

Inside
Cosatu
House:
A graphic
first
hand
account

Up against the wall ... Cosatu House on Wednesday evening, the night of the police siege

Behind the barricades

I SAW a badly injured and handcuffed man pushed down the stairs of Cosatu House in central Johannesburg during this week's police siege.

After hitting the bottom of the stairs head first with a dull thud, he lay still.

A young policeman moved up to him and hit him once on the ribs with a rubber pick-handle. The man didn't stir.

He was dragged on the ground to a police truck before being thrown in head first.

The unidentified man was one of several people I saw sustaining serious injuries during this week's police siege of the headquarters of South Africa's largest trade union federation, the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu).

From the back of a police truck parked in front of the entrance into the building, where I was kept after being arrested in the building, I could clearly see workers being brutalised.

A senior policeman shouted "Werk hulle" (Work them) as battered workers emerged from the building in handcuffs.

The drama at Cosatu House started shortly after a group of workers had (censored) in Davies Street near Doornfontein Station, Johannesburg.

The workers, armed with an assortment of weapons, were on their way to Germiston to defend their colleagues from what they believed were "vigilante" attacks.

At the corner of Davies and Rokeby streets the workers had teargas sprayed at them from hand-held canisters. This has been confirmed by the Bureau for Information.

"We tried to indicate that we were not fighting, but (censored).

"At that moment we retreated, but (censored)," one worker said.

The workers retreated to Cosatu House, leaving a trail of blood on the pavement.

I saw two workers lying on the pavement in Davies Street. It was clear that they were dead. One had apparently been shot in the head.

On the other side of the street four or five policemen, stripped to the waist, were being treated.

The police arrived and one got particularly agitated, threatening to shoot unless we moved away.

I ran back to Cosatu House. I tried to speak to some of the workers who had assembled in the hall downstairs. I was told to go away.

I went to the South African Railways and Harbours Union (Sariwu) offices on the eighth floor.

A message came through the intercom: "The police have surrounded the building comrades. Please remain calm."

Nobody was allowed to enter or leave. The time was 2pm.

About 30 minutes later the telephones and the telex machines in the building were cut.

Weekly Mail staffer **SEBAKO NYAKA** was trapped in Cosatu House during this week's police siege. The Weekly Mail is able to publish details of what he saw because it is satisfied that the acts of police conduct he has described are true and, because of their excessiveness, do not constitute "security action" as defined in the Emergency regulations. Insofar as his report contained "security action", it has been censored, as indicated in the copy.

(Censored)

A delegation of union office workers tried to leave the building to talk to the officer in charge. They were ordered back into the building.

From the top windows I could see a whole contingent of SADF troops gathered in Kerk Street.

By this time a large group was gathered in the foyer on the ground floor.

The delegation again indicated that they wanted to talk, but were told there would be no talks.

(Censored)

At 5pm an officer announced over a loudhailer that certain people were believed to be hiding in the building and were believed to be in possession of weapons. He ordered the occupants to vacate the building in 10 minutes.

But when people tried to leave the building they were stopped from doing so.

Five of us, four journalists and a University of the Witwatersrand Honours student, decided to leave the building, ignoring police orders that we should get back into the building.

I was grabbed by the scruff of my shirt while several questions were being fired at me by over half a dozen policemen in uniform.

I told them I was a journalist and was there in the course of duty.

By this time the shirt was so tightly pulled around my neck that I feared it was going to be torn.

I objected and was told: "Jy raak wit." (You're getting white.)

Suddenly one policeman noticed my bandaged right middle finger. He got quite excited. He said in Afrikaans, "Hier is een wat in die vinger geskiet is." (Here is one who was shot in the finger.)

Like a pack of hungry wolves his colleagues came towards me. I tried to explain that I had had an abscess cut out from the finger the previous day.

I was told I was talking "kak" and that I was going to be charged for murder.

My notebook was wrenched from my hand and I was ordered to lift my hands in the air. I complied. I was searched, but not once did the policemen ask for my press card.

I was then dragged towards a truck parked in the middle of the street in front of the building.

Before I could be shoved into the truck a plainclothes policeman came and grabbed me by the belt of my trousers and muttered something in Portuguese.

He must have realised that I couldn't understand a word of what he was saying because he shouted: "Put your hands on the truck you communist black kaffir."

After searching me, he handed back my notebook. On second thoughts he grabbed it again from me and paged through it.

There were only about three lines of writing in the book. I was accused of having taken the book from somewhere in the building to pose as a journalist.

He tore out the pages before handing back the book and ordering me to be put in the back of the truck.

I had hardly settled in the truck when the door was again opened and I was ordered out.

"You say what happened to your finger," another plainclothes policeman asked. He didn't seem to believe what I told him. I offered to remove the bandage from the wound for him to determine if the cut resembled anything like a bullet-inflicted wound.



The heat of the moment: Lawyer Peter Harris and Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo negotiate with police in Germiston after this week's shooting.

Picture: WENDY SCHWEGMANN, Reuters

He accused me of being too clever and said he would deal with me at John Voster Square.

I could clearly see how people, some bleeding profusely from head wounds, were being (censored).

There was a sudden commotion at the door. Suddenly two men, one in a red striped shirt and the other naked from the waist up, emerged from the door.

As they were being led down the stairs, I realised that their hands were handcuffed at the back.

The man in the red shirt had blood streaming down his face which was contorted in pain. All the time, the truncheon blows were raining on the two men.

They were led to a group of burly plainclothes police who were standing behind the truck I was in.

On looking through the opening in the back of the truck I could see both men lying on their backs. The semi-naked man's eyes were heavily swollen and closed.

The man in the red shirt was groaning and one of the policemen told him to shut up and kicked him in the ribs.

The man rolled over.

A plainclothes policeman instructed the driver of the truck to move it away "because there were some people with cameras in the truck."

Our view was then blocked by the two Casspirs and all we could hear were screams and sounds of breaking glass and wood.

We sat in the truck for two hours before being driven to John Voster Square.

A senior member of the CID Branch there took down our particulars before releasing us with no explanation — seven hours after the Cosatu House siege.

●The SAP last night withdrew their first detailed statement on the incident within minutes of issuing it. In the statement, they had alleged that three of the more than 400 people detained in Cosatu House were "suspected terrorists".

The withdrawn statement said that one of the reasons for the operation were "reasonable grounds" to believe that "trained terrorists" were in the building.

Other reasons were that it was understood violent action against policemen and their families was being planned in the building to revenge the death of a fellow striker killed earlier by police in Germiston.

When police entered the building after announcing their intention by loudhailer to do so, and urging people to leave, SAP members were attacked with "iron bars, pangas, knives and axes", it said in the withdrawn statement.

Other charges being investigated in connection with the detainees were public violence, attempted murder, robbery and illegal immigration.

The directorate said the strikers who seriously wounded policemen at Doornfontein had black marks on their foreheads, and that a number of those in Cosatu House had similar marks.

"During interrogation it had come to light the markings were applied by a witchdoctor to protect the men, during their attacks on police, from Security Force bullets," the directorate said.

Reef rocked by violence as strikers, police clash

Staff Reporters

Violence and drama struck the Reef yesterday. In clashes between police and railways strikers in Johannesburg and Germiston:

- Six strikers were shot dead and others wounded.
- Eight policemen were injured.
- People were arrested in a police raid on a Johannesburg union building.
- Teargas was used in Soweto. Youths attacked vehicles and thousands of residents stayed at home or were stranded after a call for a stayaway.

In the most violent clash six strikers died, five were hurt and four policemen were injured, three seriously, when about 100 strikers and police fought near Johannesburg's Doornfontein Station.

Bystanders said the strikers, singing freedom songs, were followed down Davies Street. Some of the crowd fled back to Cosatu House.

Police said they were defending themselves, colleagues, residents and property from attack. Lieutenant Pierre Louw, police spokesman, said a mob of Railways and Harbours Workers' Union members was told to disperse.

"They refused and police were forced to use tear-smoke," said Lieutenant Louw. He said the crowd attacked with knives, pangas, and kerries. Three policemen were stabbed. Police opened fire.

Mr Juhan Kuus, a news photographer, said he saw 50 black men carrying axes and clubs march a kilometre to Doornfontein station from Cosatu House, HQ of the 600 000-member Congress of South African Trade Unions. An officer who tossed a teargas canister was thrown up against a wall, beaten and stabbed.

Bystanders said police surrounded the union building afterwards. An injured striker was carried by others from Davies Street to Cosatu House in Jeppe Street, his blood leaving a trail.

Communications to the building were interrupted, according to news agency reports, and about 50 railways union members continued a closed-door meeting throughout the day in a locked hall. A Cosatu official said hundreds of union members were at another meeting on the ground floor.

At 5pm it was announced over a loudspeaker that everyone had to go to the ground floor and leave. Mr Mike Roussos, spokesman for the strikers, said he was told people would be forcibly removed if they did not leave within 10 minutes.

A half-dozen journalists came out and some were taken away. A CBS News TV crew which drove by was taken into the building and the CBS bureau said at least four of its people were in custody.

A German TV crew's film was confiscated and a photographer from The Star was taken to John Vorster Square and his film confiscated.

At 5.10pm the building was entered, offices were searched and workers handcuffed or steered out of the building in armlocks. Several police vans were filled and driven away, onlookers said.

Lieutenant Louw later said several people had been arrested.

Police and strikers also clashed earlier in the day at the World Centre in Germiston. Three unionists

The killing fields of Johannesburg

GUNSHOTS echoed through the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) headquarters in Johannesburg.

And just 300 metres away, near the Doornfontein railway station, five striking railway workers died. But union organisers have disputed this figure.

They died because they chose to board a train to Germiston, where a number of their comrades had been shot just over an hour before.

The shots first appeared to come from the Kaserne depot to the south of the Cosatu head office. The shootings were all over in less than two minutes.

The heavy smell of teargas, wailing sirens, barricaded shops and scores of heavily armed police were the only immediate evidence of what had happened.

But the curious crowd eased its way up to the battlefield. And just 50 metres away from the police blockade on the corner of Rocky and Davies Streets, the corpse of a worker lay twisted, half on the road and half on the sidewalk.

A dirty piece of blue plastic covered his head. His orange socks and worn-out shoes protruded from behind the lamp post next to which he fell. The back of his light-coloured shirt was covered in blood.

An hour later all that remained at the spot was the dirty blue plastic, blood and the strong smell of a disinfectant used to wash the area. Witnesses pointed to two more bodies further up towards the station.

A trail of blood marked the way back from the scene of the killings to the Cosatu building, which police sealed off just minutes after the killings.

The siege of the federation's headquarters lasted many hours. Nearly eight hours after the incident, as the NEW NATION went to press, the siege of the building was not yet over.

Police blocked off all access to the building.

No one was allowed to leave or enter as the heavily armed police clad in riot gear waited at the entrance to the building.

The union's lawyers were refused entry as police, armed with machine guns, rifles and pistols enforced "orders from above". No explanation has been given to the union attorneys of the police action.

And in Germiston, where three workers were shot and killed earlier during the day, shattered windows were evidence of the confrontation.

Union officials in Germiston claim three railway workers were shot and killed outside their office.

The SA Railway and Harbour Workers' Union (Sarhwi) assistant general secretary spoke emotionally about the killings, saying no amount of propaganda about the shootings would hide the truth.

"We will not allow the massacre to pass unnoticed".

He warned that it would lead to an escalation of the conflict between workers and bosses.

A striker who did not wish to be identified said: "Those of us inside the room could smell teargas and were worried about being trapped. People put their fists through the large windows to get out. Many people were injured."

A police spokesman said at least 500 strikers gathered illegally at about 11am and were told to disperse. They refused and attacked the police. Several shots were fired, three strikers died and one was admitted to hospital with a bullet wound.

Four policemen were injured. One has a fractured skull. It is believed no people were bitten by police dogs after a mob started plundering shops in the World Centre.

The names of the dead and injured have not been released.

The day started with chaos in Soweto following the distribution of pamphlets calling for residents to stay at home. Thousands of people did.

(Parts of this report have been amended to comply with the emergency regulations.)

6 ARE SHOT DEAD

Sowetan

23/4/87

6 shot dead

From Page 1

spot. There were also three people who were lying on the ground as shots rang out. I was so terrified I had to close my eyes," she said.

Cosatu House, which houses, among others, offices of Sarhwal, was surrounded by security forces soon after the Doornfontein incident.

