being very, being very frightened, it
- 10 wouldn't have - the case wouldn't have actually stood up in court.
- 11 L I see.
- 12 S And it was great tragedy because it would have stopped, stopped completely
- 13 L Well, of course, it would have stopped...
- 14 S ...stopped everything.
- 15 L: Yes, yes
- 16 S So that was the Mkhize case
- 17 L ? Very -s o, so where are we now? 1988?
- 18 S: No, still '87, that's the end - the last few months of '87
- 19 L yes
- 20 S Now he then fled the area, Ntombela, after that, or I think probably what happened is he
- 21 went to Ulundi, but it - the
- 22 L: Yes we mustn't press for it
- 23 S It was put out that he had fled,
- 24 L: yes.
- 25 S: And UDF were in the ascendancy in those last few months and that`s when, I think, when
- 26 Buchner got together with Ntombela and the other chiefs and they planned what became
- 27 known as 'Operation Doom'
- 28 L: 'Doom'
- 29 S: Ja.
- 30 L: yes
- 31 S Which, which then kicked off on the first of January, which I drove into .

- 1 L: '88?
- 2 S: Up there in '88.
- 3 L: yes. that's right
- 4 S: Ja, hut it, it was much wider than Elandskop, it took in the whole Vulindlela area
- 5 L: Yes.
- 6 S: Because of the valleys down at - this other chief, up - Chief Nzondi - Sweetwaters place,
- 7 there were rallies down in - in our place there were meetings all over the place
- 8 L: Yes, yes.
- 9 S: And those have been well documented. Kind of hysterical rhetoric, but they ...
- 10 L: Yes, yes.
- 11 S: they were losing then?
- 12 L: yes. And then every UDF? were getting into the - into their smaller and smaller areas
- 13 S: Well, I think the UDF pretty well had Edendale at that stage, but they'd advanced, I mean
- 14 they had advanced right up to our area. Taylor's Halt was great scene of battles in those
- 15 days because there was kind of interface between.
- 16 L: yes..
- 17 S: .. the two areas But Inkatha began to roll things back ..
- 18 L: Yes, yes.
- 19 S: Certainly in those first few months of '88, with police support I mean that is well
- 20 documented, people like Anse Cronje..
- 21 L: I'm sure it is ..
- 22 S: .. who was .. someone here, all the rallies that were held.
- 23 L: Yes, yes. How - can you just.. could you tell me what part the buses had played in all
- 24 this disturbance, because it seems to me they're constantly mentioned
- 25 S: The Buses were very important, the - the bus story probably goes back to '86, and of
- 26 course the buses were all owned by KwaZulu Transport, but the bus drivers for the most
- 27 part, were COSATU members And the bus drivers, I think, even as early as '86, but
- 28 probably as early as - in '87, were part of the effort of spreading the UDF in the whole
- 29 Vulindlela area
- 30 L: Oh, I see.
- 31 S: And, yes, I mean, they say that, whether it's true, but Inkatha certainly alleged in '87 that

- 1 bus drivers used to bring these youths up into our areas at night.
- 2 L yes
- 3 S And the - let them go round and recruit from house to house. Now
- 4 L I see
- 5 S ...that have been pretext, but they - it was certainly believed by Inkatha.
- 6 L Yes
- 7 S that happened
- 8 L yes, yes.
- 9 S The question of the buses then became real power struggle because, all the - most of the
- 10 people who live in Elandskop - and all the others in the Inkatha areas rely on the buses.
- 11 L Of course.
- 12 S And they are mostly IFP - then it was only Inkatha - and so they had to go work in these
- 13 buses, driven by these UDF people.
- 14 L COSATU...
- 15 S It caused immense problems
- 16 L yes.
- 17 S And at one stage, Ntombela went off to see the management of the KwaZulu Transport
- 18 and ranted and raved about 'You Whites, you wouldn't let ANC people pilot your planes,
- 19 now how do you think we feel about going to work in buses driven by UDF drivers?'
- 20 L I see, I see
- 21 S Very clever technique.
- 22 L Yes, yes
- 23 S The, there were lot of stones at buses, there were attacks by Inkatha on bus drivers, and
- 24 the very well known one took place, I think, in January '88, soon after this whole thing
- 25 began.
- 26 L Yes.
- 27 S Where, Ntombela and crowd of men ambushed a bus.
- 28 L Oh
- 29 S A bus in the Elandskop area, a place called Gibson's Gate.
- 30 L yes.
- 31 S They, they blocked the road, the bus turned around and fled, the bus driver was almost

- 1 alone I think he had two or three old women in the bus
- 2 L: Yes
- 3 S: Who went for the ride of their lives
- 4 L: (Ruth chuckles)
- 5 S: And this, this bus then, he then drove back up to Gibson's Gate Road, I think he crossed
- 6 the tarred road, he made the mistake then of driving off towards Maswazini, and he was
- 7 going too fast. These cars were chasing and shooting at him and the bus went off the
- 8 road, crashed, they then killed him. They then shot him and the three old ladies managed
- 9 to get out - I think injured but alive
- 10 L: yes.
- 11 S: But were told never to say word about it .
- 12 L: Otherwise .
- 13 S: And that of course, the news of that provoked whole crisis among the bus drivers
- 14 L: Of course it would.
- 15 S: Who then went on strike.
- 16 L: Yes
- 17 S: And caused more problem for the management and for the people and so the whole thing
- 18 began to snowball.
- 19 L: yes.
- 20 S: So there was a real, real tensions around the buses because they were driven by UDF
- 21 drivers..
- 22 L: yes.
- 23 S: And yet it was the only way they could get transport, and also because they had to go
- 24 through UDF territory
- 25 L: Yes.
- 26 S: So, going from home to work, they actually ran the gauntlet of all...
- 27 L: Of course
- 28 S: ...these UDF areas. So, long before, the seven Day War, the buses were a big issue.
- 29 L: yes
- 30 S: A big issue.
- 31 L: yes, yes.

