Bombs destroy office of S. Africa ruling

JOHOHANNESBURG, South Africa - Two explosions devastated offices of the ruling National Party a day after death threats to President Frederik de Klerk and Black leader Nelson Mandela prompted a major tightening of security around national leaders.

No one claimed responsibility for the bombs.

It was not clear if the blasts were related to threats on the lives of Mr. de Klerk, several Cabinet members and Mr. Mandela believed made by a member of the White-separatist Afrikaner Resistance Movement reported June 22, in the Liberal Afrikaans weekly Vrye Weekblad.

One of the bombs blew apart the National Party's Auckland Park office in suburban Johannesburg and the other exploded at party offices at Helderkruin, a satellite town west of Johannesburg.

Vrye Weekblad reported that a former Nazi in the White-separatist Afrikaner Resistance Movement - known as the AWB - masterminded a plot to shoot Mr. Mandela on his return from a 14-nation tour July 18, to kill Mr. de Klerk and to take unspecified action against several Cabinet members as a prelude to a right-wing takeover of the government.

The weekly said the AWB intended to destroy major powers stations and dams, blow up the giant Soccer City stadium in Johannesburg's Soweto township and revive a project to poison Soweto's drinking water, which could kill 1 million Blacks.

Two extremist groups, the White Wolves and the Farmers' army placed a bounty of $7,600 on the head of the person they think leaked a story of the assassination plot to the Vrye Weekblad. The perceived source of the leak, retired security policeman Jan Johannes Smith, who said he had independently infiltrated the AWB out of concern for national security, reportedly went into hiding as the newspaper report hit the streets.

Police have released 11 right-wingers they had detained last week in relation to the plot. The Afrikaans Beeld newspaper said police searched of the homes of the 11 revealed so little they had to be released.

However, prosecutors said they have some evidence and must decide how to proceed.

"We're still taking this seriously. Everything will be done to ensure any plot is nipped in the bud," a Department of Justice official said.

AS THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT approved a major reform bill scraping the Separate Amenities Act, Blacks and Whites began sharing facilities in a Johannesburg park.

Blacks mark 'Soweto Day'

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - Tens of Thousands of Black South Africans marked the 14th anniversary of the Soweto uprising in a festive atmosphere recently that contrasted sharply to the somber gatherings of the past.

The dirt strip surrounding the Soweto's packed 15,000-capacity Jabulani Stadium, where people clambered up scaffolding to catch a glimpse of the speakers, teemed with dozens of stalls selling African National Congress souvenirs. Choirs staged impromptu performances.

The militant slogans of previous years supporting a 29-year guerrilla struggle against South Africa's White minority rule were absent.

Outside the Soweto township's Orlando West stadium, young Black activists danced to reggae music in the parking lot crammed with buses festooned with bunting.

Compared to the somber gatherings in the past years, many of an estimated 56 meetings to mark June 16, 1976 - when the Black township Soweto exploded in the nations's bloodiest protest at a cost of at least 1,000 lives - reflected the optimism among Blacks as a result of sweeping racial reform.

The Soweto uprising, a landmark in the blacks' struggle for equality, was a protest to a government decision to impose Afrikaner language on Black schools which use English in classrooms.

Police break up press briefing in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya - Police forcibly broke up a news conference June 21, called by leading Kenyan lawyers to accuse the government of harassment and of curtailing freedom of speech in the African country.

"The government is posing a serious threat to the constitution itself, the government is becoming increasingly authoriarian," Gibson Kamau Kuria, an internationlly known human rights lawyer, told reporters before the meeting was disbanded.

Mr. Kuria and two other lawyers were addressing members of Kenya's special branch police force burst into the room, ordering everyone to disperse.

They confiscated a notebook from a radio reporter of the British Broadcasting Corp. and film from a local journalists's camera before allowing the press to leave the downtown office.

Earlier police tried to arrest two leading advocates of a multi-party political system for Kenya, Kenneth Matiba and Charles Rubia. A week earlier an armed gang had raided Mr. Matiba's home.

Kenya, ruled by the one-party government of President Daniel Arap Moi, has been tense in recent months following major riots that were sparked by the unsolved murder of Foreign Minister Robert Ouko last February.

Former politicians and church leaders have become increasingly vocal in their call for a multi-party democratic system in the east African nation.

Mr. Moi, declared Kenya a one-party state in 1982, has accused multi-party supporters of being "misguided tribalists" and warned that government opponents would be dealt with strongly.

"I will not hesitate to take stern measures against those bent on undermining the country's security," Moi said in a speech broadcast nationwide by the state-run radio. "Whoever provokes the majority of Kenyans is provoking me. Advocates of multi-party must know that all Kenyans are behind me.

Mr. Moi ordered an end to all multi-party debate while addressing one of a series of large political raillies around the populated countryside.

Mr. Kuria told reporters his order, in effect, suspends freedom of speech.

"One cannot practice law in this sort of environment," he said at the start of the ill-fated news conference.

Also, the Catholic Bishops of Kenya have issued a letter condemning the victimization of people who express their opinions.