No one was allowed to enter or leave the building.

At least eight journalists working for foreign news organisations were seized by police and their film was confiscated. Dozens of police surrounded the Cosatu building and for four hours prevented several hundred people inside from leaving.

The Interdepartmental Press Liaison Committee yesterday refused Sapa permission to use a United Democratic Front statement "as published".

SIX people thought to be connected with the SATS strike were yesterday shot dead in two incidents in Doornfontein and Germiston.

Three men were killed when police opened fire at Doornfontein station while the other three were shot dead outside the South African Railway and Harbours Workers' Union offices in Germiston.

Several union members were injured in both incidents.

At the time of going to press the Bureau for Information in Pretoria could not confirm the

By SY MAKARINGE

deaths, saying police had information on the incidents but had to clear it first with Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok.

The deaths took place after the South African Transport Services' authorities gave the 18 000 striking workers an ultimatum to return to work by 8am yesterday. A random survey by the *Sowetan* revealed that very few had heeded management's call to go back to work.

The identities of the dead had not yet been established at the time of going to press.

A spokesman for the Police Directorate of Public Relations said a crowd of people gathered at Doornfontein station about

1pm. Police moved in and ordered them to disperse. He said tear smoke was used but the crowd became unruly and attacked the police.

Two policemen were wounded, he said.

When the *Sowetan* arrived at Germiston, all streets leading to the station were closed to traffic.

An eye-witness, who watched the shooting from an office window, said a crowd of railway-workers had gathered at the entrance of a building housing their Germiston offices when police arrived and ordered them to disperse.

"Immediately after that I heard gunshots. I was terrified when I saw a man being shot through the head. He died on the

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Union offices damaged in police search

COSATU HOUSE, scene of Wednesday's siege and police search operation, yesterday morning looked as if it had been swept by a whirlwind.

Scores of doors had been smashed open, cupboards ransacked, telephone wires cut in some offices, documents strewn around offices and thrown out of windows, and brief cases ripped open.

Cosatu's teletex machine had been locked, and the whereabouts of the key was unknown. Telephones, however, were back in operation after being down for most of the day.

ALAN FINE and
HAMISH McINDOE

The offices occupied by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union appeared hardest hit.

The eighth-floor offices of the SA Railways and Harbours Workers' Union escaped with only two doors forced open. No documents or publicity material were confiscated.

The Metal and Allied Workers' Unions coffee supply had been laced

with curry powder. Another union's milk powder had been flavoured with other unidentified condiments.

A Cosatu official said several people had vomited shortly after drinking coffee.

An NUM official showed some humour by conceding that although his office had had a going over it did not look more chaotic than usual. Another, though, was unimpressed to be told it was a good opportunity to revamp his filing system.

An SAP spokesman said he was not prepared to comment on the damage.

Cosatu wants court checks ^{24/4/87} on ^{B Day} police action

AN urgent application brought by Cosatu to prevent police from acting unlawfully against union members at Cosatu's Germiston premises has been postponed to Monday.

The respondents to the application in the Rand Supreme Court are the Law and Order Minister, the commissioner of police and the East Rand divisional commissioner of police.

In an affidavit, Cosatu general-secretary Jay Naidoo said the application was brought after the commissioner of police did not respond to Cosatu's request yesterday for an un-

DIANNA GAMES

dertaking that police not use life-endangering weapons without lawful cause or warning and unless life or property was threatened.

He said the severity of police assaults on union members this week had produced a fear members could be similarly assaulted if they gathered on the Germiston premises again for lawful meetings.

Naidoo said about 70 police arrived at the Germiston premises on Wednesday armed with sjamboks, shot-

guns and pistols. Some went to the first floor, where South African Railways and Harbours Workers' Union (Sarhwu) members were meeting.

Unprovoked assaults followed, he said. Eyewitness affidavits claimed (contrary to Press reports) police did not issue a warning or call for dispersal prior to the assaults.

Sarhwu member Patrick Molefe said in his affidavit he had seen a policeman with a shotgun as well as a body lying on the ground.

THIS WEEK'S unrest death toll on the Reef rose to seven yesterday as thousands of Soweto residents stayed away from work for the second consecutive day and Sats management completed arrangements to fire 16 000 striking railwaymen.

Police shot dead 18-year-old Patrick Phokojoie who the Bureau for Information said was one of 20 youths who stoned a delivery vehicle in Naledi, Soweto. Six people died in clashes with police on Wednesday.

A Putco spokesman said bus services were resumed at 3.30pm after a 50% passenger drop in the morning. Two buses were hijacked, one of which was rammed into a supermarket in Dobsonville.

Stayaway rates at Johannesburg businesses varied wildly yesterday.

Sats said trains ran normally yesterday morning. Occupancy on Soweto

Naidoo said it was later confirmed there were three dead.

He said the "vicious" nature of the assaults and the absence of any legitimate reason for them led him to believe they were an attempt to intimidate Sarhwu and trade unionist to desist from industrial action.

Mr Justice Stegmann said while the courts tried to protect the right of free association, the right to meet included the possibility of discussing continuing an illegal strike. He postponed the hearing to give the respondents time to file return affidavits.

Unrest toll ^{24/4/87} goes up to ^{B Day} 7

Business Day Reporters

trains was 65% of normal levels.

The executive of the Witwatersrand region of Cosatu was meeting last night to discuss its response to Wednesday's events, including the dismissal of 16 000 strikers. General secretary Jay Naidoo said attorneys were considering bringing an action for damage to property.

The SAP said it was investigating charges of terrorism, attempted murder, and robbery following the detention of about 400 people when police and troops laid siege to Cosatu House in downtown Johannesburg.

In the first detailed statement on the shootings near the Germiston and Doornfontein railway stations, the SAP Directorate of Public Relations said last night police had "reasonable grounds" to believe a number of trained terrorists were in Cosatu House. The directorate said Cosatu House was surrounded by Security Force members and it was decided to search the building due to the following information:

□ A fresh trail of blood was found at the entrance to Cosatu House, and traced back to the scene of the attack on four policemen;

□ A group of about 200 men ran into Cosatu House after the attack on the policemen and most of them were armed with sticks, knobkerries, "quirts", pangas and axes;

□ It was understood violent action against SAP members and their families was being planned in Cosatu House to avenge the death of a fellow striker killed by police in Germiston earlier.

Cosatu seeks restraint order

The six-hour police blockade of the Johannesburg headquarters of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) on Wednesday will have a sequel in court tomorrow when Cosatu asks for an order restraining the police from disrupting lawful trade union activities in the building.

Cosatu is also contemplating suing the police for damage incurred in the raid. This is estimated at R53 000.

In its application for a restraining order tomorrow, Cosatu will ask the Rand Supreme Court to direct the Minister of Law and Order and the Witwatersrand Divisional Commissioner of Police to return all property seized by police in Cosatu House during the raid.

The labour organisation's lawyer, Mr Peter Harris, said the seizure of such fundamental items as cheque books and other financial records had made it impossible for the trade unions concerned to continue with their day-to-day activities.

The urgency of taking action to recover the records was underscored by the fact that wage talks in the mining and metal industries were threatened with disruption, he said.

Cosatu will also be seeking an interim order preventing the police from assaulting, interfering with or intimidating members of Cosatu and its affiliated unions.

Attacks on Cosatu spread

VIOLENT attacks on the Congress of South African Trade Unions moved around and attacked people (Cosatu) spread from Natal to the at random." Highveld this week.

Two workers were seriously injured.

The latest attack took place after an anti-Cosatu union held a meeting at Embalenhle Community Hall near Secunda on April 26.

"As members of this union arrived, they sang and moved around in a large mob," said a Cosatu statement.

"They stopped a National Union of Mineworkers member who got out of a taxi and ripped off his union T-shirt.

"At the end of the meeting, they moved around and attacked people at random." Two workers were seriously injured. Cosatu said the anti-Cosatu union members also wanted to burn the federation's office in the township, but were stopped by organisers of the union's meeting. Cosatu said it viewed the attacks "in a serious light", and said they were highly provocative. This was the second violent attack on Cosatu members this month.

Unionists held after Cosatu House siege

6 die in clashes as Sats fires strikers

28/4/87 B-Day

IN A day of street battles and heightened tension, six people believed to be Sats strikers were killed in police shootings, 16 000 strikers were dismissed by Sats, and thousands of Soweto residents stayed away from work.

In addition, police entered Cosatu House in Johannesburg late yesterday, after laying siege to it for much of the afternoon, and a large number of unionists were arrested.

The first deaths of the day occurred at about 11am at the South African Railways and Harbours Workers' Union (Sarhuw) office in Germiston. According to the police, a meeting failed to disperse after warnings, the crowd became aggressive and police were forced to shoot when they were attacked.

Three unionists were killed and one

Business Day Reporters
and SAPA

was injured, and four policemen were injured.

However, according to an attorney representing Cosatu, police opened fire without warning on a meeting which was discussing the Sats ultimatum to strikers. He did not explain injuries to the police.

● 24 000 miners strike: Page 3
Comment — Page 4

At about 1pm another three people were killed, apparently during a march from Cosatu House to the nearby Doornfontein station. According to the Bureau for Information, a group again failed to disperse after a "peaceful" police warning. "Tear smoke was used in an attempt to disperse them. It was then that they turned on the police and attacked them

with stones and knives."

Authorities have barred Business Day from publishing a number of eyewitness accounts of the shootings.

Shortly after the Doornfontein shootings a large contingent of police surrounded Cosatu House, and later arrested an unspecified but large number of the occupants who had been prevented from leaving the building for at least four hours.

Business Day's reporter and photographer at the scene were held for some time and released. They were not permitted to report what they saw.

Cosatu attorneys planned to make urgent application to the Rand Supreme Court today for an order restraining the police from using excessive force. However, the plan was abandoned when a

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Cosatu acts on police raid

28/4/87 Sapa

THE six-hour police blockade of the Johannesburg headquarters of the Congress of South African Trade Unions last Wednesday will have a sequel in court today when Cosatu asks for an order restraining the police from

disrupting the lawful trade union activities in the building.

Cosatu is also contemplating later suing the police for damage incurred in the raid. This is estimated at around R53 000.

In its application for a restraining order today, Cosatu will ask the Rand Supreme Court to direct the Minister of Law and Order and the Witwatersrand Divisional Commissioner of Police to return all property seized by police in Cosatu House during the raid.

The labour organisation's lawyer, Mr Peter Harris, said the seizure of such fundamental items as cheque books and other financial records has made it impossible for the trade unions concerned to continue with their day-to-day activities.

The urgency of taking action to recover the records was underscored by the fact that wage talks involving hundreds of thousands of workers in the mining and metal industries were threatened with disruption, he said.

Failure to get wage talk preparation back on schedule could have far-reaching implications for industrial relations in these key sectors, Mr Harris said.

Cosatu will also be seeking an interim order preventing the police from assaulting, interfering with or intimidating members of Cosatu and its affiliated unions who are engaged in lawful trade union activities at Cosatu House.

Structural damage done to Cosatu House during Wednesday's raid had been assessed at R53 000, Mr Harris said. A substantial amount of damage has also been done to office equipment and irreplaceable union records, he added. Legal action for damages was contemplated.

6 die in clashes with police

senior police officer gave an undertaking that no unlawful acts would be committed against workers.

Earlier in the day, Sats management began the process of dismissing 16 000 strikers who had failed to heed an ultimatum to end their six week strike. About 2 000 have returned since Tuesday.

Sats GM Bart Grove said last night dismissed workers would be able to apply for re-employment, provided they did so within about two days.

While union membership would not be taken into account in considering applications, those guilty of intimidation during the strike would definitely not be re-hired, he said.

Selection criteria will include knowledge, reliability, attendance before the strike and general ability, he added.

FCI president Hugo Snyckers yesterday expressed concern that the strike had not been satisfactorily settled, "especially in the context of the currently unresolved post office strike and escalating tension and violence in the townships".

He called on the parties "to exercise restraint and caution in attempting to restore industrial relations and civil order".

Meanwhile, a number of Johannesburg companies surveyed by Business Day said yesterday had seen absenteeism rates of only 15% to 30%. The stayaway followed a call in an anonymous pamphlet distributed in Soweto earlier this week in protest against the eviction of tenants from their homes for not having paid rent.