- 1 S Then, later on when they had to have these big rallies in Durban, there was the question
2 of the route, and so quite often the Inkatha buses would go around through Mpophomeni
3 Merrivale and go down that way.
- 4 L Oh, I see
- 5 S Ja, to avoid this, this .
- 6 L Because one always hears these stories of a busload of Inkatha supporters who'd said
7 S Ja, ja.
- 8 L yes.
- 9 S: But it was complex because the drivers would not necessarily be Inkatha at all
- 10 L Has the 'Uwusa' been started then?
- 11 S: Yes, I think it had.
- 12 L: Probably in its early days...
- 13 S It existed by then, yes. I think it did
- 14 L: Yes
- 15 S: Ja.
- 16 L Ja, yep
- 17 S: So there were lots - that was not the only attack on a bus driver, another bus driver was
18 shot on the roof of his house - repairing the roof of his house
- 19 L Really?
- 20 S: Also about that time - about February - that's also documented.
- 21 L: Yes, by where one could see you - what they were doing..
- 22 S: ja.
- 23 L: Ja, ja.
- 24 S: Ja.
- 25 L Now, I think, maybe, well, really by then, the criminal justice system had collapsed, if
26 people were not ...
- 27 S: Oh, yes. I, I mean - basically the police had sabotaged the criminal justice system
- 28 L: Yes, they had.
- 29 S by what they had done..
- 30 L And another thing I wanted to ask you was about the Attorneys General and - I mean
31 I think it's - it's worthy of record? Or would you rather leave it?

- 1 S No, I think we need to say something about that, I think.
- 2 L I think we need to say something about it because it would have made a big difference!
- 3 S: It would have made an enormous difference. If you had had, in this Province, a really pro-
4 active attorney-general, someone - an Attorney's general assistant and that - someone
5 who would have gone over the heads of the police, which they had the authority to do
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 S: And said, 'we have to stop this, what's going on?'
- 8 L: yes.
- 9 S: Demanded answers from the police and demanded and initiated their own investigation,
10 which they can do.
- 11 L: yes.
- 12 S It might have been very different, but you had a very, my impression was, very negative,
13 very passive view of the criminal justice system. They did nothing, did nothing to prevent
14 what was happening and that brought the system more and more into disrepute and now
15 we have the present situation where it is collapsing
- 16 L: It's collapsed, you also?
- 17 S: I spent, much later, this is much later than this, in the 1990s. I spent an hour with the
18 Assistant Attorney-General here in 'Maritzburg.
- 19 L: Yes.
- 20 S: It was the most frustrating hour I have ever spent with anybody
- 21 L: Really?
- 22 S: Got nowhere. At one point he said to me 'of course, you know the law only works when
23 people obey it.' (They have good chuckle).
- 24 L: Oh no, what a mental attitude .??
- 25 S: That's what you're dealing with that - and then ...
- 26 L: Then - no there's no ??
- 27 S: Then it's not surprising where we are.
- 28 L: No, there's no hope, there's no hope.
- 29 S: No. The Attorney General had been pathetic.
- 30 L: yes, they have been.
- 31 S: Really, I mean, if you look at an Attorney-General who is successful, like in the Transvaal.

- 1 L yes.
- 2 S Which has really gone after people
- 3 L Yes
- 4 S You see what can be done
- 5 L Well, of course, of course
- 6 S It's been pathetic.
- 7 L yes
- 8 S And I think we are going to pay the price and we're paying the price
- 9 L Well, we are paying the price
- 10 S Ja.
- 11 L Yes, yes, oh my, well, those were various questions that I wanted to ask you ... you've said
- 12 about the buses, perhaps we should move onto the Seven Days War and the important
- 13 Inkatha meeting in ...
- 14 S In Durban, yes
- 15 L In Durban
- 16 S Uh ...
- 17 L: Because this was case of buses coming back ...
- 18 S: yes ...
- 19 L Because I've got bit confused. ??
- 20 S Can I just say word about something else that happened in between?
- 21 L Yes, of course
- 22 S: ... was the - already in '88, the beginning of the recruitment of the special policemen ...um?
- 23 L Oh, the ...
- 24 S The 'Kits Konstabels', yes, they were blue in our area and they were, they were recruit..
- 25 L: People who were trained for six weeks..
- 26 S That's right, six-week policemen. That was the most terrible, terrible thing Really
- 27 destructive in the community and causing
- 28 L Whose idea was that? Buchner?
- 29 S No, it - I think it was - no, it was National thing, it was something that Pretoria, initiated,
- 30 by I don't know who.
- 31 L Yes

- 1 S But it was their way of keeping, keeping order in these Inkatha areas and they began to
2 recruit these lads. I think the beginning of '88. And mainly from, or exclusively from
3 Inkatha areas, and that was the main thing, the loyalty to Inkatha. And then they gave
4 them this very brief training and I think it was in the Cape somewhere and they brought
5 them back and they lived in these villages. Terrible. Because they were, they were kids
6 whose criminal backgrounds hadn't been vetted, in some cases, some of them were
7 already murderers.
- 8 L Yes.
- 9 S They had very little education
- 10 L yes
- 11 S All they really were told was 'you kill, or you wipe out UDF/'
- 12 L Really?
- 13 S And they - that seems to have .
- 14 L As blatant as that.
- 15 S Ja, as blatant - and some of them admitted it in the TRC .
- 16 L yes.
- 17 S In that same hearing that I was.
- 18 L Yes
- 19 S Some of them I knew, because some were Catholics.
- 20 L Yes, yes
- 21 S One, one man that sticks out in my mind is Ntlanhla Madlala .
- 22 L Uh, uh
- 23 S A kid who had been already suspected of killing people when he was sixteen
- 24 L yes.
- 25 S And I mean that's known in the community.
- 26 L yes.
- 27 S But these kids, they were, they were employed towards the middle of '88, and they started
28 working in those areas, patrolling them at night.
- 29 L Yes..
- 30 S And that kind of thing, right through '89. I was away, I left the country in May '88 and
31 I came back in May '89. I went to United States for year

