

IPI report ²²

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SOUTH AFRICA:

INTIMIDATION CONTINUES

While South Africans voted overwhelmingly in support of President F.W. de Klerk's reforms in last month's referendum, much still needs to be changed to ensure an effective transition to peaceful democracy, as the harassment of three British journalists shows. RAYMOND LOUW reports

JOHANNESBURG: Complaints from a number of international media organisations – including the IPI – have been streaming into the offices of President F.W. de Klerk, members of his Cabinet, South Africa's Ambassador to the United States and other officials, following the harassment by "shadowy forces" of a British foreign correspondent, John Carlin, and two British television producers, John Drury and Brenda Goldblatt.

The harassment, which began last October, while the three were engaged in the production of a video for the British Broadcasting Corporation on South African se-

curity police involvement in political violence, ranged from menacing telephone calls, attempts at – and actual – entry into their homes by men posing as "close friends," to the planting of cannabis and mandrax tablets in Mr Drury's suitcase while on a flight to London.

Mr Carlin, the Johannesburg correspondent of the British daily,

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SPAIN:

New legal threat to the press



THIRD PAPER CLOSES

CAN PRAVDA SURVIVE?



Pre-revolutionary editions of Pravda, forced to change design repeatedly in an attempt to avoid Tsarist persecution. But can the former Soviet Communist Party daily really come back from the dead?
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JOURNALIST ACCUSED OF MURDERING COLLEAGUE

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**THE MIDDLE EAST:
SHOCK MOVE IN ISRAEL**
The media in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia

**82 NEWSMAN ARRESTED
IN A SINGLE DAY**

**Cuban reporter
murdered
in New York**

AROUND EASTERN EUROPE:
Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary

SOUTH AFRICA

From page one

The Independent, suspects that South African security agents, or people associated with them, were responsible for the planting of the drugs, an action which appears to have been part of a well-thought-out plot against Mr Drury.

British customs officers had received an anonymous telephone call saying that Mr Drury would be carrying drugs, several hours before he boarded his plane at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport. He was detained at Heathrow for nine hours for questioning. Following his release, he and Mr Carlin protested to the British Ambassador in Johannesburg, which prompted the South African Government to call for a police investigation.

Police Captain Paul Mills spent a week in London investigating the allegations. He has devoted particular attention to the possibility that Mr Drury's luggage was tampered with at Jan Smuts airport and the drugs planted there and then.

Complaints

Initially, a senior police colonel had "categorically" denied the harassment claims and accused Mr Carlin of making the allegations to gain publicity for the BBC documentary. Captain Mills' investigation was instigated only after the British Ambassador and his staff had relayed Mr Carlin's complaints to the South African Foreign Minister, Roelof ("Pik") Botha, and the Law and Order Minister, Hernus Kriel.

Mr Carlin says that the harassment began after he had initiated an investigation into the connections between South African police and military security services and the endemic violence in the country.

Last October, after he had been contracted by the BBC to work on a documentary with Mr Drury and Miss Goldblatt - it was screened in London on March 10 - Mr Carlin became aware that the three were being closely watched.

In January of this year, a man posing as a video technician attempted to gain entry to Mr Carlin's house on the pretext of being sent to repair a video-recorder. Mr Carlin had not called for a repairman. Shortly afterwards, his office was burgled and an electronic address book with important addresses and a souvenir T-shirt of the AWB (the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging - Afrikaner Resistance Movement) were stolen.

Mr Drury's ordeal in London occurred on February 7. The customs officials found four bags of cannabis - it is common in South Africa, where it is called dagga - neatly packed into the suitcase and mandrax tablets strewn around his luggage.

A few days later, while Mr Carlin and Miss Goldblatt were in London, two men - one calling himself Ivan - gained entry to Miss Goldblatt's house to "fix her computer" by posing as "close friends." Ivan took a copy of Miss Goldblatt's computer hard disk. Later, two men, one also called Ivan and also posing as "close friends," tried to enter Mr Carlin's home, once again to "fix his computer," but the maid refused to let them in. She was aware that Mr Carlin had taken his computer to London. The next day, the maid and a friend were badgered with telephone calls from a man who was "desperate" to deliver a parcel to Mr Carlin.

Mr Carlin says that the British Embassy has been extremely concerned about the affair and has demanded that the matter be thoroughly investigated by the authorities.

The IPI Director, Peter Galliner, in his strongly worded letter of protest to President de Klerk, said that Mr Carlin and Mr Drury believed that the harassment and intimidation stemmed from "conversations they had had with security policemen, who confirmed - strictly off the record - that they were still targeting members of the African National Congress."

The IPI has sought an assurance from the South African Government that Mr Carlin will be able to work in safety.

A South African police headquarters spokesman, Colonel Johan Mostert, "regretted that, instead of using the available official channels for his complaints, Mr Carlin apparently found it necessary to take a cheap shot at the South African police to get free advertising for the BBC programme."

South African journalists say that the harassment and intimidation are classic military and police security tactics aimed at prising the maximum amount of information from victims and frightening them. Their intention is to ascertain the extent of their knowledge and, more importantly, to find out who their informants are.

Anti-apartheid and anti-Government activists have testified time and again to these methods having been employed against them.

'Crude intimidation'

John Battersby, chairman of the South African Foreign Correspondents' Association (he himself is correspondent of the American daily, *The Christian Science Monitor*), said that the FCA was "deeply disturbed" by the affair. He added that "the type of crude intimidation... was clear proof that the elements - which the BBC documentary sets out to show are still at work - are indeed alive and well."

Mr Battersby described Colonel Mostert's response as "totally unacceptable." Mr Carlin had kept the FCA fully informed of developments and the "FCA fully supports his decision to seek redress from his Government in a situation where his personal safety, and that of his colleagues, were threatened."

He added that, unless the culprits were dealt with, foreign journalists in South Africa "will assume that shadowy agents of the state will continue to hound them as they go about their task of reporting events in this country."

RAYMOND LOUW