Employers said a large number of employees had requested permission to return home early, and they feared the absenteeism rate would be higher today and tomorrow.

The Putco bus service stopped operating inside the township by 8am because of intimidation and possible damage to buses. A spokesman said about 70 windows had been smashed and he estimated the damage at R5 000.

He said buses were running at about 75% of their capacity.

➡ From Page 1

HOURS after the killing of at least eight workers in Johannesburg and Germiston yesterday, urgent meetings were being convened by all Cosatu regions to discuss and plan nationwide response to the violence against its members.

Police shot dead three SA Transport Services workers at a SA Railway and Harbour Workers' Union (Sarhu) meeting in Germiston and at least a further five outside the Doornfontein station in Johannesburg.

At the same time, Sats management announced that it had fired thousands of striking railway workers. About 22 000 Sarhu members have been on strike since mid-March.

The shootings were the bloody climax to a marked upsurge in tension and unrest in the past fortnight. Incidents include a stayaway in Soweto, a grenade attack on Soweto council policemen, the burning of railway coaches and the deployment of SADF and police personnel at railway stations.

A total of 54 000 workers are on strike in the public sector and on the mines. A total of 24 000 workers at Randfontein Estates and Western Areas mines in the Western Transvaal downed tools last night over retrenchments. Some 8 000 postal workers are still on strike.

At a late night press conference after the shootings, Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo warned the government and managers of the SA Transport Services (Sats) that attacks on its members would not be tolerated without a response.

The Cosatu press conference was convened while an estimated 1 000 of the federation's members and officials were still trapped in its head office following a security force siege of the building.

Union lawyers allegedly witnessed police breaking down doors of

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!

23-29/4/87

H. N. Nation

Cosatu meets nationwide to plan its response to the killing of 8 workers

the union offices in the Cosatu building and unlawfully assaulting officials and workers during the siege.

Workers were removed from the building and driven in truckloads to John Vorster Square.

According to Naidoo, Cosatu obtained a written undertaking in the Supreme Court last night preventing police preventing from attacking its members and officials.

In addition, the federation is to bring an urgent application in the Supreme Court today aimed at regaining access to its offices.

Naidoo said: "Cosatu

sees the brutal attack on railwayworkers as an assault on the entire labour movement.

"Our members and the exploited community will never accept that management and the government can use guns and sjamboks to crush the legitimate demands of workers."

Naidoo also said that Cosatu saw the killings as part of a concerted move to break the strike.

"The shootings were preceded by a systematic propaganda drive by Sats. The SABC began broadcasting reports which labelled the strike a communist plot. At the same time Sats issued an

ultimatum to workers to return or be fired," he said.

"We find it significant that the attack on our building has taken place on the same day that workers were issued with the ultimatum."

At the time of going to press, Cosatu's Witwatersrand region had already drawn up a set of demands which included the immediate reinstatement of dismissed railway workers, an end to the evictions from hostels and the resumption of bona fide negotiations to address the workers' grievances.

• Turn to Page 3

• From Page 1

Yesterday's fatal shootings came in the wake of a new wave of tension and violence sweeping the country.

In the last fortnight, there have been several arson attacks on trains and two bomb explosions in the Johannesburg area, one on a railway line near Dube and the other opposite the Grosvenor station in Langlaagte.

Police and soldiers have been deployed at railway stations in an attempt to curb the attacks.

A work stayaway in Soweto aggravated the tension this week. Thousands of residents stayed home yesterday and many more were left stranded after pamphlets were distributed in the township. High schools in the township were also closed yesterday.

The stayaway follows growing fears that rent evictions will intensify after the Rand Supreme Court's finding that the Soweto Council has the power to evict rent defaulters.

On Tuesday, a grenade was thrown on to the parade ground at the Tladi Municipal Police Training Centre in Soweto, killing a trainee policeman and injuring 64 others.

Other incidents of unrest in recent days have been reported from Kaitshong, near Springs, the Brakpan township of Tsakane, Ashdown, Bothashill Reserve and Chesterville in Natal and Welkom in the Free State.

IN THE SILENCE AFTER THE VIOLENCE, EVIDENCE OF CONFRONTATION IS MOPPED AWAY

A week stained with blood

24/4/87 Sunday Star

After the clashes the post mortem: was it police brutality or self-defence against the strikers?

TWO dazed cleaners, their mops sodden with blood, silently washed away the evidence of a brutal confrontation between strikers and police in Germiston this week.

Around them broken glass, overturned chairs, a smoking pipe and abandoned shoes bore witness to the panic and pandemonium which broke out at the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) offices in Railway Street on Wednesday.

Another cleaner tried to get the blood off a staircase. A bloodstained dustbin lid lay at his feet.

It was a week in which one of the bloodiest confrontations between strikers and police was recorded.

It was rooted in the six-week-old South African Transport Services (SATS) strike by members of the SA Railways and Harbours Workers Union (Sarhwi).

It culminated in violence that claimed six strikers' lives in two Reef cities.

The police version of events which led to Wednesday's deaths differs substantially from those given by other eye-witnesses.

There were two separate incidents — one at Cosatu's Germiston office, the other at Doornfontein Station, moving to Cosatu House in Johannesburg. Each claimed three lives.

Police say in both instances they were violently attacked by strikers and responded in self-defence.

Little can be said at this stage about the

Cosatu House incident because the Rand Supreme Court is in the process of hearing an application from Cosatu seeking to restrain the police.

So far Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo has told the court police caused damage to Cosatu House assessed at R54 000, in a siege which, he said, amounted to "sheer vandalism".

Pictures taken by The Sunday Star at the time show posters ripped from the walls as well as damaged doors, walls and furniture.

"We submitted documents to the Rand Supreme Court in view of the unlawful assault on people, damage to property and for the return of documents seized," Cosatu lawyer Mr Peter Harris said. The application will be heard on Tuesday.

Trade unions in the building lost material fundamental to their operations during the search of the building, the lawyer said. Cosatu believes police action could disrupt trade union activity to the extent that it threatens the industrial relations structure throughout South Africa.



RIPPED DOWN ... posters in the raided Cosatu office.

Some major unions are engaged in preparations for wage talks in key sectors of the economy. The National Union of Mine-workers (Num) is getting ready for such talks. The Metal and Allied Workers' Union (Mawu) is engaged in continuing negotiations with Seifsa to set wages for the metal industry's 350 000 workers.

In the Germiston incident some witnesses said no warning was given before police opened fire. Bystanders said hundreds of strikers burst through windows fleeing from police. At least one of those shot was unarmed and another was running away.

Police have already given an undertaking not to disrupt meetings or unlawfully assault, intimidate or interfere with people on the Germiston premises of Cosatu. The undertaking was given on Friday by the Commissioner of Police and the Divisional Commissioner, East Rand, in response to an urgent Rand Supreme Court application by Cosatu which asked for an interim order restricting police from making such assaults.

In the application Mr Naidoo said police had committed unprovoked and vicious assaults on workers who had been holding a peaceful meeting. He claimed a senior police officer was overheard planning what the police story on the clash would be.

The officer is alleged to have said: "Let's put it this way. There was a riotous meeting in the street. This is unlawful because of the state of emergency. We took action when they got out of control."

Cosatu lawyer Miss Helen Seady said: "The police have undertaken not to act unlawfully but without making any admis-



ARCADE OF DEATH ... cleaners mop up blood in the Germiston office building where three men were shot dead this week.

sions."

Police denied the union allegations and were to have replied in affidavits on Monday, but after their undertaking the case will not be pursued.

A Press statement by the police on the Germiston incident said police received a "report of unrest" at World Centre, near the Germiston railway station, at about 11 am on Wednesday.

"During the ensuing security force action at the centre, four police members were injured and numerous vehicles were damaged by stonethrowers.

"Three of the rioters were fatally wounded and one injured man was arrested."

Reporter Mike Siluma arrived in Germiston shortly after the shootings. He writes:

When I arrived at the Germiston Cosatu offices about 30 minutes after the shooting I found the building in Railway Street swarming with police. Crowds which had gathered were kept at bay by mainly uniformed police armed with guns and sjamboks.

The entrance to the building was sealed off by police.

I saw at least one person being taken

away in an ambulance. It could not be ascertained if the person was still alive.

In the courtyard of the building the body of a man lay on the blood-spattered concrete floor.

Bearing mute testimony to the bloody events were discarded shoes; a bag; hats; a solitary pipe and chairs with broken legs.

Occupants of offices overlooking the scene of the shootings (mostly union officials) stayed indoors as police patrolled.

Almost total silence reigned in the place.

In the Sarhwa offices several men sat at a table, apparently too shocked to move. Some people spoke.

Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) official, Mr Wesley Dumo, whose union has offices in the same building, said police arrived at the building where strikers were holding a peaceful meeting and ordered those on the upper level of the

building to go to the lower level.

"After the workers had moved from the upper level, the police charged at them. The workers were hit with sjamboks and then several shots rang out," said Mr Dumo.

Another CWIU official, who declined to be named, said at a Cosatu press conference a lot of Sarhwa workers could not get into the hall in the building because it was full. Police asked them to turn round, patting them on the back with quirts.

"The workers responded and police rushed into the hall where workers were meeting and started hitting them. Workers had to break through plate glass windows at the back of the hall to get away," said the official.

Both men said they took cover when shooting began. They said they had heard no warning prior to the police action.

Cosatu seeking court order to restrain police

Citizen 24/4/87

By CATHY STAGG

THE Confederation of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) launched an urgent application against the Minister of Law and Order and the SA Police yesterday to restrain members of the SAP from disrupting Cosatu's members' lawful activities.

The application arises from an incident at World Centre, Railway Street, Germiston, on Wednesday, when police allegedly fired shots at members of the South African Railways and Harbours Workers' Union (SARHWU).

According to papers before the Rand Supreme Court three people were killed and several were assaulted.

Mr Bob Nugent, who appeared for the applicants, said the matter was so urgent it should be heard at once. But Mr John Coetzee, SC, who appeared for the respondents said according to law the police had to be given 72 hours notice of an application brought against them. Notice was

Mr Coetzee said the applicants would have to satisfy the court that the police should not be given an opportunity to file papers setting out their version of events.

Mr Justice M S Stegmann decided not to exercise his discretion and ordered the application to be postponed until Monday, April 27, at 10 am. Cosatu was ordered to pay the respondents costs of yesterday's appearance.

Mr Nugent's argument was that the members of unions affiliated to Cosatu have a right to conduct lawful activities in Cosatu's premises and that right had to be protected.

According to the founding affidavit by Mr Jay Naidoo, general secretary of Cosatu, police came to the building on Wednesday whilst a lawful meeting was being held indoors and without any provocation 70 armed policemen attacked about 200 people inside the hall

and others who were in the building outside the hall.

The judge said it was clear that once the police had put their version together there would be a sharp dispute of fact.

He said all he had to decide was whether the police should have the 72-hour period shortened.

He said he was not satisfied Cosatu had shown a clear right to continue the meeting which was disrupted. Mr Nugent had very fairly conceded the strike, in which SARHWU members were engaged, was probably not lawful.

The meeting was discussing the strike and how to react to an ultimatum given to strikers by the South African Transport Services (Sats) which had expired at 8 am on Tuesday morning.

"The right of free association and free assembly is an important one," the judge said, "and the courts protect it. However, it is not entirely without limitation. It can be subject to abuse.

"For the purpose of argument I asked Mr Nugent if people intending

to commit a robbery had the right to meet to conspire to commit an unlawful act. If the meeting is not unlawful, it is at least an abuse of that right. SARHWU's meeting was to consider what attitude to adopt to an ultimatum to cease what was apparently an illegal strike. I am not satisfied there is sufficient grounds to protect their right to meet," Mr Justice Stegmann said.

It'll be a blood-spattered election

24-3-87 W: Mail

TWELVE days before the May 6 election, an upsurge in armed attacks, industrial action and a huge rent stayaway in Soweto threaten to engulf the National Party's "reform" platform.

Growing tensions over the six-week railway strike erupted into bloody conflict this week between police and strikers after SA Transport Services announced it planned to sack the 23 000 strikers. By late yesterday, 12 000 had been formally dismissed.

At least six members of the SA Railways and Harbour Workers' Union were killed in clashes at Germiston and Doornfontein and three policemen were seriously injured.