- 1 L. Oh. I see. yes.
- 2 S. And when I came back this thing had been brewing already
- 3 L. Yes.
- 4 S. And in May 1989 they killed a man in Zongazima - one of them did. And then it just
5 began to increase slowly, they started killing people in twos and threes sometimes. And
6 it reached a crescendo in the September, oh, sorry, in December of 1989. Where what
7 would happen is at night, after, around about 7 o'clock, 8 at night, when it was dark.
8 these these special constables would walk into the UDF area - usually in threes.
- 9 L. yes.
- 10 S. And anybody that they saw walking around they would shoot
- 11 L. Really?
- 12 S. Yes. That's what happened.
- 13 L. As casual as that?
- 14 S. Ja, they had issued a warning 'there's curfew in Zongasima', which is the area. 'no one
15 is to be out after that - 7 o'clock at night.'
- 16 L. Yes.
- 17 S. 'If you are out you will be shot.' And they did it
- 18 L. Good heavens.
- 19 S. They walked around, the one night, they shot two men I think it was - we found out the
20 next day and a week later they shot three and we were actually called out that night.
- 21 L. Yes.
- 22 S. ...people 'phoned us up and said 'people have been shot down here', and we rushed down
23 and I found a man whom I knew, whose son had been shot in front of the house. We
24 bundled him into a car and took him back to the Clinic and he died in Edendale.
- 25 L. Oh.
- 26 S. ?? And the next morning we found two more bodies, in the same area, we went with Ann
27 Channon.
- 28 L. Yes.
- 29 S. These fellows, they walked around
- 30 L. Yes
- 31 S. and just shot people

- 1 L yes, yes.
- 2 S: It was great game. I mean it was -
- 3 L: Yes.
- 4 S: They were young in their twenties. when they were doing this for Inkatha.
- 5 L: yes, yes
- 6 S: So that was the other thing, now David Ntombela had direct supervision of the - some of
- 7 those lads as well.
- 8 L: I see .
- 9 S: Again from his area. he supervised them and so on
- 10 L: Yes, so it was very challenging - we've had to cut out at the end of this tape.
- 11 S: On ???
- 12 L: Yes - I think we can start/stop there??
- 13
- 14 (End of the first side)
- 15
- 16 (Second side)
- 17 L: What are we doing now?
- 18 S: Side two, okay
- 19 L: Yes, alright
- 20 S: Yes, well we can - getting quite close to. tom the War - that was all. that was it building
- 21 up at the end of 1989.
- 22 L: yes.
- 23 S: . These killings by special policemen, and I buried quite few of them. I must say
- 24 L: Did you, yes?
- 25 S: Yes. And then occasionally, occasionally, they would kill on one of their own
- 26 L: really?
- 27 S: yes, it happened in
- 28 L: Bt I think if you're trained in brutality ...
- 29 S: Oh yes, well - there were all these guns all over the place
- 30 L: yes
- 31 S: . And it was - to settle scores. it was the way .

- 1 L It was the easiest thing.
- 2 S One, one of them was killed it was about December, the second of 1989; I remember going
3 to the house and the father - you can imagine - blamed it all on Ntombela, of course
- 4 L: Yes, of course.
- 5 S Ntombela actually turned up at the funeral - I thought that was quite brave considering
6 the feelings
- 7 L: Yes.
- 8 S: But, but at the same time we were burying people on the other side, when they - these
9 fellows had killed .
- 10 L: uh, uh
- 11 S ..but it was . it was awful - the ...
- 12 L: Such . youngsters.
- 13 S Yea. There was one night I will never forget when - it might have been the same night
14 when this - yes, it was the same night this man was shot We took him back to the Clinic,
15 and were dealing - and the police arrived and one of the police, I ... was this young special
16 constable, who we knew had been doing the killing in the area...
- 17 L: yes.
- 18 S And he was Catholic and he knew me, and he said 'hello' and so on. And then one of the
19 men who had accompanied me said ' but that, that's one of them - he's one of them who
20 's killing ' But he was all charming and
- 21 L: ..they were not being . ??? (They speak at once)
- 22 S: It was just, it was just
- 23 L: what do you do?
- 24 S: It was just mind blowing, we were there in Clinic, we had these, we had man who had
25 been shot and there you had one of the guys who was posing as policeman, which, you
26 know, he was.
- 27 L: yes, in sense he was and .
- 28 S And we had - he would be doing the killing himself.
- 29 L: yes
- 30 S And you know, as if you know, they were coming to express interest, find out what's
31 happening.

- 1 L: On ???
- 2 S: It was awful. And then of course, also during the later part of 1989 there were several
3 rallies. Big Inkatha rallies, not - not
- 4 L: End of 1989??
- 5 S: Yes, not in our area, but in Edendale, and I think in Durban quite a lot - in Kings Park, they
6 had quite a lot
- 7 L: Quite a lot of?? In Durban, I seem to remember
- 8 S: Yes.
- 9 L: Mmm
- 10 S: Um.
- 11 L: Easier access from Ulundi
- 12 S: yes, that's right, so and then the tension between the two parties in the valley was really
13 building up because the IFP had pretty well reconquered all their land at the top...
- 14 L: Yes.
- 15 S: ...but the UDF was well-established down below, and so you had this continual tension
16 and buses going through were often stoned from the top, going down to work, there were
17 questions about the buses and about going to work and problems like that and then - when
18 was it? It erupted in early 1990, when some buses had been stoned and I think it was
19 about February, or maybe it was January, and Ntombela called a big meeting of people at
20 his place, in - in Elandskop, about this issue. And thousands of people came and Buchner
21 himself came.
- 22 L: Yes?
- 23 S: With Lieutenant Meyer...I'm wrong, I'm wrong. By then Buchner had gone to KwaZulu
24 Police, he was in Ulundi
- 25 L: Oh, was he?
- 26 S: But, Meyer went up, Lieutenant Meyer and someone else - No, I think, no, I'm sorry,
27 Buchner did come..
- 28 L: No I think he ???
- 29 S: Even though he may have come from Ulundi and he dissuaded them from taking any
30 action. This is the official line
- 31 L: Yes?

