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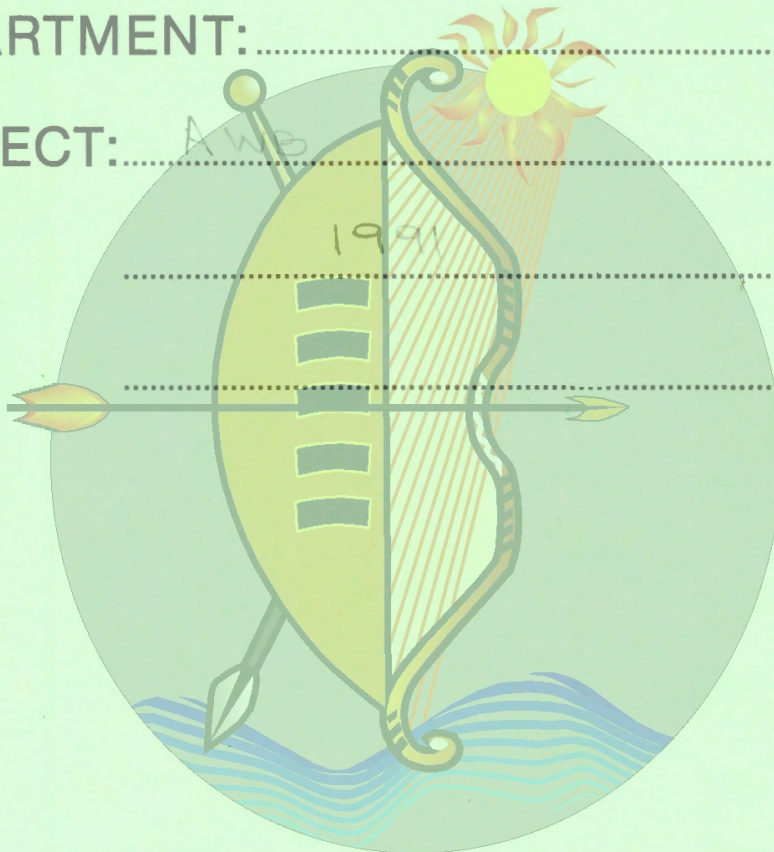


DURBAN-WESTVILLE

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DEPARTMENT:

SUBJECT: *AWB*



POLITICAL ORGANISATION : A W B

SUNDAY TIMES
6/01/1991

Author warns ex-AWB men major threat

SPLINTER groups that were nurtured in the militancy of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging — and have now broken away — pose the greatest threat of violence to a new South African society.

This is the conclusion of the first book on the SA right-wing, entitled *Victory or Violence: the story of the AWB*, which is to be released soon.

The book says existing and former AWB members have splintered into at least 20 cells. The individuals are often well-trained and motivated and pose "the greatest potential for violence".

Author Arthur Kemp uses his right-wing connections to describe the rise of militancy within the AWB.

He says while there is no central controlling authority planning a right-wing terror or sabotage campaign, the possibility of one being formed in a future, black-ruled SA must be taken into account.

Structure

The AWB's official militant wing is now called Wenkommandos — named after a trekker commando which fought the Zulus, according to Kemp.

The Wenkommandos train on remote farms and anyone who inquires after their activities is told, according to Kemp, that they are "preparing for the day when chaos breaks out".

Kemp does not give numbers of commandos under arms. However, he says AWB sources told him

By LESTER VENTER
Political Correspondent

the Wenkommandos' predecessor, Aquila, had about 300 fully-trained men, with several hundred part-time Aquilas spread throughout the country.

"Terre Blanche and the AWB have succeeded in dramatically radicalising and militarising a large number of whites.

Problems

"Those who think that this spirit of militancy has been dissipated are very wrong. It is there and promises to give problems to any future government of SA."

But the book is also bound to create problems for AWB leader Eugene Terre Blanche, who does not emerge from the account of his organisation in a very good light.

The book carries a detailed account of the relationship between Terre Blanche and former Sunday Times columnist Jani Allan.

The AWB's constitution for its planned Boerestaat decrees that, based on Biblical injunction, women may never hold a position of authority over men.