Shortly after the clashes, police launched a seven-hour siege of Cosatu House in Johannesburg, home of the country's most powerful labour federation, the Congress of SA Trade Unions. At the end of the seven hours, two workers had been shot and at least 400 railway workers had been arrested. Hundreds more were detained briefly.

Yesterday, Cosatu warned the government that unrest in the country was bound to escalate if there were further security force attacks on the labour federation or railway workers.

At a press conference following the siege, general secretary Jay Naidoo said the Witwatersrand region was demanding the immediate reinstatement of all dismissed Sats workers and the start of bona fide negotiations — as well as an end to rent evictions.

Yesterday, lawyers for Cosatu said they were preparing an application to restrain police from conducting

By MONO BADELA, SEFAKO NYAKA AND JO-ANN BEKKER

"unlawful acts" against Cosatu and affiliates. The application will also demand that police return all documents confiscated when police occupied Cosatu House.

Meanwhile, Sarhwi's urgent application for an undertaking by Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok that his men would not interfere in future with meetings organised by striking workers was postponed to Monday. The application was tabled before the Rand Supreme Court.

Yesterday morning, striking members of the 360 000-strong National Union of Mineworkers charged private mine security men had forced them back to work at gunpoint after a two-day stoppage at two Johannesburg Consolidated Investment mines, Western Areas and Randfontein Gold Estates mines. JCI — which resumes talks with the Num next week — denied the charge.

The three-week-old post office strike continued this week, with all Soweto post offices and 32 work stations in Johannesburg shut for the duration. Hopes for an end to the deadlock surfaced yesterday with reports that one of two arrested strikers had been released; the release of both is a precondition to negotiations, according to the Post and Telecommunications Workers Association.

Soweto was calm but tense yesterday as thousands of township residents heeded a call to stay away from work the second day in protest against evictions for non-payment of

payment of rent.

On Wednesday, police used teargas to disperse an estimated 1 000 people who converged on the Soweto Town Council offices to lodge a protest against rent evictions, heeding a local street committee/youth group call for a three-day stayaway.

Blazing tyres and car wrecks barricaded streets throughout the township; reports came in of widespread skirmishing. An 18-year-old youth was shot dead Wednesday afternoon after police opened fire in Naledi. According to the Bureau for Information, the shooting occurred with a group of youths stoned a delivery vehicle.

By late yesterday, meetings to discuss the rent boycott had been cancelled in the township, but meetings to discuss the election were scheduled for today.

Commercial vehicles had stopped entering the township for deliveries. Although trains ran normally on Wednesday, they ran mainly empty, and a Putco representative said buses had been withdrawn for lack of passengers. Schools were closed yesterday and Wednesday; and major employers in the Johannesburg area reported "significant" numbers of employees staying away.

Meanwhile early yesterday grenades were lobbed into houses in the Cape in three separate attacks. It was the latest in a week of violent actions which included a car bomb explosion at Langlaagte which caused some damage but no injuries, and a grenade attack on a municipal police training college in Soweto on Tuesday morning which killed one recruit and injured 64.

Union says members were attacked first

24-3-87 W: Mail

WEEKLY MAIL REPORTER

POLICE and union accounts of Wednesday's shooting incident in Germiston tell two different stories.

The SAP directorate of public relations said they had received a report of unrest at World Centre, near the Germiston railway station at about 11am.

"During the ensuing Security Forces action at the centre, four police members were injured (one with a serious fractured skull) and numerous vehicles were damaged by stonethrowers.

"Three of the rioters were fatally wounded and one injured man was arrested."

Unionists said there had been no unrest and that the indoor meeting was peaceful and legal. Accordingly, their version can be published in terms of Emergency regulations.

Union organiser Blake Mosley said "a huge deployment of Security Forces was made outside the Germiston offices of Sarhwi, where a meeting of more than 1 000 workers was in progress.

"Police moved in and asked workers to disperse. As they were moving away, the police started to sjambok the workers as they fled in all directions.

"Then the police rushed into the hall, hitting workers. The workers were apparently discussing the ultimatum given by Sats for them to go back to work.

"The police opened fire on the dispersing workers.

"In attempting to escape from the violent attacks of the police, the workers broke through the glass windows surrounding the hall. Many fell on the ground."

It was this incident that led to the escalation of conflict between Sarhwi members and police, when workers in Johannesburg heard of the shooting.

The skop,skiet en donner election

W-Mail

30-7[4-5]87

By MONO BADELA

IN a massive challenge to next Wednesday's whites-only elections, South Africa's most powerful anti-apartheid and trade union groupings have united in a call for a two-day anti-election stayaway.

Claiming to represent as many as four million members, the United Democratic Front, Congress of South African Trade Unions and National Education Crisis Committee have declared May 5 and 6 as national days of protest "against the racist whites-only elections and the extra hardships they have and are still going to cause our people".

Mineworkers are considering action starting on Monday.

With tension already high following last week's three-day stayaway by Soweto residents protesting evictions; the fatal shooting of six striking railway workers by police; the mass dismissal of more than 16 000 others and the seven-hour siege of Cosatu House on Wednesday, next week's planned stayaway poses a direct challenge to the National Party's "reform" platform, embodied in the campaign slogan "Reform yes, surrender no".

**The State of the
Unions — See
Pages 16 and 17**

Many activists and unionists are speculating about the possibility of a further security clampdown in the face of a threat of mass action on election day.

"The State of Emergency has failed miserably," said one activist who asked not to be identified. "The only option for the government is to go one step further and declare martial law."

If it wanted to defuse the situation, he said, the only option left to the government was to talk to legitimate leaders.

SA Police headquarters in Pretoria confirmed police were aware of the stayaway plans being organised for next week and said "contingency preparations had been made".

UDF acting publicity secretary Murphy Morobe this week said the stayaway call has also been endorsed by the newly established South African Youth Congress (Sayco), a body which has recently claimed the potential support of more than two

million youths, South African National Students Congress (Sansco) and the National Students Coordinating Committee (Nasco), the successor to the now-outlawed Congress of South African Students (Cosas).

The UDF said the call for a two-day protest is also directed at students, shop owners, taxi operators and shebeen operators. Only people involved in essential services — like doctors, nurses and journalists — are exempt.

People have been asked to join in the action to show their abhorrence for a "system that gives a minority group the right to have a vote whilst depriving the majority of the same right".

The NECC said in a statement

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yesterday it supports the call for a stayaway because "recent police action against workers which has caused loss of life can no longer be tolerated. All evidence indicates that the police were unwilling to reason with Cosatu's leadership. The unreasonable attitude of SA Transport Services must be condemned unreservedly."

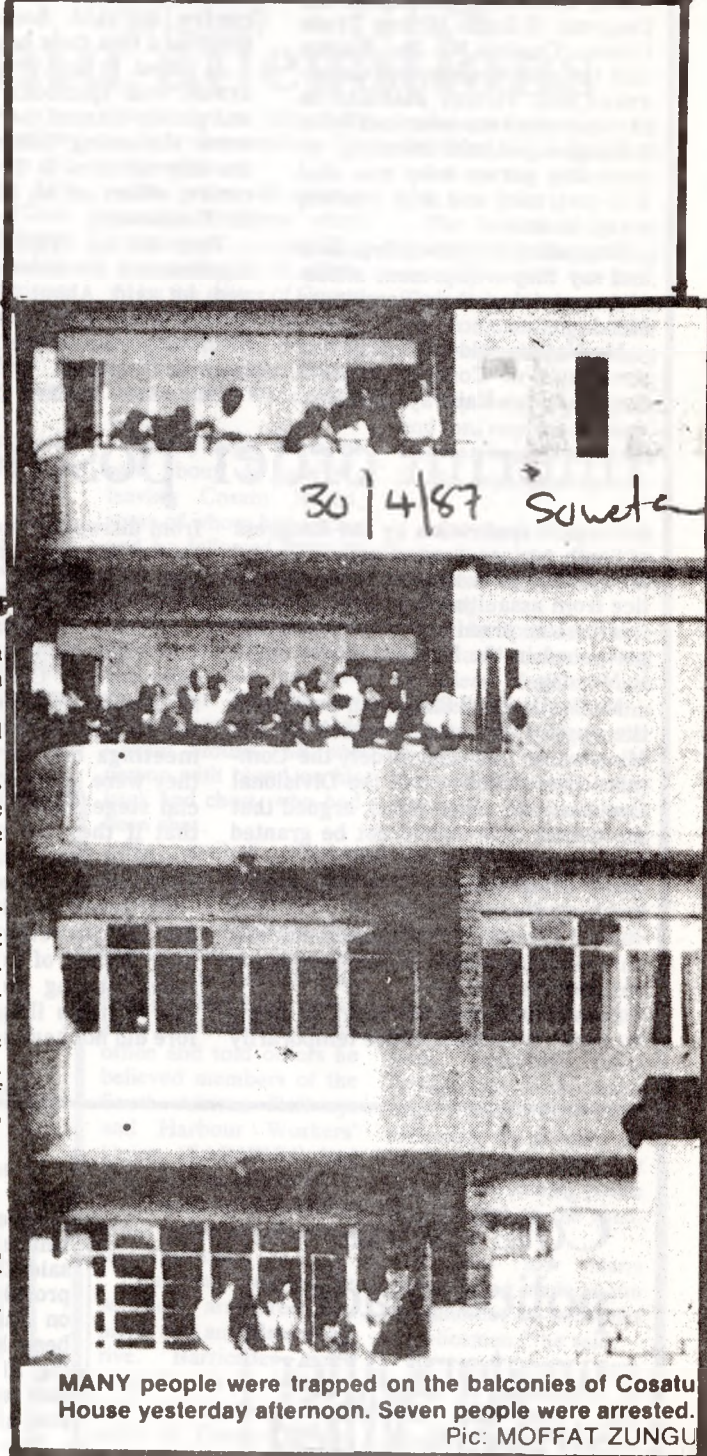
NECC said the two-day protest was a necessary response in which "our people can show their disgust against this unmitigated brutal action", and hoped the conscience of the world would be stirred.

Cosatu cited "co-ordinated state actions", including raids on Cosatu offices and the continued detention of members, as "part of a campaign to destroy the progressive trade union movement."

"We believe employers share responsibility for the intensified attack. Many employers have all too easily accepted the State of Emergency ... Many employers have often, either openly or secretly, called in police and watched as Emergency powers were brought to bear on workers taking up legitimate grievances.

"We have warned ... that continued persecution of the labour movement was generating anger and resentment from our members...

"The events of 'bloody Wednesday' were the last straw. Cosatu members are now demanding national co-ordinated action to drive home their message: hand off Cosatu."



MANY people were trapped on the balconies of Cosatu House yesterday afternoon. Seven people were arrested.

Pic: MOFFAT ZUNGU

Policeman concocted story after strikers killed, court told

By Lesley Cowling

A senior police officer was overheard planning "what the story would be" after the deaths of three people in a clash with railway strikers in Germiston on Wednesday, the Rand Supreme Court was told yesterday.

In an affidavit read to the court, General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) Mr Jay Naidoo said the police committed unprovoked and vicious assaults on railway workers who had been holding a peaceful meeting. At least one person who was shot was unarmed and was running away, he said.

The police deny the allegations and say they will present affidavits containing their version on Monday.

Mr Naidoo said yesterday that members of Cosatu affiliate South African Railways and Har-

bours Union (Sarhwu) held a meeting at Cosatu's Germiston premises — a hall in a shopping centre — to discuss an ultimatum issued by the South African Transport Services (SATS).

About 200 members who could not be accommodated in the small venue stood outside the doors, but inside the shopping centre, he said. Some people stood on a first floor balcony.

At about 11 am, 70 policemen armed with sjamboks, shotguns and pistols entered the premises, some stationing themselves at the only entrance to the shopping centre, others on both floors, Mr Naidoo said.

They did not order people to disperse and the meeting continued, he said. About 10 minutes later, a group of policemen began to move people on the first floor towards the stairs.

Policemen blocked the top of

the stairs and, as people stopped there, they were beaten with sjamboks, he said. "The victims began to scream and run away. As they did so, they were also assaulted by other policemen," Mr Naidoo said.

On the ground floor, police began to assault people, who could not leave because police blocked the single exit.

Mr Naidoo said a Sarhwu member, Mr Patrick Molefe, who supplied a supporting affidavit, saw a policeman inside the centre fire his shotgun towards the entrance. "It appeared to Mr Molefe that he struck a person about 6 m away from him.