- 1 S: That he talked them out of it
- 2 L: I see.
- 3 S: He said ' you know you're angry and so on, but this is not the way to do it', and now what
- 4 was actually going on there Im not sure
- 5 L: And what was going on was, it was the eve of Mandela's release.
- 6 S: That's right, yes, of course.
- 7 L: So you see there were all sorts of political forces.
- 8 S: Right.
- 9 L: ...and implications and what ever.
- 10 S: That's true, yes, that was also happening.
- 11 L: happening backstage.
- 12 S: yes, that's true .
- 13 L: ...which we didn't know about.
- 14 S: Yes.
- 15 L: So those would have been forces affecting issues.
- 16 S: Mmm.
- 17 L: Yes.
- 18 S: That's right. Okay, shall we move on to the seven Day?
- 19 L: ? the Seven Day War?
- 20 S: Mm
- 21 L: Because it's extraordinary that it happened so soon after Mandela was released.
- 22 S: Yes, yes.
- 23 L: That's one of the remarkable things about it, in my mind.
- 24 S: Yea, now that all started with the rally at Kings Park - that was on Sunday, March 23rd.
- 25 L: Mm.
- 26 S: Which was an awful day, it rained, and it rained and it was misty the whole day, and the
- 27 turn out was pathetic, I think it was something like ten thousand people.
- 28 L: yes
- 29 S: They had expected fifty
- 30 L: Oh, oh really?
- 31 S: Or more but people, stayed at home in those conditions - as we do

- 1 L Yes. of course
- 2 S But the buses all left and I remember hearing buses from five o'clock in the morning going
3 past - bus after bus after bus, I don't know how full they'd be, but, you know, the usual
4 thing, you go to the rally or your house will be burnt. So people probably
5 L ... Did go...
- 6 S That's the way it was. Then what actually happened on the way - to - or from, is highly
7 controversial. It seems that the buses went down through the Edendale was - that seems
8 clear.
- 9 L ... down to Durban...that way
- 10 S That was the evidence given ? To the TRC
- 11 L Yes.
- 12 S: And the evidence was very interesting because Meyer.
- 13 L Really?
- 14 S Well, Lieutenant Meyer went up there, he says and argued with Ntombela and Ntombela
15 said 'we're going through Edendale.' and Ntombela said 'yes, baas' and did nothing to
16 prevent them going to - to suggest that they go another way - he just capitulated. It was
17 extraordinary when you think..
- 18 L Yes.
- 19 S ...who was calling the tune at that stage
- 20 L Yes, quite
- 21 S They seemed to have stopped at Gogololo Stadium, in Edendale.
- 22 L: uh, uh.
- 23 S There was - a football match going on..
- 24 L: yes.
- 25 S: And they chased the youngsters who were playing football, it was ...
- 26 L Oh
- 27 S: It was demonstration of power.
- 28 L: yes?
- 29 S And then on the way back, it sounds as if there was actual stoning of buses. By now, of
30 course, the people in Edendale ...
- 31 L temperatures ? Were rising?

- 1 S well, people in Edendale would have known - they had gone to the rally. they had gone
2 to the rally, this had happened
- 3 L Yes.
- 4 S 'we're going to get them on the way back '
- 5 L: Yes
- 6 S: And they did, seemingly stone few buses
- 7 L Yes.
- 8 S: I don't know if - oh, yes, that's right There was some incident involving Ntombela's
9 grandchild, who had ben the child of the - of the chief.
- 10 L: Yes
- 11 S: Chief Zigayezwe? , who was injured, seemingly -although it may have been on the
12 Monday, the Sunday or the Monday
- 13 L: Mm.
- 14 S: But that - helped to fuel the whole tension. But certainly, from the Sunday evening, there
15 was tremendous tension in the valley- through that whole week.
- 16 L Yes.
- 17 S Now we actually were, were not there, on Monday and Tuesday we were in Durban, we
18 had a meeting - clergy meeting - so we were away on the Monday and Tuesday. But
19 things started already, I think on the Tuesday. There were .
- 20 L: They did, I was on duty in this room
- 21 S Oh right, yea.
- 22 L, ...and I got 'phone call from Carmel Rickard
- 23 S: Oh .
- 24 L And I 'phoned FEDSEM about that .
- 25 S Right...
- 26 L and didn't know nothing about it??? She had said Edendale was all night
- 27 S: I think Ashdown was - was attacked that day..
- 28 L Yes, it was the first place to be attacked, wasn't it?
- 29 S We knew nothing about that, we were in Durban.
- 30 L: yes, yes. We came back Tuesday afternoon, that was the 27th and we
- 31 L: Yes

- 1 S And we came back to Elandskop that night .
- 2 L Uh. uh
- 3 S And then, in the evening I had to come to town for my mother's birthday.
- 4 L yes?
- 5 S So, I, I remember driving down through Edendale. I decided to come that way - and I
- 6 passed Ntombela's place at about six thirty and ...
- 7 L: On the 27th?
- 8 S On the 26th. .
- 9 L 26th?
- 10 S: Sorry, 27th, you're quite right, 27th.
- 11 L yes.
- 12 S And I remember noticing 'That's interesting ??? there's an awful lot of vehicles outside
- 13 this place tonight. .'
- 14 L Yes, well done???
- 15 S: And there were about - phoo- anything up to twenty vehicles there
- 16 L: Yes, yes.
- 17 S: big meeting was going on
- 18 L: yes, yes.
- 19 S: I don't remember there being any police vans, but there may well have been, but I mean
- 20 I though nothing more about that and then went down for the evening and came back And
- 21 then the next morning, that was the 28th, the Wednesday, the loud hailers went around
- 22 Ntombela had this system of a van that would go around and tell everybody ' you must
- 23 be at the Induna's place at six o'clock in the morning and you must bring your shield and
- 24 your spear and what have you.' So the people assembled at his place, from about six
- 25 o'clock that morning - no one went to work, no one was allowed to go to work
- 26 L was this the Wednesday?
- 27 S: This was the Wednesday..
- 28 L: This is the - oh, do tell the story about the women putting their dresses on inside out..
- 29 S: Oh, yes.. (They chuckle) obviously
- 30 L That was very... clever, primitive identification means wasn't it?
- 31 S It's - I don't know - it has some symbolic meaning

