

# South African Based Spy-Kidnap Ring Revealed

PRETORIA, South Africa—Political terrorism, combining espionage with kidnapping, is being spear-headed across Africa by a secret organization with headquarters either here or in Johannesburg according to reliable sources.

Reports prevalent here claim the organization is under the direct control of the security branch of the South African Police. Other sources, however, claim the organization operates privately without any official connection with the police.

It is firmly believed to be responsible for the kidnapping of university lecturer Dennis Arthur Higgs, who was seized in Lusaka, trussed and blindfolded, and taken to Johannesburg, where he was found in a van. After action by the British government, Higgs was returned to Lusaka and is now in England.

This is not the first kidnapping of a South African political exile. A few years ago, an African political leader was kidnapped in Basutoland and turned up in the police cells in South Africa. Last year, a young colored doctor, a political exile, was kidnapped in Bechuanaland. In both cases, it was stated in court that South African police were involved.

In both cases, following protests by the British government and court actions, the men were released and allowed to return to British territory.

ABOUT A MONTH AGO, however, a South African woman, who had fled to Swaziland because she feared she would be detained under the 90-Day Detention Law (her husband had

just been detained, but has since been released), was allegedly abducted.

She disappeared mysteriously one night from Swaziland. According to one report, she was lured across the border with a promise that she would be able to fetch her children. According to another report, she was actually abducted, although no direct evidence has been produced of this allegation.

The South African Police admit that the woman, Mrs. Rosemary Wentzel, is now being held in their custody under the 90-Day Law. They say they received a tip-off from an anonymous informant and, as a result, Mrs. Wentzel is still in custody.

Now there is the Higgs kidnaping. It appears that it is impossible to prove the identity of the kidnapers. It is unlikely that the kidnaping was the work of amateur "volunteers."

FOR INSTANCE, by what method was Higgs smuggled out of Northern Rhodesia, and across either Southern Rhodesia or Mozambique and into South Africa, without being detected by the police or immigration authorities of any of these countries?

The secret organization is known to have agents in all three British High Commission territories which adjoin South Africa (Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland), in the Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Angola, in Southern and Northern Rhodesia, and in a number of African capitals, including Dar-es-Salaam and Nairobi.

Methods of communication appear to be efficient. Detailed, prompt information is available in South Africa of the movements and activities of the numerous South African political exiles, white and non-white, who are scattered over the continent.

Agents from the organization apparently fly

all over Africa with passports other than South African (most independent African states refuse to admit South African passport-holders). It seems they go in various guises, as "refugees," "foreign journalists," for example.

While there is no concrete evidence as to who these agents are or who pays them, there is little doubt that some of the information they collect finds its way to the security branch of the South African police.

## FIRST NEGRO TEACHERS FOR WHITE VIRGINIANS

STAFFORD, Va.—Two recent college graduates have become the first Negro teachers in the predominantly white schools of Virginia's Stafford County. This county seat is 42 miles south of Washington, D.C.

William Gray Jr. and Nebraska Moss Jr., graduates of Tuskegee Institute and North Carolina A&T College, respectively, are instructing industrial arts classes in the county's new junior high schools.

Stafford County's two junior highs were desegregated when they first opened under the second step

of a court-approved integration plan for county schools.

Richmond schools reportedly desegregated faculties during the recent summer session. A Roanoke school is desegregating its faculty this year under a court order. Arlington County employed Negro teachers last year in a predominantly white high school.



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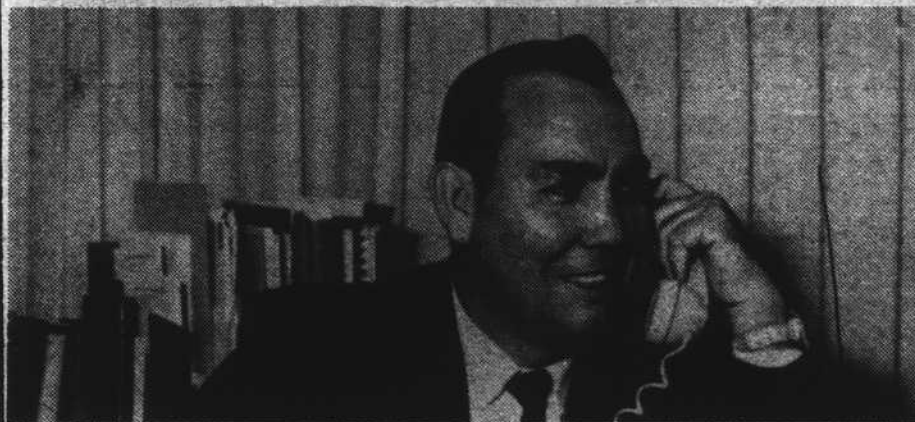
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