An organiser for the Chemical Workers Industrial Union, Mr Wesley Dumo, who supplied a supporting affidavit, saw the bodies of two men on the floor. "One of these men was breathing heavily, the other appeared to be dead," Mr Naidoo said.

Mr Naidoo said a white man, in plain clothes, told people they had not seen anything and should sign a statement saying so.

A Metal and Allied Workers' Union official, Mr Ben Petersen heard a conversation between a Defence Force officer and a person he believed was a senior SAP officer, Mr Naidoo said.

According to Mr Petersen, the SADF officer said: "What will the story be?" The police officer said: "Let's put it this way. There was a riotous meeting in the street. This is unlawful because of the state of emergency. We took action when they got out of control."

Insurgents arrested, say police

Crime Reporter

Police say three of the more than 400 people arrested at Cosatu House in the wake of violent clashes between police and strikers in Johannesburg and Germiston — which left six dead — are suspected insurgents.

One reason for clearing the Johannesburg union building after Wednesday's six-hour siege was that it was believed a number of "trained terrorists" were inside, said a statement issued by the police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria.

Also, it was understood violent action was being planned in the building against policemen and their families in retaliation for the shooting of a striker in Germiston.

Police were attacked with "iron bars, pangas, knives and axes" when they entered the building.

On the Doornfontein shootings, the statement said police opened fire in self-defence after being attacked by a group of blacks who were tear-gassed after refusing to disperse.

On the Germiston shootings, the statement said: "During the ensuing security forces action ... four police members were injured (one with a seriously fractured skull) and numerous vehicles were damaged by stone-throwers."

● See Pages 3 and 13. ●

Interim order postponed

An urgent application by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) for an interim order restricting the police from assaulting people on Cosatu's Germiston premises was yesterday postponed in the Rand Supreme Court to Monday.

Mr Justice M S Stegmann postponed the application after counsel for the Minister of Law and Order, the Commissioner of Police and the Divisional Commissioner, East Rand, argued that an interim order could not be granted against a government official for 72 hours after notice of the application had been given.

Mr J Coetzee SC said his clients had only received notice of the application yesterday morning.

Cosatu is asking the court to interdict members of the police temporarily

from disrupting meetings at their Germiston premises or unlawfully assaulting, intimidating or interfering with people on the premises.

Counsel for Cosatu Mr Bob Nugent yesterday said railway workers and members of Cosatu affiliate, South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union (Sarhwu), needed to have meetings because a strike in which they were involved had reached a crucial stage. However, they were afraid that if they did meet, their meeting would be broken up and they would be assaulted by police, Mr Nugent said.

He asked Mr Justice Stegmann to use his discretion to shorten the 72-hour period of notice. The judge refused, saying the workers were involved in an illegal strike and therefore did not have a clear right to meet. ●

Court told police made up story after strikers killed

By Lesley Cowling

A senior police officer was overheard planning "what the story would be" after three people died in a clash with railway strikers in Germiston on Wednesday, the Rand Supreme Court was told yesterday.

In an affidavit read to the court, general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) Mr Jay Naidoo said the police committed unprovoked and vicious assaults on railway workers who had been holding a peaceful meeting. At least one person who was shot was unarmed and was running away, he said.

The police deny the allegations and say they will present affidavits containing their version on Monday.

Mr Naidoo said yesterday that members of Cosatu affiliate South African Railways and Harbours Union (Sarhwu) held a meeting at Cosatu's Germiston premises — a hall in a shopping

centre — to discuss an ultimatum issued by the South African Transport Services (SATS).

About 200 members who could not be accommodated in the small venue stood outside the doors, but inside the shopping centre, he said. Some people stood on a first floor balcony.

At about 11 am, 70 policemen armed with sjamboks, shotguns and pistols entered the premises, some stationing themselves at the only entrance to the shopping centre, others on both floors, Mr Naidoo said.

They did not order people to disperse and the meeting contin-

● To Page 3, Col 1 ●

POLICE 'WILL NOT HARASS COSATU'

Sowetan 29/4/87 Court gives order SA Police deny all Cosatu allegations

COUNSEL representing the police yesterday made an undertaking that the police "would not unlawfully assault members of the Congress of South African Trade Unions pending the hearing of an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court on May 19".

The undertaking was given by Mr B Bermen, representing the Minister of Law and Order, the Commissioner of Police and the Divisional Commissioner of the East Rand, following an urgent application by Cosatu for an interim order restricting the police from assaulting people on Cosatu's Germiston premises.

Cosatu had further requested that several articles that were seized from their premises on April 22, be returned and the police have agreed to do so by May 4.

By ALI MPHAKI

The articles include: 7 video tapes, a Chambers dictionary, two publications of the Labour Bulletin, one envelope with sound cassettes, four VHS video tapes, a list of Press telephone numbers and telex numbers and two holders with telex discs.

Agreement

The agreement was read by Mr Justice J G Gordon and was made an order of court.

Counsel for the police said his clients had not

enough time to reply to Cosatu's affidavits and agreed to file an answer by May 8.

Cosatu is asking the court to interdict members of the police temporarily from disrupting meetings at the Germiston premises or unlawfully assaulting intimidating or interfering with people on the premises.

Counsel for Cosatu last week said railway workers and members of Cosatu affiliate, South African Railways and Harbours Workers' Union (SARHU), needed to have meetings because a strike in which they were involved had reached a crucial stage. However, they were afraid that if they did meet, their meeting

would be broken up and they would be assaulted by the police.

The order of court read by the judge, also stipulated that the Divisional Commissioner of the East Rand would inform all the police guarding Cosatu premises about the undertaking.

The application will be heard on May 19.

Court Reporter

AN URGENT application, launched by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, (Cosatu), against the Minister of Law and Order and the Divisional Commissioner of Police in the Witwatersrand, has been postponed until May 19 and the police have given an undertaking.

Yesterday Mr Justice G Gordon, sitting in the Rand Supreme Court, was told that the police deny all allegations and were giving the undertaking under urgent circumstances.

The Divisional Commissioner undertook that the police would continue to act lawfully and that he would instruct all police doing duty at Cosatu

House not to unlawfully assault or intimidate Cosatu members.

The police will return a number of items which were seized on April 22.

According to an affidavit by the editor of Cosatu News, Mr Dirk Hartford, a large police presence built up outside Cosatu House on Wednesday, April 22.

Shortly after noon he saw about 40 workers leaving Cosatu House, some of whom had sticks, and he followed them to find out what was happening. By the time he reached the ground floor from his fifth floor office, the group had vanished from sight. Then he saw people running towards Cosatu House and one person with blood on his back and chest, who had been shot.

He walked further along Bree Street and saw a group of policemen, a crowd of onlookers and three bodies on the ground. He watched until police ordered the crowd away. He returned to his office and told others he believed members of the South African Railways and Harbour Workers' Union (SARHU) had been shot in the street.

He went upstairs to Cosatu's national offices on the 11th floor.

From the balcony he watched armoured vehicles and ambulances arrive. Barricades were erected and End Street was sealed off on both sides of Cosatu House. Three Casspirs parked across Jeppe Street.

As the afternoon progressed more and more policemen arrived. He estimated there were 300 by about 4 pm.

A meeting was held and a committee of four

people, including Mr Hartford, was elected to speak to the police outside.

The four were told to go back into the building or they would be shot. They asked to speak to the commanding officer but were told he was not there.

They went back inside and on two more occasions attempted to speak to the commanding officer.

At about 6 o'clock they were told they had ten minutes to vacate the building.

Mr Hartford said there was much confusion and no clear decision was reached. Shortly after this he heard the police order everyone to return to the floors from which they had come. He went back to the 11th floor, and soon afterwards people ran in saying the police were firing shots inside the building and assaulting many people.

From the balcony he said he saw many people who appeared to have been assaulted being brought out of the building. At least five of them seemed to be so badly injured that they were not put into the waiting police van but laid on the road, he said.

"I also saw many people being made to run the gauntlet of two lines of policemen," he said.

He said there were about 15 policemen in each line and they punched, kicked and use rifle butts to hit people before they were thrown roughly into vans. This happened for about 30 minutes, he said.

The police had not filed papers when the matter came before court yesterday.

Cosatu condemns violence
Sowetan 13/5/87



NURSES who were yesterday left stranded at the Baragwanath bus and taxi terminus because of the two-day stayaway.

Workers, students in mass stayaway

ANOTHER estimated 100 000 workers joined the anti-election stayaway yesterday, taking the total participation in the second day in the manufacturing, mining and retail sector to about 630 000.

And the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) said it hoped stayaway action was a strong signal to white voters and government that the majority of South Africans demanded their democratic rights.

The Labour Monitoring Group (LMG) said 600 000 workers in retailing and manufacturing, representing 70% of the black workforce in those sectors, participated on the second day. These were the only sectors it surveyed.

And mine managements said about 30 000 black miners stayed away. Most of them work on Gencor and Anglo American mines.

The LMG said most of the increase in stayaway levels occurred in the manufacturing sector in the PWV area. It was at 67%, up by 10 percentage points from its revised figure for Tuesday.

A Sats spokesman said occupancy on Reef trains at 5.30am was 7.4%, at 6.15am it was 10.6%, at 7am 11.2% and at 8am 11%.

Go-to-work messages broadcast, pamphlets dropped on towns, but...

Election stayaway goes on

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The 500 000-strong workers' stayaway to protest against today's elections takes place in the face of emergency restrictions which outlaw even the encouragement of an illegal strike and despite all attempts by officials to persuade people to go to work.

Yesterday messages were broadcast from aircraft over Soweto and the East Rand advising residents they would have security force protection if they went to work.

In New Brighton, near Port Elizabeth, a similar loudhailer message was broadcast from moving vehicles last night.

Buses were moving with security escorts in Tembisa as the stay-at-home started yesterday but they were almost empty.

In black towns near Pretoria and Johannesburg thousands of pamphlets were dropped from aircraft on Monday afternoon. One batch urged residents to regard the security forces as their allies.

"Let us join hands for a peaceful future. Your enemies are our enemies," it asserted.

Another, produced by the Bureau for Information, took the form of a message from the State President, Mr Botha, in which he explained why the white election was necessary.

Mr Botha said he needed a strong mandate from whites to proceed with "peaceful reform".

Despite this official urging, almost the whole Port Elizabeth

workforce, as well as most workers living in Soweto and on the Reef, stayed home according to employer reports and Independent Labour Monitoring Group figures.

These towns were mainly peaceful. No incidents were mentioned in the Bureau for Information's update yesterday afternoon. Only townships around Durban, where the stayaway was also widespread, reported flare-ups of violence. Security forces and residents clashed after the alleged stoning of vehicles or the breaking up of illegal gatherings.

Observers compared the scene in Soweto yesterday with conditions there a fortnight ago when a three-day stayaway was called to protest against rent evictions. Burning barricades and stoning were the order of the day then but not yesterday.

The Soweto rent stayaway and the national election protest have taken place under laws which:

- Declare it subversive to say or publish anything that might have the effect of encouraging or inciting an illegal strike.

- Make it an offence to organise or to be at a meeting at which an illegal strike is discussed.

- Permit indefinite detention without trial — a measure which has been used against an estimated 25 000 people since the state of emergency was declared less than 11 months ago.

In the space separating the two stayaways almost all outdoor May Day celebrations were blocked by magistrates acting on police submissions that public safety would be endangered. It has also emerged that the police consider Cosatu's "Living Wage" campaign

might lead to the furtherance of the aims of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party.

None of these restrictions or actions has been sufficient to stop a mass stayaway against the elections.

They have, however, ensured the precise mechanism of organising the action has been sheltered from the public.

While Cosatu and the United Democratic Front, with the support of other affiliated organisations, declared yesterday and today days of national protest, they have not mentioned a stayaway.

Such plans were exposed by Pretoria police headquarters and became clearer when anonymous pamphlets were distributed in black towns. How the planned action was put to the people may not be stated because this would infringe emergency regulations.

The pamphlets distributed in areas around Johannesburg talk at length of demands and grievances. They demand one man, one vote in a united South Africa and the scrapping of a racist Parliament.

They express anger at vigilante terror and the treatment people have received at the hands of municipal police and "kitskonstabels".

They demand an end to the state of emergency, an end to police intervention in industrial disputes and an end to rent evictions.

The emergency regulations have served to criminalise many forms of organisation against apartheid. This makes it very difficult to say whether popular grievances have in themselves moved hundreds of thousands to stay at home this week or whether sophisticated organisation was responsible.