- 1 L. No, no
- 2 S. And they made their way down as far as Taylor's Halt, and beyond Taylor's Halt - to
3 Gezabuso and those areas.
- 4 L. Yes.
- 5 S. Now, according to John Aitchison, at the same time, the Inkatha men in those areas were,
6 were told to go up the valley, so they went up to congregate and to join with these men
7 coming down
- 8 L. yes. Now may I ask question? Those men coming from Table Mountain - were they sent
9 by the police?
- 10 S. That I don't know - I don't know how they.
- 11 L. Who would have sent those KwaZulu lorries around.
- 12 S. Ja, good question, I mean I am sure there was police involvement in the coordination of
13 the whole thing, but how.
- 14 L. Because if it had been Ntombela's people that they worked with they would have been
15 known..
- 16 S. The police would have?
- 17 L. No, the, the Inkatha people here would have known - that Table Mountain was sending
18 in reinforcements
- 19 S. Ja, ja. But that's what they were told, the people from, I forget the name of the area
20 at Table Mountain - I've got it in my folder somewhere???
- 21 L. yes, yes.
- 22 S. And that's when it, it began, I think. The, the actual attacking began somewhere around
23 9, 10 in the morning.
- 24 L. mm
- 25 S. And they first seem to have attacked Kwanyandu? Which is just below, it's beyond
26 Taylor's - it's the next drop beyond Taylors- it's kind of long, flat section of the road, and
27 then it drops again at Kwanyandu? - Gesabuzo? That area...
- 28 L. Yes.
- 29 S. And they seemed to have attacked there. And of course, as they attacked there, they,
30 people began to flee towards Edendale in great numbers.
- 31 L. Was this prior to any attack on Ashdown and that Geographical part???

- 1 S I don't know how that, how that was all coordinated, that may have been at the same
2 time. They would probably have come from
- 3 L ??? because there would be an Inkatha fought at Ashdown, at the ???
- 4 S At Sweetwaters, yes
- 5 L: It would have been easy access.
- 6 S: yes, they may have been organised at the same time.
- 7 L yes, yes.
- 8 S: But, certainly, I think the biggest attacks were up the valley
- 9 L: Yes.
- 10 S: And they drove people down, well, they drove people actually to the point of Henley dam.
- 11 L: Yes, yes.
- 12 S: And some of that area is still deserted today
- 13 L Really?
- 14 S Yes, oh yea. I drove up there last year - you - some parts of it are , are totally deserted
15 still
- 16 L Yes, yes.
- 17 S: Schools were wiped out. schools were all burnt, houses were all burnt. cattle were taken
18 as booty..
- 19 L: Yes.
- 20 S ..and so were things like TVs and beds 0- they helped themselves
- 21 L: And Ntombela didn't like it?
- 22 S: No he didn't like that - no, he said ' you, you were sent to kill, not to steal
- 23 L So they were raiding? That's about
- 24 S And of course, we weren't really aware of all this, we were. we were at the top, in fact
25 I was building church that dav
- 26 L Oh yes.
- 27 S So I went to the church site
- 28 L: yes
- 29 S: It was the strangest of days because not thing moved on the road, the road was obviously
30 blocked and was cut off
- 31 L: yes.

- 1 S Total silence. no men around - all the men had gone.
- 2 L yes
- 3 S There were only women and children in the area.
- 4 L Yes. .
- 5 S And just this eerie, eerie silence.
- 6 L. How terrifying
- 7 S It was very strange. .well, of course .
- 8 L: Puzzling .
- 9 S For while it was very puzzling what was going on.
- 10 L: yes.
- 11 S. And then we began to hear these reports and people like Carmel would 'phone up and say
- 12 'what's going on your area?'
- 13 L: Exactly
- 14 S We knew nothing!
- 15 L yes.
- 16 S. And then she would say 'all hell has broken loose down below'
- 17 L Yes, quite.
- 18 S Then, when we began to realise what had happened, at around about half past ten, I
- 19 'phoned Archbishop Hurley and I told him what was happening - gosh and he came you
- 20 know
- 21 L wasn't that marvellous?
- 22 S Hay, he drove all the way .
- 23 L: That was my next question - wasn't he ??? the Archbishop..
- 24 S He drove all the way, he arrived about one o'clock
- 25 L. Good.
- 26 S: Then I suppose, yea, well, he arrived and he arrived with Bishop Khumalo, I think, and
- 27 the two of them drove down the road and tried to see what was happening. It was rather
- 28 dangerous at that stage
- 29 L Yes, yes.
- 30 S. At that stage. . but round about - oh, probably three or four in the afternoon they began
- 31 to trickle back, the warriors -

- 1 L: This is on the Wednesday?
- 2 S: On the Wednesday, and you could see them - some of them - you could see them driving
3 cattle and so on.
- 4 L: Ah, so they had helped themselves fairly lucratively?
- 5 S: Oh, they had helped themselves, ja. And I think there was some kind of de-briefing at
6 Ntombela's place and then they all went home. That was the Wednesday, that's right.
7 And of course, the devastation that had been wreaked down below, we only found out
8 about it the next day, the Thursday.
- 9 L: I can remember John Aitchison calling - I was out at CAE again
- 10 S: Yes.
- 11 L: ... and calling us into his office and talking about how the police would come in with all
12 this ammunition
- 13 S: Yea.
- 14 L: To help them .
- 15 S: Really?
- 16 L: Mm.
- 17 S: Yea, you know I. I'd love to know the actual police role in that whole thing, because..
- 18 L: Ja, as he gets, yes, I think it should be recorded in so far as ???
- 19 S: It's very interesting to hear ..
- 20 L: ???
- 21 S: I mean, I think, I think there were probably too clever to be overtly involved.
- 22 L: Yes.
- 23 S: But they were certainly, they knew about it, they approved of it
- 24 L: Yes.
- 25 S: And they, they encouraged it
- 26 L: Oh yes.
- 27 S: And they supplied weapons and so on
- 28 L: Yes.
- 29 S: I mean there is Radley Keys' story of going up in 'plane. . you know that?
- 30 L: yes, I remember, he went up .
- 31 S: And being chased away, ja.