"This is a direct infringement of freedom of speech enshrined in our constitution," the letter said.

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PRESIDENT BUSH MEETS with Namibian President Sam Nujoma in the Oval Office. The two men, along with Secretary of State James Baker (right) discussed relations between the two countries. Mr. Nujoma said later he was confident the U.S. would increase aid to newly independent Namibia.

TASTE

"A personal statement"

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Liberia inches toward peace

MONROVIA, Liberia

Six months of civil war appeared to have ground to a temporary stalemated halt in Liberia, Western diplomats in the capital said.

With peace talks about to resume between government and National Patriotic Front rebels, senior diplomats and military experts said they believed rebel leader Charles Taylor had decided to bide his time and not launch an all-out attack on Monrovia.

With the rainy season in progress - dumping the first of the country's annual 15 feet of rain across the humid peninsula- living conditions in Monrovia would rapidly become intolerable and the population exposed to disease, they said.

"It's not a real siege," the European diplomat said. "You can still get in and out, but there's no foreign credit to buy anything with."

Liberia has lost 80 percent of its export earnings since Taylor, a disgraced former bureaucrat, led a force of only about 200 men across the border of neighboring Ivory Coast, determined to unseat President Samuel Doe.

Almost all the country's currency earners - chiefly iron ore mines and rubber plantations- are now in rebel hands.

Liberian Information Minister Emmanuel Bowier meanwhile told a news conference the government was serious about its conciliatory moves in the past week, when it re-legalized two political parties and offered a general amnesty to all the rebels, including Taylor.

"All charges against him have been, dropped," he said. "He can come home, sit down and have a drink.

But, he said, President Doe would not resign - the rebels' chief demand and the sticking point of the peace talks.

LIBERIAN EVACUEE Jartu Scshulterbrant enjoys a chocolate cupcake from Salvaton Army cadet Mark Shultz at the airport in Charleston, S.C. She was brought to the U.S. by a missionary after fighting broke out near her village in Liberia.

CHURCH OF THE WEEK:

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

Pastor Rev. Stancil and Pastor Gillard

Brother John Taylor

By Evan Theresa Mercer
AFRO Church Writer

In 1950, Rev. P. C. Lane and Rev. Wise led other members who had been a part of United Baptist Church to begin a new work.

This new work, originally located at 963 North Washington Street, was named Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

The first two years presented many struggles for the infant church. It was the determination of her members that caused Mount Carmel to overcome every obstacle.

Even in it's struggle, the church experienced growth spiritually, financially and numerically.

Two years after her birth, being led of the Holy Spirit, Mt. Carmel called the Rev. Oscar Stancil, then, a member of Zion Baptist Church, to be their pastor.

Rev. Stancil, a native of Bayboro, N.C., the son of a preacher, is an educated multi - talented preacher who provided dynamic leadership for the church for a period of 35 years.

Rev. Stancil's wife, Blanche, had a charismatic personality and a caring spirit that helped many to find Christ. Mother Stancil as she was called, was one of the original members of the East Baltimore Mother's Club.

Rev. Stancil and his wife, brought to Mt. Carmel a dual ministry that enabled the church to reach new heights.

Many ministries and auxiliaries were established under Rev. Stancil's ministry. The Willing Workers, Pastor's Aid, Junior Choir, Gospel Choir, Flower Circle, Male Chorus, Senior Choir, Board of Christian Education, a Praying ministry and counseling ministries were also added.

Rev. Stancil also led Mount Carmel into a fellowship with St. David Lutheran Church, (located in Hanover, Pa.) that has lasted for over 30 years.

Rev. Stancil and Mount Carmel became a part of the Maryland Baptist Convention.

Mount Carmel has always been known for assisting young preachers in their ministries.

Several noted ministers who are pastoring or have pastored in Baltimore, launched their initial revival campaigns at Mount Carmel are:

Rev. Leander Brown, of New Mt. Carmel Star Baptist Church; Rev. Clifford Johnson, of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church;

The late Rev. Lorenza Graves of Mount Calvary Baptist Church; the late bishop Edward Stancil, of Temple of God Pentecostal Church;

Rev. E. L. Smith - Austin, Rev. Carl Washington and the late Rev. Erastus Johnson, of Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

Mt. Carmel opened its door so that other ministers could come forth: Rev. Marvel Waters, Rev. Earl Slade, and many, many more.

Rev. Marvel Waters, Associate Pastor

Mount Carmel has also assisted many pastors in the ordination and licensing of ministries.

In 1967, Mount Carmel moved into its present site at 2230 Harford Road. The church renovated what was a hardware store into a chapel. The back was made into a dining area.

Downstairs was converted into classrooms and a special section was turned into a baptismal pool. The church continued to grow.

With the retirement of Rev. Stancil, the church chose its assistant pastor, Rev. Erastus Johnson, in 1987. Rev. Stancil became pastor emeritus.

Rev. Johnson was a stern pastor who sought to bring changes to Mt. Carmel that would prepare them for the decade of the nineties. Rev. Johnson and his wife Demerious worked diligently in many humbling capacities.