As massive crackdown fears mount ...

MILLIONS STAY HOME

7-13 [5]87 N. Nation

FEARS of a massive state crackdown are mounting in the wake of this week's two-day nationwide stayaway and a resurgence of unrest in many parts of the country.

Trade union, management and political sources have speculated that once the white election is over, the state will move to crush extra-parliamentary resistance.

The Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) is seen as a key potential target of state action.

In what is seen as the biggest national protest of its type yet, millions of workers, youth and students stayed at home on the day before the election and polling day itself, forcing the closure of mines, factories, shops, schools and universities.

Initial estimates put the

support for the stayaway, called in protest against the election, ongoing state repression and evictions, at at least 1.5-million on each day.

Violent clashes also occurred in parts of Natal and the Cape, while at least one unrest incident was reported in Soweto.

Among the incidents reported were two bomb blasts in Johannesburg, a landmine blast which killed one person and injured 10 near Messina, and a petrol bomb attack on a police vehicle in Nyanga in Cape Town.

Elsewhere burning barricades blocked roads in townships.

And students at several universities clashed with police during protests against the election.

Police in aircraft flew over townships calling on people to ignore the stayaway, while thousands of pamphlets with anti-stayaway messages were dropped in Soweto from

helicopters.

And in Port Elizabeth, bogus pamphlets bearing the Cosatu and UDF emblems and claiming that the stayaway was called off, were distributed.

Cosatu, which together with the United Democratic Front called the two-day action, warned the government to end its campaign of repression against the workers movement or face stronger protests.

It said the stayaway had been called in response to a "systematic campaign of harassment, intimidation and repression".

The UDF said in a statement: "The stayaway reflects the contempt for white minority paternalism expressed through the elections."

According to the SA Transport Services, which ferries an average of 800 000 passengers to and from work every day, trains were running at less than 10 percent of their capacity during peak hours.

Estimates based on official statistics indicate that another 800 000 bus passengers stayed away.

If the tens of thousands of workers who do not use public transport are included, the total support for the stayaway could be close to 1.5-million. Included in this category are about 50 000 mineworkers who joined the two-day protest.

The stayaway was most successful in the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area, where 97 percent of the workers heeded the call, according to the Labour Monitoring Group.

In Durban, 70 percent of the African workforce stayed away despite intimidation by vigilante forces.

An average of 72 percent of workers in the retail and manufacturing sectors failed to report for work in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area.

• See Page 15.

Miners join big stay away

THE two-day anti-election stayaway ended yesterday when an estimated 20 000 mineworkers joined the half-a-million workers, students and scholars nationwide who responded to the call from Tuesday.

The Labour Monitoring Group, which has been monitoring the stayaway by telephoning major business concerns, said the overall stayaway of workers on Tuesday was 500 000 and yesterday's figure was "substantially larger".

Contempt

The United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions who organised the stayaway, said there had been a massive and unprecedented support for the call which black people were merely using to show contempt for the white minority's paternalism.

Mr Murphy Morobe, acting publicity secretary of the UDF, said the latest figures at their disposal show an effective 80 to 85 percent of active countrywide support for the protest action.

The National Union of Mineworkers — one of the biggest unions in the country — estimated the stayaway in the mines at about 25 000. Mines affected were in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

industrial and commercial sectors alone, it has resulted in the loss of more than eight million working hours.

In the Eastern Cape almost 100 percent of

According to the Labour Monitoring Group, the overall stayaway for two days involved one million workers and in terms of the country's

Miners join stay away

From Page 1

black workers stayed away while 70 percent of Coloured workers supported the call.

In six townships each of the Vaal Triangle and the East Rand, thousands of workers again stayed away. Soweto was yesterday "calm". Many health workers were stranded without transport at the Baragwanath Taxi and Bus Rank.

A South African Transport Services (SATS) spokesman, said occupancy on Reef trains at 5.30am was 7.4 percent, at 7am it was 11.2 percent and at 8am, 11 percent.

A Putco spokesman said passenger demand was down to 20 percent from 25 percent on Tuesday and "services had to be reduced accordingly".

The stay-away was relatively peaceful apart from Natal where numerous clashes between security forces and youths allegedly stoning vehicles or meeting illegally were reported.

Among reports of violent incidents released by the Bureau for Information, a 23-year-old Soweto man was set alight after three men put two tyres filled with fuel over him. No one has been arrested.

He was Mr Sandile Leeuw of Dlamini



TRAINS were running empty yesterday as thousands of workers heeded the two-day stayaway call. This picture was taken at the usually busy Westgate station during peak hour yesterday.

Pic: MOFFAT ZUNGU

and a member of the Azanian Students Movement (Azasm). He was the elder brother of Ms Thenjiwe Leeuw, national minute secretary of Azasm.

The Bureau also said the body of a badly burned man — possibly unrest-related — was found in the bushes near Mitchell's Plain yesterday.

Other unrest incidents occurred at the following places:

jiwe Leeuw, national minute secretary of Azasm.

The Bureau also said the body of a

badly burned man — possibly unrest-related — was found in the bushes near Mitchell's Plain yesterday.

Other unrest incidents occurred at the following places: Tembisa, Mamelodi, Edendale, Claremont, Umlazi, Inanda, Chesterville, Kwa-Mashu, Lamontville, Nyanga, Khayelitsha and at Ezakheni in Ladysmith.

The National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) postponed its programmes for today in support of the "voteless black majority".



Cosatu House ^{7/5/57 Stw} rocked by two explosions

One of the shops damaged in the Cosatu House explosion early this morning.

Double blast ^{Stw} rocks Cosatu ^{7/5/57} House: two hurt

Grim-faced officials of the Congress of South African Trade Unions surveyed the destruction outside Cosatu House in Johannesburg early this morning after the building was rocked by two explosions.

There were about 20 people in the building at the time. Two of them, Mrs Lydia Ndlovu and Ms Ivy Nyanga (24), were slightly injured. Ms Nyanga suffered minor shrapnel cuts to her head and Mrs Ndlovu suffered lacerations to her chest and thighs.

Four other people in the immediate area of the blasts narrowly escaped serious injury.

Windows up to the 10th floor of the 11-storey building were shattered by the blasts and Kerk Street, to the rear of Cosatu House, was strewn with glass blown from windows a block from the explosions.

Traffic officers and police had cordoned off the area surrounding the building and workers in adjoining buildings were forbidden entry this morning.

Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo declined to comment on the blasts as he and the organisation's attorney waited on the glass-strewn pavement to consult police officials. A police spokesman said it was not yet known what type of explosives were used or who planted them.

With Cosatu House plunged into darkness after the blasts and the possibility of more explosions, police could not take the risk of entering before they could see what they were doing. Brigadier Gerrit Erasmus, head of Johannesburg's security police, said at the scene early today.

A security guard at the building, Mr Stanley Khumalo (27), said he heard a loud bang at about 1.45 am before the building was filled with smoke.

"I ran towards the main door and realised it

was blown up," he said. The second blast shook the building while he was running for the security control room.

"I fell, struggling for breath. I crawled back to check on the two women who were with me," Mr Khumalo said.

Another security guard, Mr Monde Dyan-tyi, was on the 10th floor when he heard footsteps.

He fetched a colleague and they saw a torchlight on the fifth floor.

"From a window I also saw a beige kombi parked against the wall of the building," he said.

Explosions rock Cosatu House

7/5/87

8 Day

JOHANNESBURG — Two explosions occurred at Cosatu House in central Johannesburg shortly after 2am today, people at the scene said.

Col FG Malherbe, police liaison officer for the Witwatersrand said police had no knowledge of the blasts but the control officer for the Johannesburg Fire Department said there was one tender at a "Small fire" at the bottom of Jeppe Street where the Con-

gress of South African Trade Unions have their headquarters.

Reporters at the scene said the area has been cordoned off and police were going through the wreckage inside the building.

Initial reports said the blasts came from inside the building and there was quite a lot of glass in the street outside.



National Union of Mineworkers' general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa (left) and NUM education officer Howard Gabriel under the watchful eye of security forces as they remove equipment from Cosatu House, devastated by bomb blasts this week. 18

Seven held at union head office

Court seeking the reinstatement of three of the 18 000 dismissed Sats workers. 30-7-87

According to Sarhwa, the dismissals were illegal and went far beyond the powers legitimately possessed by the Sats general manager.

Sarhwa also accused Sats of having dragged out the six-week dispute in an effort to starve the workers into submission.

Sats was also accused of having "spent millions (of rands) in spreading lies and divisive rumours in a pathetic effort to break the unity of the workers".

Sarhwa was responding to an advert by Sats in several newspapers today.

In the advert, seen as a veiled attack on Sarhwa, Sats accuses "instigators" of having:

- prevented strikers returning to their jobs;

- made false promises that they would pay the strikers

- canvassed membership through intimidation and assault;

- caused violence to spread to civil unrest;

7-30 [● From PAGE 1 W. Mail

● caused damage worth millions of Rands to Sats property and equipment and caused disruption of train services.

Sarhwa said the claim about payment of workers originated from Sats management.

"Since the beginning of the strike Sats has used the police and the army to harass, intimidate and finally to try and force many of the workers back to work at gunpoint."

Sarhwa said Sats has refused to acknowledge that workers have genuine grievances.

Cosatu calls experts

See also 8-5-87

TOP officials of the Congress of South African Trade Unions will today enter their Johannesburg headquarters with independent bomb experts to assess the damage caused to the building early yesterday morning.

Cosatu spokesman Mr Frank Meintjies said yesterday that the organisation was expecting the go-ahead to enter Cosatu house early today from the Johannesburg city engineer and health departments.

He said damage, estimated at several thousands of rands, would only be properly determined after the inspection by the experts Cosatu consulted.

Mr Meintjies said Cosatu's security officers narrowly escaped injury when the bombs went off, causing damage to the basement, the ground floor and destroying the elevator shaft of the 11-storey building.

Four cars parked in the basement were blown apart and the printing equipment in that area was destroyed.

Windows and glass doors of an adjacent building were shattered.

The police sealed off the area surrounding Cosatu House the whole day yesterday forbidding entry into the building.

Condemning the attack on Cosatu House, Mr Meintjies said: "We believe that this was an all-round attack on Cosatu and the labour movement together with the increased raids and killings, bannings of our meetings and the arrests of thousands of workers".

Acting publicity secretary of the United Democratic Front (UDF), Mr Murphy Morobe, said in a statement: "This attack underlines the fact that the fight against the progressive trade union movement is becoming even more violent". 19

Cosatu House sealed off again

By SEFAKO NYAKA

A LARGE contingent of armed security forces surrounded Cosatu House yesterday afternoon for the second time in a week and arrested seven people in connection with the murder of four SA Transport Services workers on Tuesday evening at Kaserne railway depot.

Among those believed arrested is a 12-year-old youth who was found in the hall on the ground floor where Sats strikers were meeting.

Police surrounded the building at about 3pm and moved into the foyer 30 minutes later.

Sats workers barricaded themselves in the hall and were given five minutes to get out.

Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the Congress of SA Trade Unions, National Union of Mineworkers secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa and Metal and Allied Workers Union national organiser Bernie Fanaroff approached the officer in charge before moving to the hall to persuade the workers to allow the police inside.

Three men in balaclavas moved into the hall with the police and pointed out people in the crowd.

As the men were pointed out they were taken to three men in white coats who inspected their clothes and the soles of their shoes.

The men are believed to be from the forensic department of the SA Police.

The arrested men were later driven away in police cars and minibuses.

Several people were allowed out of the building after been searched.

At 5.30 women workers were told to leave the building but when they reached the ground floor they were ordered back into their offices.

A few minutes later they were allowed to leave the building.

Police then fired teargas at a group of workers on the second floor who were accusing them of being sexist in allowing women to go.

"Police told us they were looking for people who had necklaced four Sats workers last night," said one of the office workers who was searched and released.

In a statement last night, the SA Police said Cosatu House was being used by individuals to perpetrate violence.

"These four men had been brutally assaulted with knives and pangas and their bodies set alight by means of tyres and a flammable liquid.

"The South African Police now possess reliable evidence which indicates that these four men, who appeared to be Transport Service workers, were forcibly removed from their places of employment to Cosatu House, where they were

violently assaulted and thereafter taken to Kaserne where they were butchered in the most barbaric fashion, for no reason than that they chose not to participate in Cosatu's actions.

