MEMO ON THE CIVIL COOPERATION BUREAU (C C B)

COMPILED BY THE INDEPENDENT BOARD OF INQUIRY INTO INFORMAL REPRESSION (IBIIR).

It is not exactly clear when the C C B, or a similar unit, was formed. According to Major General A J M Joubert, previous Commander of Special Forces who has been named as the previous Chairman of the C C B, an order to establish a S A D F unit to act against organisations like the A N C was given before the 1st November 1985 by the then Chief of the S A D F, General Constand Viljoen. This order was confirmed after the 1st November 1985 when General Jannie Geldenhuys became Chief of the Defence Force. The plan to establish this unit was approved in principle by both General Geldenhuys and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan.

Apparently the C C B evolved from an existing organisation, known as D 40 - consisting mainly of ex-Rhodesian army officers. The name was later changed to Barnacle, then to 3 Reconnaissance Commando, and on the 6th April 1986 it became known as the C C B. (Harms Commission record page 61; 1251).
According to Joubert, General Constand Viljoen ordered the special forces of the SADF to form a special unit "for the maximum disruption of the ANC covertly". This was approved by the Minister of Defence. (Record page 61).

Christo Brits (an "administrative" or false name) told the Harms Commission that he joined the CCB in February 1987, when it was newly formed. (Record page 1250). (The date appears as February 1977 in the Record on page 1169 at first, but that seems to be a typographical error). However, a person who purports to have been a member of the CCB told Rapport (25/02/1990) that the CCB or its predecessors have been active inside and outside South Africa for more than 10 years. Lt. Abraham (Slang) van Zyl said in his evidence that the internal operations of the CCB only started in January 1989, as far as he knows (Page 746).
The C C B is a unit of the S A D F's Special Forces. According to Major General Eddie Webb, Commanding Officer of Special Forces and Chairman of the C C B, "Action is always aimed at identified enemies of the Republic of South Africa". (Record Page 41). The aim of the C C B is "to maximally disrupt the enemies of the State". (Record pages 70 and 535). Major General Webb is the Chairman of the C C B and under him is the so called Managing Director, Col Joe Verster. Webb testified that the Chief of the South African Defence Force had to lay projects with political or strategic implications before the Minister of Defence for approval (Page 71). General Witkop Badenhorst, Chief of Staff Intelligence, confirmed this in his evidence and also stated that the final plans for all projects had to be approved by the Chief of the S A D F. (Page 31, 71).

The organisation is divided into geographical areas, each under the command of a Regional Director, and then sub-divided into cells, each managed by a handler. Every handler has a number of operatives under his command (cf. Webb’s evidence, Record Page 42; evidence of Major General Kloppers, Page 67; evidence of Slang van Zyl, Page 534). (see Annexure A).
The C C B employs "aware" and "unaware" members (Page 43, 534). The distinction is based on the test of whether they are aware that they are working for the C C B or not. According to Webb, there are approximately 139 aware members and an unknown number of unaware members. Members of the C C B use false names to keep their identity secret (Webb Page 43, Klopper Page 69).

According to Webb, the C C B is presently busy with about 200 projects, mostly external (Page 43). However, Christo Brits (an administrative name) testified that the administrative functions of the C C B still continue, but other actions, be it offensive or defensive, have been suspended. (Page 1214). Webb is presently on suspension and has attended the hearings on the C C B every day.

The Headquarters of the C C B are situated in Pretoria West (evidence of Braam Celliers Page 1307).

According to Pieter Botes, former Regional Director of the C C B, members of the C C B work in organisations like the South African Police, Escom, the Pretoria City Council, the Department of Internal Affairs and even the National Intelligence Service (Vrye Weekblad 18/05/1990).
"Not even General Eddie Webb or Col Joe Verster knows exactly who works for the C C B. Neither one of them knows who all my operators are. Not all of my operators know who I am, either. It is an intricate system of aliases, false names and a communication channel that protects everyone." (Pieter Botes, Vrye Weekblad 18/05/90).

General Badenhorst testified that Major General Webb, the Chairman of the C C B, reports directly to General Geldenhuys (Page 12). Webb's predecessor as Chairman of the C C B was Major General A J M Joubert, according to Slang van Zyl (Page 746).

According to Botes, every C C B member had to have a civilian "cover" to prevent him from being associated with the S A D F (Vrye Weekblad 18/05/90). Christo Brits confirmed this and added that the C C B financed members to set up their own businesses (Page 1172). For example, Brits mentioned "Projek Maagd" (Project Virgin): a person was financed to start a business inside the R S A and another business in an African country. This would enable him to travel back and forth and to gather information about "hostile activities against the R S A" in the African state. (Page 1179).
Slang van Zyl also testified that when he joined the C C B in May 1988, he was told that Matthysen Busvervoer, where he would work with Staal Burger, Chappie Maree and Calla Botha, was a front organisation for the S A D F's Special Forces (Pages 526 - 527).

Brigadier Hein Pfeil, who acted as internal auditor for the C C B, admitted in evidence that he had had no formal training and that he did a mechanical audit with no access to C C B files. He only had access to a cash book that showed cash drawn in advance and the expenses that were accrued against that (Pages 75 - 79).

According to evidence before the Commission, Region 6 of the CCB was the only region responsible for internal operations. The CCB was primarily concerned with "disrupting the activities of enemies of the R S A" outside the borders of South Africa (Pages 536, 1170). Inside the country, "enemies" were as identified as the A N C, SACP, P A C, Trade Unions and even the E C C (Pages 1271, 1277).
Members of the CCB have "red" and "blue" projects. Red projects are CCB activities for which false identities are used, and blue projects are private business operations that are funded by the CCB (van Zyl Page 540, Christo Brits Page 1290).

Col Joe Verster, Managing Director of the CCB, has admitted that the CCB has its own bank accounts in foreign countries and that it buys arms in foreign countries. This was also mentioned by Pieter Botes, a former Regional Director for Swaziland and Mozambique (Vrye Weekblad 18/05/90; Beeld 15/05/90).

It is unclear whether the CCB is still continuing with operations externally. The brief of the Harms Commission does not permit evidence on external operations. Even CCB members who operated internally, like Joe Verster and "Christo Brits" have been allowed to appear at the Commission in disguise and to testify under their "administrative" names. Only a handful of CCB members - mostly in Region 6 - have been identified.
Annexure "A"

Possible Structure of the CCB

Minister of Defence
Genl. Magnus Malan

Chief of the SADF
Genl. Jannie Geldenhuys

Chairman of CCB and Officer Commanding Special Forces
Maj-Genl. Eddie Webb

Managing Director of CCB
Col. Joe Verster

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:
Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive
Location: Johannesburg
©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.