S. Times 20 Jan 1991

AWB declares

Racial clash looms
after punch-up in
small Karoo town

20 JANUARY 1991

SUNDAY TIMES

apartheid

pool war



A BITTER race battle is looming in a small rural town where armed right-wingers have vowed to use force to stop black residents from using the municipal swimming pool, now officially open to all races.

After a punch-up at the pool this week, Daniel Bothma, kommandant of the AWB in De Aar, vowed: "We will not allow blacks at our swimming pool."

But black residents of the Cape railway junction town are equally determined to swim at the formerly whites-only pool, setting the scene for a potentially explosive showdown.

In the violent incident, coloured teachers and schoolchildren using the pool were allegedly assaulted by white residents. The

AWB has denied it was responsible for the attack, claiming that most of the crowd were supporters of the National and Conservative parties.

"We did not see the violence which began after a coloured youth molested a white girl at the pool," said Mr Bothma.

Black residents said, however, that Mr Bothma and other AWB members were part of the group which allegedly attacked the teachers and children with fists and a bicycle chain.

Sonja Bothma, the kommandant's wife, said an NP member had phoned to ask the AWB to help prevent blacks from using the pool.

Pleasure

"Swimming is all we've got in De Aar for leisure and relaxation. The pool is our only pleasure. Whites will not swim when coloureds are in the water," said Mrs Bothma.

Whites were also bitter that blacks were moving into white residential area, said Mr Bothma.

With voice raised and hands shaking, he declared: "We won't accept them in our neighbourhood.

"I refuse to serve in the SADF because they gave South-West to the communists. If I'm away, who is going to look after my wife and children?"

He claimed the president had initiated the "new South Africa" to legitimise his son's relationship with a coloured woman.



ZANUS IMMELMAN
Man in the middle

together and we grow up together. There's enough space for all, so why should there be problems?"

The town's swimming pools were open and steps would be taken to ensure that every resident was able to swim there, he said.

Jeremy Davids, chairman of the De Aar Residents' Association, said the town council was trying to "play down" the extent of racism at De Aar.

"We still have job reservation — not a single coloured person is employed as a cashier or teller in any of the town's financial institutions," he said.

"The library is open — yet blacks have been told they can't join because the library was overcrowded and membership had been

Facility

Mr F W de Klerk and the government were "traitors", he said.

The 19 victims of the alleged assault told how white youths demanded that they leave — in spite of assurances by pool superintendent Piet Cilliers that all races were allowed to use the facility.

When the group tried to leave in their bakkie, they were surrounded by white residents shouting abuse.

Said teacher Darwin Solomons: "They were screaming, calling us hot-rots and kaffirs."

He said the terrified children cowered from a rain of blows as the crowd attacked them while they were on the back of the bakkie. Eventually, the vehicle started and the group "escaped".

Isolated

Mr Solomons said Sheraldine Damoense, 6, was punched in the eye, Darwin Solomons, 8, was slapped in the face and Charne Barth, 8, was left screaming and crying after being choked.

"I don't understand why they did that to me," she told the Sunday Times. However, De Aar mayor Zanus Immelman denied that De Aar was a hotbed of racial tension.

"The pool incident was an isolated affair between small groups on the right and left who are trying to create problems. If they succeed, everybody will be losers."

He said the incident had been blown out of proportion and he feared that the image of the town was being damaged.

"We are a small platteland community. We live

closed. No schools have been opened – we question the sincerity and integrity of the white population.

“They support the AWB with their hearts, but economic interests prevent them from showing it. If this is not the case, they are welcome to prove us

wrong.” De Aar had been the scene of increasing right-wing activity, he said.

Mixed couples had been harassed by the AWB and a young white man dating a coloured girl was assaulted, stripped naked and left 10km outside town. A white

woman supporter of Dara had a stone, inscribed with racist slogans, thrown through her shop window.

“We are going to give the police a chance to defend us. If they don't, we will be forced to take the law into our own hands,” Mr Davids

said. The police were racist, he alleged.

“The reason we question the integrity of the police is that they allow the AWB to gather with dogs, sticks, uniforms and weapons without fear of arrest.”

Police liaison officer

Major Carel van der Westhuisen denied that De Aar police were racists.

“We are here to serve and protect every resident, regardless of their colour,” he said.

An investigation of the pool incident was still in progress, he said.