"Although an undertaking was sought from the South African Police to the effect that Cosatu members at Cosatu House would not be molested, an undertaking the SAP gave without hesitation, it is clear that Cosatu House is being used by individuals to plan and perpetrate acts of violence," the police statement said.

According to the police, five men were originally abducted and taken to Cosatu House.

One of them managed to escape by flinging himself from the vehicle in which they were travelling to Kaserne.

He fled into a nearby veld, came across soldiers doing patrol duty and asked for help. An immediate search was launched and the four necklaced bodies discovered later nearby.

The police action comes a day after police undertook in the Rand Supreme Court not to unlawfully assault, harass or intimidate Cosatu and its members.

It also comes hours before the South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union (Sarhwa) was to file an application in the Rand Supreme

● To PAGE 2

Cosatu block may be unsafe

By SEFAKO NYAKA

THE two powerful bomb blasts that rocked Cosatu House in central Johannesburg early yesterday morning have rendered the building structurally unsafe

"The building might have to be wrecked, but we are not sure," Cosatu representative Frank Meintjies said.

The basement of the building, where the bombs are believed to have been planted, was yesterday a wreck of mangled steel and paper.

The massive printing machines housed on the basement had been reduced to huge chunks of twisted steel dangling from what is left of the burglar-proofing on the windows.

Some of the pamphlets that had just come off the printing press were flung

a block away in Kerk Street, behind Cosatu House.

The ground floor had completely caved in and from the basement it was possible to see the cracks in the floor of the first storey.

The hoisting ropes of the two elevators dangled lifelessly from the huge gaping hole on the ground floor. Two huge holes marked the spot where the elevators had crashed.

There were also massive cracks in the walls and a pool of water had formed on the basement after the blast wrecked the drainage and sewerage system in the rented building.

Cosatu said in a statement that it

believes the attack was part of the "no-holds-barred attack" recently launched against Cosatu.

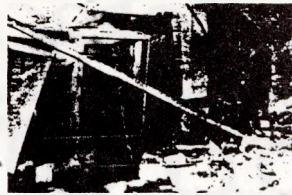
"The raid on our offices countrywide, the sieges at Cosatu House, the killing of at least six railway workers, the banning of our meetings and the arrest of hundreds of workers involved in legitimate struggle is part of a co-ordinated campaign to break the power of the labour movement," it said.

The blasts could not be separated from the string of previous attacks nor could it be divorced from the "dirty propaganda war" which has been declared on Cosatu.

SA Police have confirmed they are investigating the blast.

Cosatu,

SAP in war of words



INSIDE COSATU HOUSE... the first photographs published of the devastated basement of the unions' headquarters. The mangled slabs of concrete and twisted rods of steel indicate the savage ferocity of the explosion, which rendered the building a "no go" area.

A BITTER war of words has broken out between the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the South African Police.

Last night Cosatu, following "one-sided and biased" media reports which raged throughout the week, dismissed as "absurd and nonsense" claims made by the police that railway workers may have been murdered inside Cosatu's Johannesburg headquarters.

Cosatu said the bomb attack on its headquarters on Wednesday night "shows that those who are eager to accuse us — wrongly so — of using violence, in reality condemn violence only selectively."

Cosatu also criticised the role "the mainline Press has played in conveying this (police) propaganda without questioning the lack of logic and the sinister designs behind it".

At issue is what happened at the confederation's headquarters at 268 Jeppe Street, Johannesburg, and who was most likely behind it.

● **According to the SAP:** three alleged ANC insurgents were among the large number of people arrested inside Cosatu House a few days ago after the building was sealed off and searched.

● **According to Cosatu:** "Police spokesmen were quoted as saying that they had captured 'three terrorists' in Cosatu House who would be brought to court the next day. Many days have passed and one of the so-called terrorists has been released while the others continue to rot in prison."

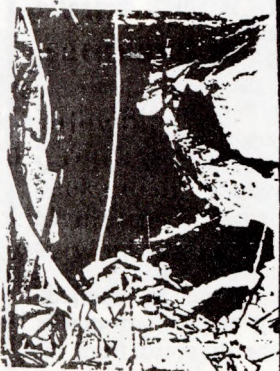
● **According to the SAP:** five employees of the South African Transport Services (Sats) were tortured inside Cosatu before being "necklaced". Sats and the SAP have accused Cosatu and its affiliate, the South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union (Sahrwu).

● **According to Cosatu:** the allegations that Sats workers were killed at Cosatu House are "absurd, without foundation and aimed at portraying Cosatu as an organisation which condones violence and intimidation."

● **According to the SAP and Sats:** many workers going back to apply for their jobs were being intimidated, and the alleged torture and killing of five railway workers was part of this intimidation.

● **According to Cosatu:** senior officials of the confederation and its affiliates had been present at Cosatu House throughout the seven-week railway strike, and "to suggest that killings and even torture took place in the building without the knowledge of these officials is without doubt utter nonsense."

DEVASTATED



"If they are suggesting that our leadership was aware of these alleged incidents, then we challenge them to prove it in court. Our view is that this is a cowardly attack on the credibility and leadership of our organisation."

"Cosatu House has, unlike John Vorster Square, never been a closed and secretive building. Every day during the last few weeks members of the local and international Press had free access to Cosatu House; none of them picked up any signs of assaults, nor have we."

"Cosatu is a legal, legitimate organisation advancing the cause of workers through democratic organisation, disciplined struggle and bona fide negotiations. We reject these attempts by the Government to criminalise us."

"If fighting democratically for a living wage, decent working and living conditions and just labour relations are a crime then the mass of workers in this country are engaged in criminal activity all the time."

● **According to the SAP:** the massive blasts

To Page 2

Cosatu, SAP row

From Page 1

which rocked Cosatu House on the night of the General Election may have been caused by explosives of Soviet origin.

According to Cosatu: "The police have announced that the biggest explosive device ever used in the Witwatersrand area was used in the blast at Cosatu House. This may be true, but it conflicts with what we were told by police on SABC news on the day of the blast, that 'slight damage' was caused."

"It is clear to us that whoever engineered and carried out the attack intended to bring Cosatu House down. There are suggestions, made in the media and during interrogation of Cosatu security officials, that either the African National Congress or we ourselves bombed Cosatu House. This is obviously ridiculous." The confederation says the bombing was the work of "professionals".

Cosatu noted that since 1985 when the union's building was destroyed by fires, no arrests were made and to date there had been no progress in investigations.

Shell condemns police action against Cosatu

CAPE TOWN. — The chief South African executive of Shell Oil Company has condemned State action against the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) as a "transparent attempt to crush an increasingly powerful government opponent".

Mr John Wilson said

recent events involving police action against the congress was a "tragedy and bode ill" for the future.

"We must come to our senses before it is too late," Mr Wilson said.

State action was not likely to crush the union, he said. "Rather,

it will strengthen the resistance and support, will have adverse ramifications for stable industrial relations, the effects of which will be felt throughout industry."

"It is likely, too, to fuel the bitterness and growing polarisation between capital and labour." — Sapa.

Appeal to relatives of missing Sats workers to come forward

Police say they suspect murders at Cosatu House

CRAIG KOTZE
Crime Reporter

South African Transport Services workers may have been murdered inside Cosatu House in Johannesburg and their bodies disposed of, police believe.

Police spokesman Lieutenant Pierre Louw, the police media liaison officer for the Witwatersrand, said the police possessed sworn affidavits from witnesses to this effect.

This follows the recent murder of four Sats workers who are thought to have been tortured on the union's premises before they were killed.

Lieutenant Louw told The Saturday Star: "We are investigating the possibility that other missing Sats workers were allegedly murdered in Cosatu House and their bodies disposed of."

He appealed to relatives of missing Sats workers to contact the police as soon as possible. He gave no further information and would not identify the source of police evidence.

Lieutenant Louw said that "for obvious reasons" police could not identify their sources as an "extremely sensitive" investigation was being conducted.

He could not say when or how many other workers were said to have been killed, but he did say no bodies had yet been found.

Development

And in another development concerning Cosatu House, Lieutenant Louw said police were also investigating whether the devices exploded at the building at 2 am on the night of the election were of Soviet origin. He said the blasts, which caused extensive damage, had been caused by the biggest explosive devices yet used on the Witwatersrand.

Detectives are also looking for a beige Mitsubishi or Toyota microbus seen parked outside the Jeppe Street premises after the twin blasts which slightly injured two women.

In a further twist to the blast investigation, police have rebutted "indirect innuendos in several morning papers yesterday" that the police might have been involved in some way in the blasts.

Nevertheless, Lieutenant Louw said, the matter was being investigated. No arrests have yet been made in connection with the explosions.

9/5/87 Star

Riddles of the Cosatu blast

A Cosatu security guard on duty at the time, Mr Mondi Dyantyi, told The Saturday Star that at the time of the blasts he saw a beige "kombi" parked against the

wall of the building.

The building has since been declared unsafe by the Johannesburg Fire Department and has been vacated by union workers.

Cosatu has condemned the violence which led to the deaths of the four workers but accused the Government and the SABC of exploiting the murders in a propaganda war against the union.

"The Government is now using the tragic deaths of the Sats workers to intensify the campaign against Cosatu, Sarhwi and our affiliates," Cosatu said.

The South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union (Sarhwi) has also condemned the deaths and "emphatically distanced" itself from the killings.

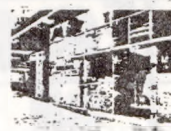
Lieutenant Louw strongly denied police were involved in any form of anti-Cosatu vendetta, saying they were obliged to follow up all information concerning their investigations.

"All evidence collected by police in regard to the killing of the Sats workers will be tested in court," said Lieutenant Louw, "and then people will see whether it is propaganda or whether it is fact."

Cosatu House was first drawn into the police murder investigation after the charred bodies of four Sats workers were found in Kazerne near Heidelberg Road two weeks ago.

They had been hacked and stabbed and were found with smouldering tyres piled on their bodies.

On the night their bodies were found, a fifth Sats worker, Mr Justus Swapo, was murdered and set alight by a mob in Tembisa township on the East Rand.



FLASHBACK: A damaged shop after the Cosatu House explosion this week.

A STRANGE car parked at the corner of Nugget and Jeppe Streets, a torch light on the fifth floor and the arrival of the police on the scene allegedly almost immediately after yesterday's bomb blast at Cosatu House has added to the mystery of the incident.

A security guard at the building, Stanley Khumalo, yesterday said he heard a loud bang before the building was filled with smoke.

He ran towards the main gate. There was a second blast. He claims that as he stumbled out of the door he met three policemen who were running up the stairs at the entrance.

He alleges that one of them shouted that they shouldn't run in as there might be other bombs in the building.

A man who works at a building at the corner of Nugget and End Streets said he saw an unoccupied white car parked at the corner.

Minutes after the blast he saw men running towards the car, jumping in and driving off at high speed.

Phumlani Mdletshe, a National Union of Mineworkers member, was sleeping on the tenth floor when he was woken by one of his colleagues. He ventured to the window.

There was a huge blast and he ran down the staircase. On reaching the first floor he realised it had caved in.

"I ran to the back of the building and went down the fire escape before scaling over the razor wire security fence at the back into the open courtyard in Kerk Street," he said.

He said that as he reached the open lot at the back of the building a group of policemen shouted at him to stop and instructed him to sit down. He was joined by some of the colleagues who followed his escape route.

It was Mdletshe's second narrow escape.

On Tuesday he had just left the NUM offices at the Vryheid Coronation Colliery when a colleague of his was killed by heavily-armed men whom they claim to have clearly identified as being well-known members of the United Workers Union of South Africa.

"I had just left the offices to go to the labour control office on the mine when a secretary from our offices rushed in and told me to hide as the Uwusa people had killed one of our organisers, Bhekuzise Ntshangase."

He was saved by the arrival of mine security men and the personnel manager.

"I know the killers and can definitely identify them as Uwusa members because they have been recruiting on the mines and some of them are actually working on the mine."

He said he had come to Johannesburg to report the killing of his colleague when he was trapped in the blast.

The SAP directorate of public relations yesterday said they were unable to comment on the details of the bomb blast.

Two sieges, a bomb blast and several deaths, but Cosatu keeps on talking

By SEFAKO NYAKA

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions has survived two sieges in a week, a bomb blast that wrecked its headquarters and several incidents of death, violence and arson.