- 1 L: yes.
- 2 S: Ja, being told to get out of their area - they had no right to be there
- 3 L: Oh, I didn't realise, yes..
- 4 S: Ja, being told to get out of their area. They had no right to be there
- 5 L: Oh, I didn't realise the police?
- 6 S: Yea, police helicopter came and said you have no right to be here.
- 7 L: Ye. Mm.
- 8 S: Ja they were told to get out, I mean Radley had a very good bird's eye view of the whole
- 9 thing
- 10 L: Of course
- 11 S: He could see where people were congregating.
- 12 L: Yes, yes
- 13 S: and so on.
- 14 L: well, I mean it was very clever idea
- 15 S: . ja.
- 16 L: Ja, but the Witness wasn't publishing at that stage was it?
- 17 S: No, they were very
- 18 L: What chicken-hearted lot.
- 19 S: Of course, they were bound by emergency regulations.
- 20 L: I suppose so, yes
- 21 S: They had their own problems with that..
- 22 L: I hadn't thought of that, yes.
- 23 S: But I think, Fred, Fred, who was he - the journalist at the - the Witness, Fred Wink - Fred
- 24 L: I don't recall him ???
- 25 S: It was something like that - but he wrote quite lot, he was really involved in it.
- 26 L: But he wasn't on the ??? you said at your evidence??
- 27 S: Oh, they wrote, oh yea, oh, afterwards, yes.
- 28 L: And afterwards...yes, yes.
- 29 S: Ja. So that was the Wednesday
- 30 L: Oh gosh, yes
- 31 S: The Thursday, apparently, they were all called again in the morning, but no attack took

- 1 place
- 2 L. yes.
- 3 S: At least not at Elandskop. And then, some of the cattle were slaughtered and some of
- 4 them had bit of feast. They had little expression for that, they said 'zihle ubukabane' -
- 5 they were eating their - the comrades' beef??
- 6 L. Well, yes. Just like ...??? but I was too horrified to accept it.
- 7 S They were eating their comrades cattle and their goods and that.
- 8 L yes, yes.
- 9 S But..
- 10 L And meantime, refugees were pouring into town. .
- 11 S Pouring down into here.
- 12 L: ..in their thousands.
- 13 S: I think there were other attacks on that day, but not up in our area.
- 14 L No
- 15 S: I think they may have been down, down here, in Ashdown
- 16 L Yes
- 17 S: But the, of course, the dramatic thing for us is what happened in the evening,
- 18 L: Of course.
- 19 S: Thursday, the 28th. It was about, let me see. it was about. nine thirty that evening - we
- 20 were watching television. Some stupid American programme.
- 21 L. yes
- 22 S: And young man came running up to the mission, and said - it was comedy we were
- 23 watching that night. and said 'they are attacking us- they're burning huts in the Sangosima
- 24 area.' So I immediately 'phoned the police at Boston.
- 25 L Yes.
- 26 S: Because I knew, I knew the police at Boston and they're regular SAP guys. they weren't.
- 27 they weren't. .
- 28 L. yes. no they weren't from this crowd.
- 29 S: And they were nice guys. I knew them.
- 30 L: Yes
- 31 S: I 'phoned them and I said 'please send a van. we've got problem over the hill.' Now

- 1 technically speaking they weren't allowed to go into Vulindlela, but, I mean I had no
2 alternative - who else to get and I didn't want to go rushing in there on my own
- 3 L: No, quite.
- 4 S: So, I - we waited, and waited and we waited. Half an hour, nothing happened
- 5 L: Uh, uh
- 6 S: So I took this guy with me and I said 'let's go and see what has happened.' We drove just
7 over the lip of the hill .
- 8 L: yes
- 9 S: And we could see these huts burning on the right - in the UDF area
- 10 L: yes
- 11 S: ...Sangosama, an area called Kokwane, which is top of the hill.
- 12 L: Yes
- 13 S: Still no police, so we decided to drive to the police station, and we drove to the police
14 station. There was one little White Constable, I remember him, Constable Wink.
- 15 L: Oh, was he? Nice name to have
- 16 S: About 4 feet high and all these Black policemen; I said 'what's - what happened, I called
17 you guys.' He said 'we haven't got vehicle.' Well, rather, the head of the police station,
18 man called Franz van Biljon, had driven off with the keys of our van and they didn't have
19 van.
- 20 L: Oh, good heavens
- 21 S: I said, 'for God's sake, I've got van, come, three or four of you, get rifles and come
22 Let's go' So at least I got three of them came with me and we drove down and we got
23 into the Kampong area and there were - I knew the area quite well, because our people
24 lived there
- 25 L: Yes.
- 26 S: Drove into the area, there were four homesteads burning and we went into them with
27 torches and the guns and there was nobody - people had fled, thank God.
- 28 L: Yes, yes.
- 29 S: The first three, the first one was an Ngcobo one, I think, I know Dlamini one and I forget
30 the third - they were empty, but the last one was a homestead dwelling on top of then hill
31 and I knew it very well

