

The Price of Treason

CARL NIEHAUS WITS STUDENT CUM TRAITOR

A pin could have been heard to drop in the Rand Supreme Court on that hot November afternoon when Carl NIEHAUS and his fiancée, Jansie LOURENS were sentenced on charges of high treason.

Fifteen years for NIEHAUS. Four for LOURENS. Both now 23, NIEHAUS will be 38 when he comes out of jail, LOURENS 27. NIEHAUS will have spent nearly half his adult life in jail.

The crime for which they had been sentenced — high treason — was of the utmost gravity. They could have been sentenced to death (and, indeed, in many countries, most notably the ANC's staunchest supporters, there is a mandatory death sentence for treason). Here were two young people sentenced to a very bleak future. Two young people so manifestly 'used' by others, and who were paying a heavy and justifiable penalty . . . while others who were their mentors sat by smugly, untouched, and often living in luxury safely overseas.

And all for what? In a word . . . nothing!

THE CRIME

As the *Citizen* pointed out in an editorial after the trial, NIEHAUS's crime "was not just run-of-the-mill political protest".

"NIEHAUS admitted that he had planted a pamphlet bomb in front of the recruiting office of the SADF at the Carlton Centre".

"He admitted learning a secret ANC code. He admitted that he attempted to recruit Catherine HUNTER to assist him with activities on behalf of the ANC".

"He also admitted that he had inspected the gasworks in Cottesloe (Jhb.) and had taken pictures of it for a possible sabotage attack".

"He was also convicted of helping people to escape to Botswana, where they were to be trained as ANC fighters".

"Among the pamphlets he drew up was one 'Why the Pretoria Bomb was Necessary'".

"NIEHAUS was, in fact, an active member of the ANC".

"Although LOURENS had been aware of her fiancé's subversive activities, her failure to report them to the proper authorities had, among other circumstances, assured her conviction, the judge said".

Neither is deserving of any sympathy.

As reported in the *Rand Daily Mail*, The indictment alleged that they became members and/or active supporters of the ANC at a date unknown to the State; learnt a secret ANC code; and carried out orders to further its aims.

In March 1983 they received instructions to:

- ★ Oppose the Government's constitutional plans and to promote the ANC Freedom Charter.
- ★ Start a campaign against the Draft Bill of the Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Act and to dub it "Genocide" Bill.
- ★ Oppose the Ingwavuma/kaNgwane land deals and to continue campaigning against army duty.
- ★ Distribute pamphlets furthering all these aims and to recruit a person to improve communication between them and the ANC.

One cannot help but wonder how much of the strong campaign one witnesses over these issues is the result of NIEHAUS's activities and how many more participants are acting on similar ANC directives.

Lest it be thought that they acted only on ANC orders, remember that LOURENS and NIEHAUS received information from Mr. KLEINHANS that a certain person (referred to as Mrs. 'X') in Alexandra Township was spying for the Security Police. They passed on these details to the ANC so that the person could be eliminated. This on their own initiative.

NIEHAUS also selected as a potential sabotage target the SABC. He requested a plan of the Piet Meyer Building and some information about its security measures from a SABC employee, Miss Roelie REIKSTRA.

He told Mr. Gerhardus KLEINHANS, a former student of RAU, that he wanted to blow up the office of Mr. Ian DE VRIES, a lecturer at the university's Dept. of Revolutionary Studies, because the academy had given expert evidence for the State in trials of ANC members. To this end he asked for plans of DE VRIES's office.

What all this amounts to is a systematic campaign aimed at subverting the State, this at the behest of the ANC, with the enthusiastic cooperation of NIEHAUS and LOURENS.

ANC MANIPULATION

In the trial, NIEHAUS's own lawyers said of him that he had "the requisite hostile intent to overthrow the State . . . he may be presumed to be a member of the ANC". Boldly he declared that violence, including the death of innocent people, were options which were necessary and understandable in pursuance of the ANC's fight to overthrow the system in South Africa.

Acts such as the Pretoria car bomb were necessary, and civilian deaths inevitable, he said, even going so far as to declare that the assassination of the Prime Minister may "be necessary".