After the untimely death of Rev. Johnson, in August of 1989, Rev. Leroy Gilliard Jr. was called to Mount Carmel from New Friendship Baptist Church to lead the Mount Carmel family.

Mt. Carmel, a church known for love and caring, sought a pastor who was compassionate, warm, intelligent with strong leadership abilities. Rev. Gilliard is that man of God.

"In all that he has to do, Rev. Gilliard, takes the time to visit and bring my father communion," states Mrs. Pearl Woingust, daughter of Rev. Stancil. "His visits mean so much to my ailing father, now 90 years old."

Rev. Gilliard is not only compassionate, he is a man with a vision for the work of the Lord Jesus Christ for Mt. Carmel.

Rev. Gilliard's vision highlights out-reach.

"My vision for the church, I try to align with the vision of Christ.

There were three things that Christ said that really stood out in my heart as a minister.

(Continued on Page D3)

All Photos by Ray Gilbert

(L to R) Evangelist Theresa Mercer, sitting—Rev. Walters, Rev. Quay T. Rich, men's day speaker and Pastor of Bread of Life Baptist Church, Pastor of Mr. Carmel Baptist, Rev. Leroy Gillard.

The men of Mt. Carmel celebrating Men's Day.

A WORD OF HOPE

By Maxine L. Wallace

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth." Psalm 145:18.

My friend, we serve a mighty God . . . a powerful God . . . a loving God . . . a merciful God . . . an all knowing God . . . an eternal God . . . a sovereign God.

We serve a God who is intimately concerned about all of our ways . . . a God who loves us with an undying love . . . an unfailing love . . . a life giving, self - sacrificing love. What a mighty God we serve!

Whatever cares you are faced with today, know that God will bring you through. He specializes in doing the impossible . . . He specializes in doing the supernatural. My friend, God is able.

And the Bible says that the Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him. The Lord God omnipotent is nearer than your very breath. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him.

My friend, when you are faced with hard times, who do you call upon? When all around your soul gives way, who do you turn to. And so it is that some people turn to friends, when they are in trouble.

But a song writer said, There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus. You see some friends are with you when you're up . . . when you are meeting some need that they have . . . when your friendship is an asset to them.

Some friends are with you when you got money and everything is on the up and up. But I'm so glad that Jesus is my best friend.

He's my friend when I'm up and when I'm down. He won't turn His back on me. Deep down on the inside I have come to realize that come what may, Jesus won't let me down.

My friend, who do you call on when your sky becomes cloudy and gray? Some people call on Johnny Walker.

And so it is that they try to forget about life's problems by drowning them out with alcohol. Some people call on Virginia Slim.

They've got to have a cigarette to calm their nerves . . . Some people call up "Sister Lisa" when trouble knocks at their door.

Well, I don't know about you, but, I've got to call on someone I can depend on . . . I've got to call on someone who won't let me down . . . I trust in God, I know He Cares for me . . . upon the land, or on the stormy sea . . . though billows roll . . . He keeps my soul . . .

My heavenly Father watches over me. I can call Him up in the midnight hour . . . and He won't say, It's too late at night, call me back tomorrow . . . I can call Him up morning, night, or noon, and I won't get a busy signal . . . won't no answering machine come on.

I can call Him up and tell Him what I want. Hallelujah!

If you're feeling all down and out . . . ain't got no joy . . . ain't got no peace of mind . . . ain't got no hope for tomorrow . . . call up Dr. Jesus.

He'll be with you when you go through the valley . . . David said, Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me . . .

My friend, when you call on Jesus, He'll be right there . . . God will be with you when you go through the waters . . . the waters won't be able to sweep over you . . . Can't no wave take you under, when you have the King of Kings by your side . . . when you have the Prince of Peace by your side . . . when you have the Ancient of Days in your midst.

My friend, the Lord wants to bless you . . . He wants to work a miracle in your life . . . He wants to make a way out of no way for you . . . He wants to heal your body . . . He wants to establish you . . . He wants to settle you . . . He wants to plant your feet on higher ground.

The Bible says, Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find, knock and the door shall be opened unto you . . . Oh, how God loves you . . . He really loves you . . . He wants to make the difference in your life.

Lift up your hands and say, Lord, I need a break-through. Tell the Lord all about it . . . Have a little talk with Jesus, and tell Him all about your problems.

Now, experience His healing presence . . . His loving presence . . . His holy presence. The Bible says, In His presence is fullness of joy.

In His presence, my broken - ness is made whole . . . In His presence, my tears of sorrow are turned into tears of joy . . . My two fish and five loaves are multiplied . . . my issue of blood is dried up . . . my weaknesses become my strong points . . . my inabilities become God's possibilities . . . stumbling blocks set for me become stepping stones . . .

In His presence, my joy is made complete. Hallelujah! Come on and give the Lord . . . the Lord a praise . . . Hallelujah!

A Word of Hope may be heard every Monday through Friday at 5 p.m. on WASA 1300 AM Radio.