



AL3098 - The SADF Contact Bureau TRC Submission

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Abstract: The South African Defence Force (SADF) Contact Bureau was an organisation of members of the former SADF. The panel of the Contact Bureau included four retired generals: MA Malan, CL Viljoen, JJ Geldenhuys, AJ Liebenberg. In 1997 the four generals convened a symposium with the intention "to counteract the one-sided, negative image of the former SADF that had arisen as a result of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) proceedings in South Africa." A letter of criticism was written at the symposium and sent to the TRC.

Introduction

The South African Defence Force Contact Bureau was an organization of members of the former South African Defence Force (SADF). The panel of the Contact Bureau consisted of four retired chiefs of the former SADF. These are Generals MA Malan, CL Viljoen, JJ Geldenhuys and AJ Liebenberg. On 30 August 1997 the Generals organized the 'SADF Symposium and Reunion'. The intention of the symposium was, according to its conveners, 'to counteract the one-sided, negative image of the former SADF that had arisen as a result of the TRC proceedings in South Africa'.

The four aforementioned retired generals each read a paper at the symposium. A letter was drafted at the symposium and sent to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). It criticizes the TRC for its apparent bias towards the African National Congress (ANC), its apparent prejudice against the former SADF and white South Africans and a history of the former SADF.

Effectively the contents of the letter are an apology of Apartheid's state-sanctioned violence against its political opponents and a further criminalization of oppositional politics and activities of the liberation movements

The papers that were delivered at the SADF Symposium and Reunion as well as the letter of the Contact Bureau are reproduced as full texts on the following website:<http://home.wanadoo.nl/rhodesia/samilhis.htm>

Included in this collection is a press release of a complaint lodged by the Generals to the Public Protector. Response to this complaint is documented in the 'The TRC Report of the Office of the Public Protector' (AL3062/E 3).

Notes

Included in this collection is the letter of criticism to the TRC and a press release of a complaint lodged by the Generals with the Office of the Public Protector.

Materials collected from TRC Archival Audit.

The TRC Archival Audit



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Between 2003 and 2006, SAHA and Historical Papers, University of Witwatersrand embarked on a project to locate, retrieve and make available records relating to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC). The project entailed conducting an archival audit of all existing TRC records in order to identify and locate documentation in danger of being lost.

In the process of conducting the archival audit, SAHA and HP located many collections from individuals and organizations that participated in the TRC process, including this collection. Selections from these materials as well as TRC related material found in the freedom of Information Collection and other pre-existing SAHA and HP collections, were digitized and can be accessed online at <http://truth.wvl.wits.ac.za/>

A guide to archival resources relating to South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission can also be found at http://www.saha.org.za/pdf/trc_directory.pdf

Classification

- 1: LETTER ADDRESSED TO TRC
- 2: PRESS RELEASE

Inventory

- 1: A letter addressed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) entitled 'Assessment of the Probable results of the Activities of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as Perceived by Former Chiefs of the SADF in respect of the SADF'. February 1998
[February 1998]
- 2: Press release: A complaint lodged with the Office of the Public Protector against the TRC by former chiefs of the SADF. No date.