In his campaign for ANC ideals, one should not believe that the ANC was as committed to NIEHAUS as was he to it. The main culprits are those involved in directing activities from Gaborone, in Botswana. People like Patrick FITZGERALD — mentioned in the trial as one of NIEHAUS's controllers — who was a NUSAS activist and ran away from the country while doing his national service. Both FITZGERALD and his close colleague, Marius SCHOON, have been named in numerous Security trials. These ex-radicals raised in NUSAS sit safely overseas or in neighbouring states, manipulating persons inside South Africa, watching as one after the other pays an extreme price for their gullibility.

NIEHAUS was well aware of what he was doing, but not of how the ANC was using him. The ANC gave him tasks that they well knew could lead to an eventual death sentence. Yet when he was caught he was abandoned by them. The evidence showed that, time and again, NIEHAUS received instructions to carry out surveillance and other operations that must have been nothing short of suicidal, and were, at the very least, doomed to failure. Sitting in jail at the moment, he has yet to receive public acknowledgement, from the ANC. He is no longer in a position where he can carry out ANC tasks so therefore the ANC now seeks out more gullible and vulnerable young people to manipulate.

And while NIEHAUS now knows the ANC's commitment to him was only a matter of expediency, he has also discovered how temporary friendships from local 'left-wingers can be. It was not only on the basis of the evidence of W/O WHITECROSS, undercover Security Police agent, sent to WITS to investigate and report on suspected ANC and SACP activity on the campus, that the two were convicted. The *Rand Daily Mail* tells of a "procession of young students who turned State witness" against them. These were people supposedly 'committed' to the cause, trusted by NIEHAUS, and who deserted him at the first chance of proving their commitment.

But this was no less than NIEHAUS and LOURENS deserved, since they consciously set out to deceive other 'committed' people. In a letter to Jansie LOURENS he says:

"Go to Dr. KISTNER's (Director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation and alternate Secretary General of the South African Council of Churches) house. Ask if you can use a photocopying machine, but under no circumstances allow him to see what you are photocopying"

NIEHAUS learnt well from his cunning masters.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS — LESSONS FROM THE DRAMA

We are discussing here a man who applauded when the car bomb went off in Pretoria. He sought to blow up the gasworks with what could have been killing effects over a large part of Johannesburg. Such ambitions, such plans, such plotting are not those of a Christian. They are not those of a deacon of the church, they are not those which one expects of a professed Christian mixing with such notables as Rev. Beyers NAUDE (Oom Bey), Rev. Sam BUTI and other professed 'Christians'. It is not noble to plan to blow up installations with possibly serious loss of life to innocent civilians.

But as the case evolved, another aspect emerged . . . one that continues to exercise the minds of even those sympathetic to NIEHAUS. For what became plain is that NIEHAUS and LOURENS were but part of a larger tapestry of intrigue, and that others in some ways just as capable as the couple were involved, albeit on the periphery.

There are probably more Carl NIEHAUS's in our midst.

But no amount of arguing can change one simple fact that is paramount in the law and order situation in our country today: pursue legitimate political goals within the framework of the law and you will not be touched. But get into the NIEHAUS situation in which illegality at the behest of subversive movements and leadership abounds; and you are bound to get into conflict with the law.

The judge's words must be noted — "what would have been mere preparation in another crime could be an overt act in the case of treason". A clear warning to anyone in NIEHAUS's footsteps.

A further warning is that from the very start his activities were laid bare by the authorities. He never had a chance of succeeding. He was a child in an adult world of political intrigue. NIEHAUS was foolish, but all will not be lost if others at least learn from his stupidity.

Nobody should be fooled by nice-sounding and high-flown ideals such as those propagated by the ANC and its apologists. The ANC, the SACP and its followers are committed to the illegal and violent overthrow of South Africa's political, social and economic system. Killing and violence are their solutions.

But the most damning indictment of NIEHAUS's activities is that after all his actions, one can find absolutely nothing that he has contributed to real social change in South Africa. His course of action is a self-defeating one. This was the same course followed by people like Robert ADAM, Renfrew CHRISTIE and Guy BERGER, all people who were recruited through their connections to the universities and convicted in the last few years. How many more must follow before the ANC and its sympathizers realize the futility and destructiveness of their chosen course?

All of these people became involved in illegal activities via NUSAS, Projects Committees and other so-called democratic organisations.

Make sure that neither you nor any of those close to you fall into the ANC/SACP trap which is baited by NUSAS, the UDF and other noble sounding organisations.