- 1 L Whose homestead was it?
- 2 S It was the homestead of our gardener.
- 3 L Oh.
- 4 S At the Mission
- 5 L Oh, yes.
- 6 S: fellow called Mncwabe, lovely old man. And it was burning furiously and we got in -
7 they'd burnt the grass huts - there was - one of the - rectangular building which wasn't
8 ..
- 9 L yes?
- 10 S: made of grass, so what hadn't been burnt, but all the windows had been smashed, and we
11 shone the torch through the window and I called for the old man and there was silence,
12 just dead silence. And I called, and I called, and eventually I said my name, and gosh,
13 after long time he came out, he was hiding behind cupboard, with his little grandchildren
- 14 L: Oh
- 15 S: And they were all alive, and they came out
- 16 L All of them?
- 17 S: ..ja. I think there were three, four little children, and I said 'what happened?' And he said
18 'Ba gede izingane zami' - 'they've finished off my children.'
- 19 L: Oh
- 20 S: But I could see these kids were alive. So he said: 'no, they've shot my daughters.' And
21 I ..
- 22 L: Oh.
- 23 S: .. walked around into back room, and there was daughter, she had been shot through the
24 window. She was lying on the ground
- 25 L: Yes.
- 26 S: Her chest was just mass of blood.
- 27 L: Oh, God..
- 28 S: She was dead, I suppose woman in her early thirties. But there was child lying
29 underneath her, the child had been trapped.
- 30 L: Was the child all right?
- 31 S: Yes, the child had been trapped by the mother's body, the child was underneath, covered

- 1 in mother's blood?
- 2 L: But...not squashed?
- 3 S: Well, it was squashed, but the - I though it was dead, you know.
- 4 L: yes.
- 5 S: but I pulled it out and it was alive!
- 6 L: wasn't that wonderful?
- 7 S: It was little boy, yea. Sihle
- 8 L: How old? Six months, two years?
- 9 S: Probably about two years. He's about...now he would be about fifteen I think.
- 10 L: H. uh ??
- 11 S: He's grown up But I ??? alive. the father took us outside to another hut, round hut and
- 12 there was another daughter there, but she - she had been shot and set alight and there..
- 13 L: Oh, no.
- 14 S: was nothing, there was nothing - it's just awful, it was horrible
- 15 L: yes.
- 16 S: So, we took the children and the old man and accompanied by the police. I went back to
- 17 the van and I said 'we'll take you to the Mission, yo sleep at the mission tonight '
- 18 L: Yes.
- 19 S: You can imagine this
- 20 L: Of course.
- 21 S: And we drove back to the Mission and this I will never forget
- 22 L: yes?
- 23 S: As we got to the Mission, turned left at the crossroads, I saw this police van and these
- 24 three figures in the dark.
- 25 L: Yes?
- 26 S: So, I stopped when I realised they were policemen..
- 27 L: Yes?
- 28 S: ...and David Ntombela
- 29 L: No.
- 30 S: ... in the middle.
- 31 L: Gosh!

- 1 S And he was standing with these ammunition belts across his
 2 L bandolier?
 3 S ja, bandolier, ja, ja, gun in each hand. I think. But it certainly had the ammunition belt
 4 across the - and these two White cops. Well
 5 L And were they armed?
 6 S They were armed as well, ja - not like that, but.
 7 L No, no.
 8 S the usual. So I stopped, and I said to them in Afrikaans ' We've just come from a house
 9 over there, and there were two bodies you will find, and we're taking the survivors into
 10 the Mission. He didn't say word, he didn't say word, and I got back into the van and I
 11 drove another hundred metres and I suddenly, it just became so clear as daylight - I said
 12 to the man next to me 'he did that '
 13 L Of course
 14 S And, and the guy said to me 'without doubt, Father.' I mean 'you idiot ' Where do ??
 15 (inaudible as Ruth is laughing and speaking at the same time)
 16 L ?? You don't know.
 17 S It was so obvious.
 18 L yes.
 19 S because, to have got to the Mission, Ntombela would have had to drive past those humming
 20 huts
 21 L Of course.
 22 S If he was concerned about what had happened in the huts, he would have gone there.
 23 L yes.
 24 S ... we would have seen him there. Why did he come to the Mission?
 25 L yes..
 26 S With these two policeman, except that he knew that I had gone there. ...
 27 L yes?
 28 S and that ...
 29 L And he wanted to see what was ...
 30 S What I was doing there
 31 L yes

- 1 S: And so did the other two cops as well
- 2 L: Yes, and you, innocently told them
- 3 S: Innocently... Oh, it was ?? I mean it was so obvious.
- 4 L: yes
- 5 S: Afterwards
- 6 L: Ntombela must have been ...
- 7 S: There was never - there was police investigation, nothing ever happened.
- 8 L: Nothing ever happened
- 9 S: I mean I made statements and nothing ever happened.
- 10 L: What inheritance do we have?
- 11 S: No it's terrible, ja.
- 12 L: It's terrible, isn't it?
- 13 S: Ja, and lot of people are to blame, I mean, not just people like David..
- 14 L: lot of people are to blame...
- 15 S: ...the police are certainly to blame the apartheid police
- 16 L: The legal people.
- 17 S: I'm afraid the legal people are to blame - the pathetic .
- 18 L: Showing or lack of showing.
- 19 S: yea, yea, the criminal justice system
- 20 L: yes.
- 21 S: ... that just failed those people.
- 22 L: No, there's been quite ...
- 23 S: and - and we are paying for it now.
- 24 L: You see one's memory, my memory of being quiet and living in town is of those church
- 25 led marches...
- 26 S: mmm.
- 27 L: ... for the UDF which were
- 28 S: Right.
- 29 L: exhilarating, and which I think we may have to review at some stage.
- 30 S: Ja.
- 31 L: There, there was a feeling of cause, and cause that was being dealt with. .

1 S: yes

2 L: in the name of the good..as you might say

3 S: Yes

4 L: Ja But..

5 S: Ja. ja. no. it's terrible legacy ?? This .

6 L: There's no. tradition.

7 S: Ja.

8 L: You see.for these young people to pick up is there?

9 S: Well. I think the disturbing thing about the criminal justice system. In any case, the

10 average Zulu living in rural area. had very little faith in the justice system. some. some

11 but not much

12 L: Yes. but.

13 S: I mean. but not much, because he hasn't seen much justice - he's seen Indunas with

14 tremendous power. and that. Now. when he sees these kind of things happening and the

15 police actually helping those sort of things. Actually murdering people, actually assisting

16 tyrants to control their areas

17 L: Yes. .

18 S: Then his faith is reduced to zero.

19 L: Yes.

20 S: And then when he sees man like Nkabinde tried for murder and acquitted .

21 L: On sixteen counts

22 S: On sixteen counts, who then goes and kills all the witnesses, all their families I mean you

23 can imagine that has multiplying effect.

24 L: Of course

25 S: On. on the destruction of the criminal justice system.

26 L: of course, of course

27 S: Now. no one is ver going to stand up in court and point finger at Nkabinde.

28 L: No

29 S: He's dead.

30 L: Yes.

31 S: He's dead man, so he won't do that.

- 1 L Yes, no he won't
- 2 S: So you might as well have given man like that -as Ntombela, life long immunity
- 3 L: Yes, quite.
- 4 S: You might has well have said to them, 'go ahead, do what you want...'
- 5 L: Just kill what you ???
- 6 S: Kill everybody you want '
- 7 L: Do what you like.
- 8 S: Ja.
- 9 L: yes.
- 10 S: So, we have actually done it ourselves. We have destroyed the criminal justice system
- 11 L: Yes.
- 12 S: Through what the police did, the Attorneys-General..
- 13 L: Yes, yes.
- 14 S: And so on, we have actually destroyed it.
- 15 L: I feel sorry, you know, to end - can't we.
- 16 S: ???
- 17 L: ...can't we think of something that will ...
- 18 S: No, the only saving thing, I think in the whole picture is the Truth Commission.
- 19 L: yes.
- 20 S: Because I think, I don't know if you want to hear it.
- 21 L: yes, I would like to know what you think of this.
- 22 S: I think that week of the Truth Commission, that we had in 'Maritzburg was wonderful.
- 23 L: Well, it was because I attended just about - I think I came to all of them.
- 24 S: Did you? Oh.
- 25 L: Yea, yea.
- 26 S: It wasn't wonderful in the way that the TRC thought of it - I think they - they thought it
- 27 was a disaster.
- 28 L: Did they, oh?
- 29 S: Well, I think they were very embarrassed, it really got out of control
- 30 L: Yes.
- 31 S: They didn't realise what they had opened up here

- 1 L: No, no.
- 2 S: But for me it was wonderful, and why? Because around Ntombeia and the IFP and that
3 whole Seven Day War there has been veil of silence.
- 4 L: Yes
- 5 S: And that silence has been protected by terror.
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 S: Terror in everybody's heart. I mean all the people who live in the valley.
- 8 L: Yes, yes.
- 9 S: And it was even expressed on the Monday we arrived on the Monday evening, we were
10 having tea with some of the witnesses and they were saying 'do you think he will come?'
- 11 L: Yes, yes.
- 12 S: Never mentioning who the 'he' was, we all knew who the 'he' was, but even to mention
13 the name .
- 14 L: yes
- 15 S: ...of Ntombela, was, was terrifying.
- 16 L: yes
- 17 S: ...so people didn't. We broke that pattern, we broke that on the Tuesday and the
18 Wednesday, because several people, I was among them
- 19 L: Yes.
- 20 S: ...but many other people
- 21 L: Yes
- 22 S: got up and said 'David Ntombela and Inkatha did this.'
- 23 L: Yes, quite.
- 24 S: And we saw that happen and it broke something in people. And by the Wednesday, when
25 Ntombela came, the terror was gone and was replaced by anger, and I think that was
26 wonderful, it was kind of liberation inside people
- 27 L: I, I think it must have been that week, Joan Kerchhoff and I had been there from early
28 morning...
- 29 S: Mm
- 30 L: ...and I said to her 'I really can't go on sitting here - I need to get a sandwich..
- 31 S: Mmm

- 1 L So, we went up to the Cathedral to get it, and walked back, not realising the shift of
2 forces that had ...
- 3 S We have, it's happening in the
4 L ...and there was Ntombela behind us with about fifty men..
- 5 S Yea..
- 6 L ..with guns ..
- 7 S Yes.
- 8 L ...do you see?
- 9 S: yea
- 10 L yea, you see?
- 11 S Yea.
- 12 L And then, ultimately he came onto the platform.
- 13 S: That's right
- 14 L ...and as you know, the hall emptied pretty smartly.
- 15 S: Ja..
- 16 L ...and saw him across the way to parliament ..
- 17 S: yes, yes, it was great??
- 18 L ...which I mean I'm sure he had no experience of that?
- 19 S Oh, it was wonderful, I mean it was electric in the hall. You were in the hall when he was
20 there?
- 21 L Yes, yes.
- 22 S: Yes, it was absolutely electric, I mean...
- 23 L yes..
- 24 S: Not just the - on the part of the crowd, but on his part - I mean the kind of disdain with
25 which he looked at everyone - it was almost incredible ..
- 26 L Yes..
- 27 S: ...that, really, the expression of evil, but, but it was great. I think for te people To have
28 had their stories told..
- 29 L For the people!
- 30 S: ...and to have got rid of that terror.
- 31 L: Yes, yes.

- 1 S um
- 2 L. No, no, it was a catharsis
- 3 S. It was a real catharsis. Whether anything will happen, I mean I think that things should
- 4 happen, whether they will.
- 5 L. Ja. we'll have to wait and see that .
- 6 S. .just .
- 7 L. But at the moment, as you say, there were ? Hamstrung with Nkabinde
- 8 S. Ja. But to get the truth out was major thing
- 9 L. Yes, yes it was
- 10 S. And .
- 11 L. Well, thank you very much..
- 12 S. Okay
- 13 L. .indeed
- 14 S. It was pleasure. Good.
- 15
- 16 (That is the end of the second side)