But if this week's well-organised press conference is anything to go by it will take more than death and destruction to silence the voice of the largest worker organisation in the country.

At the conference, held in a somewhat rundown hotel in Johannesburg on Wednesday, Cosatu screened a film of what the federation termed a malicious, but well co-ordinated and orchestrated media propaganda campaign against it.

The film also included clippings of the damage caused by the police during the first two sieges of Cosatu House last month and the devastation of the bomb blast on May 7.

That Cosatu could organise such material only a week after their offices were wrecked by what is believed to be an expert bombing job, is an enduring feat.

Hours after learning that Cosatu House was unsafe, Cosatu-affiliated unions were temporarily housed in several offices in the city.

Attempts to get alternative accommodation have been thwarted by reluctant landlords who "refused to give us premises as soon as they learnt that we are from Cosatu House," according to secretary general Jay Naidoo.

Naidoo acknowledges that the attacks on Cosatu have had an effect on union activity.

"To a large extent it has disrupted the daily activities of trade unions.

"The fact that we are not allowed into our building at present even to have access to the material that is crucial to any negotiations is a great problem.

"The organisation however has not been stopped by the attack on our house and the events of the last few weeks," he said.



The aftermath of the largest bomb ever to have been detonated on the Witwatersrand. An architect's photograph captures the chaos in a Cosatu House office

Naidoo said the attack on the integrity of Cosatu and the labour movement in general serves to obscure and attempts to justify the physical attacks on its members and its offices.

Allegations linking Cosatu to the ANC and the SACP were rejected by Naidoo.

"We reject this allegation and our lawyers have been instructed to take legal action."

The propaganda campaign started in earnest during the South African Transport Service strike.

At the beginning of April, Sats management attempted to shift the blame for the dispute, focusing not on the dispute or the parties involved but attempting to cast doubt on the origins and intentions of Cosatu.

Several allegations attempted to link the SA Railway and Harbour Workers' Union and Cosatu to the ANC.

A few days later police launched a massive raid on Cosatu House. The raid resulted in extensive damage to Cosatu property.

Then came the bomb that was described as the largest ever to have been detonated on the Witwatersrand.

"The building was insured but the R100 000 printing unit had just been installed and was in the process of being insured," Naidoo said.

He warned the government that should they persist in their current approach to Cosatu they may well promote a massive collapse of the labour relations system.

The campaign of violence and intimidation against the student movement and the largest trade union federation in the country continues.

● On Wednesday morning extensive damage was caused to the offices

of the Transvaal Student Congress (Trasco) and the National Student Co-ordinating Committee (Nascoc) after they were firebombed.

● The Germiston offices of the Metal and Allied Workers Union and the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union were vandalised last week.

● The East London offices of the South African Allied Workers Union and Sached were smashed up last Wednesday.

● The Witbank offices of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mawu and Ccawusa were raided last Friday.

● Sarhwi offices in Kroonstad were smashed up and closed down on Monday after office worker were escorted out of town.

● A badly beaten up Transport and General Workers organiser Josiah Tire was found manacled to the security gate and lying in broken glass at Cosatu House after being assaulted by police during an argument on Monday.

Labour 'under fire'

THE mysterious bombing of Casatu House, insinuations that the bombing was the work of the African National Congress and concerted efforts to link Cosatu with the ANC, violence and the Communist Party marked the beginning of massive action against the labour movement in South Africa, which could result in a show trial of leaders of black trade unions affiliated to Cosatu.

This was said by Cosatu general-secretary, Jay Naidoo, at a Press conference held in Johannesburg this week.

But a police spokesman in Pretoria and the SA Transport Services have denied that there was a concerted effort by the police to discredit unions.

However, Naidoo said the movement was convinced that



17/5/87 C-Press
By REVELATION NTOULA

there was a concerted effort on the part of Sats, the police and the SABC to discredit the movement. The ultimate objective was to crush it completely.

"The evidence of the orchestrated propaganda campaign based on innuendos, untruths and half-truths which seek, among other things, to identify Cosatu with violence and the ANC, are apparently a prelude to further attacks on our organisation," said Naidoo.

"The clandestine acts of violence recently perpetrated against our members and our affiliates' members are disturbing vendettas against the labour movement," he said.

Naidoo said that a member of the National Union of Mineworkers had recently been killed in Vryheid, and that numerous incidents of intimidation and assault had taken place in East London, Kroonstad, Maritzburg, Kimberly, Germiston and Johannesburg this week.

Turning to the SABC, Naidoo said it was clear that the organisation was working in cahoots with "undemocratic forces" bent on discrediting and destroying Cosatu and the whole labour movement.

He said that the SABC had earlier reported that police had arrested three suspected "terrorists", but never cared to report that the alleged terrorists had recently been released without being charged.

He said the SABC had first reported that the Cosatu House bombing was minimal, but had later turned around to say that it was the first major explosion of its kind on the Witwatersrand.

"They also reported that the police were investigating the possibility that the explosives were of Russian origin, hastily adding that three ANC suspects had been arrested hiding in Cosatu House some weeks before. The implication was that Cosatu had allowed its members to bomb their own building," said Naidoo.

Naidoo said that Cosatu's operations had been seriously impaired because police were still sealing off the building. He said the organisation and its affiliates were experiencing difficulty finding accommodation in the city, because landlords turned them down as soon as they discovered their identity.

The organisation, however, had been able to find accommodation from sympathisers, he said.

Naidoo said that an initial estimate of the damage done to Cosatu House was R1-million, but added that engineers were still investigating. It was possible that the building would be declared inhabitable, he said.



Jay Naidoo ... campaign to destroy unions.

'Talks with unions hampered'

Cosatu says the SABC fans hostility

13/5/87
Star

By Mike Siluma

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) has sharply criticised the South African Broadcasting Corporation for fanning hostility against the federation and discouraging management negotiations with the labour movement.

Reacting to allegations made by the SABC in its editorial comment yesterday, Cosatu said the corporation had followed the National Party's lead in "exacerbating ignorance and hatred which are major stumbling blocks to a peaceful resolution of South Africa's problems".

Commenting on weekend police claims that more SA Transport Services workers may have been killed in Cosatu House after returning to work following the transport strike, the SABC alleged there was "incontrovertible" evidence that "the intimidation of workers who will not accept the dictates of a faceless militant element in a part of a trade union movement is now openly murderous".

Such a situation made a mockery of any talk of negotiation between management and unions as normal industrial relations, said the SABC.

Cosatu said its behaviour during the Sats dispute had been above reproach. It had approached leading employer organisations to facilitate speedy and bona fide negotiations before the conflict could escalate into violence.

RECKLESS

"The SABC not only fans hostility to Cosatu, it has also become part of the reckless and ill-conceived attack on the labour relations system."

● Attempts by the State to crush Cosatu will adversely affect industrial relations and fuel the growing polarisation between capital and labour, says the chairman of Shell SA, Mr John Wilson.

Commenting on recent events at Cosatu's headquarters including the bombing of the building, Mr Wilson said "the raiding of offices, the banning of meetings and the indiscriminate beatings and



arrest of hundreds of workers is not likely to crush the union".

The use of violence, high-handed and strong-arm tactics in "an attempt to crush an increasingly powerful Government opponent" made the belief in a negotiated future fragile.

Businessmen were realising "more and more that labour and capital should be seeking closer collaboration in attempts to boost the country's shaky economy and relieve the high unemployment factor".

THE Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) bombed headquarters could be condemned and key industrial talks grounded because union officials were not allowed in the building, Cosatu's attorney Peter Harris said.

He said no decision would be taken on where Cosatu and its affiliates would be housed until the city engineer's report had been completed.

Authorities have already declared the building unsafe and Harris said it would take at least two months to repair the damage.

Cosatu has commissioned an explosives expert to investigate the blast and his report is expected to be handed to the union today.

Two bombs exploded in the basement of Cosatu House four hours after polling closed during last week's election.

Details of a Cosatu-commissioned engineer's report on the damage were given yesterday. It found two load-bearing columns were severely damaged and both columns needed replacing. A ground floor conference room had caved into the basement and a lift-column, where one bomb detonated, was buckled.

City engineers inspected the base-

Cosatu condemns violence

Sowetan 13/5/87

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions and one of its affiliates have condemned allegations linking them to the violence which followed the strike by 16 000 railway workers.

Cosatu said it undertook to prevent any unlawful acts from taking place at their premises, which include Cosatu House in Johannesburg and World Centre in Germiston.

The undertaking was handed to the Rand Supreme Court on April 30 when the South African Transport Services (Sats) made an urgent application to stop alleged assaults on Sats workers at Cosatu House.

Assaulted

Sats had claimed that its employees were assaulted inside the building during the strike by members of the South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union (Sarhwu), a Cosatu affiliate.

The federation said that the undertaking was made "in view of the alleged urgency of the matter and without having completed the investigations into the truth or otherwise of such allegations made in the applicants (Sats) papers brought to Cosatu's attention."

Statement

"Sarhwu is not in a position to deny or admit the statement made against its members in Sats papers, but undertakes nevertheless, not to intimidate or assault anyone at Cosatu House and/or World Centre and/or anywhere else."

Both Cosatu and Sarhwu place on record that they are opposed to violence and wish to confirm a statement already published that they do not condone violence or recognise it as a means of resolving disputes."

Cosatu's undertaking, which was published in the *Sowetan*, was made an order of the court.

Cosatu House 'destroyed'

12/5/87
B. Way

HAMISH McINDOE

ment at the End Street entrance of the building yesterday.

Harris said: "I find it strange that police described the damage caused by the explosions as slight. The building was nearly destroyed."

He said several organisations had offered to assist Cosatu.

The Chamber of Mines insisted that "communications" with the National Union of Mineworkers for next month's key pay talks had not been affected by the blast.

But, Shell chairman John Wilson, condemning the "wanton destruction of Cosatu's property and possessions", made clear that the loss of files and documents would affect annual wage negotiations.

SAPA reports that vandals struck at three offices of trade union-related organisations in East London last week, while officials were observing the Cosatu-called protest against the elections.

TERROR MOUNTS

N. Nation 14-20(5)87

ATTACKS on Cosatu premises, its officials and members of its affiliates have spread nationwide.

Cosatu has also been subjected to an orchestrated propaganda campaign, which wants to identify Cosatu with violence and the African National Congress (ANC).

In the latest series of attacks, workers have been assaulted, offices burnt and shut down.

Earlier this week an official of a Cosatu affiliate, who had an argument with police at Cosatu House was dragged into the building and assaulted.

According to Sarhu, the government has tried to close its Vereeniging offices by using the Group Areas Act.

In Pietermaritzburg two T&GWU officials were seriously injured and are in intensive care after being attacked by persons alleged to be members of the Inkatha-backed United Workers Union of SA (Uwusa). The attacks appear to be in response to the drivers' participation in last week's stayaway.

According to Cosatu's information reaching its head office, mobs of people believed to be Inkatha supporters were searching for the federation's organisers in the area.

In Johannesburg, a building temporarily housing some of Cosatu's affiliates was attacked by arsonists in the early hours of yesterday.

In Kroonstad, Sarhu offices have been shut down. Another building housing Cosatu affiliates in East London was also

Cosatu hit by nationwide wave of violence and harassment



Union members inspect the gutted remains of Tudor House in Johannesburg after the building was petrol-bombed in the early hours of Tuesday morning. The building housed the offices of a number of Cosatu affiliates, including Nacos, Tracos, the SA Allied Workers Union and General and Allied Workers Union. This the second time that the building has been bombed since the state of emergency was declared.

arsonists a few days ago.

Cosatu has warned that if it is prevented from functioning fully and openly, the new era of labour relations will be doomed.

Cosatu has also hit back at the propaganda campaign against it by threatening to sue those responsible for broadcasting and publishing untruths about it.

The propaganda war was stepped up after the government banned at least two editions of Cosatu News, and confiscated thousands of pamphlets and newspapers produced by the giant labour federation.

Cosatu general secretary Iav Naidoo said: "We warn

they persist in their current approach to Cosatu, they may well promote a massive collapse of the labour relations system."

Naidoo yesterday said that the federation was investigating a civil claim related to the damage caused by police to Cosatu House during the April 22 siege.

Cosatu is also investigating a possible civil claim relating to the structural damage to the building after the bomb blast.

According to Naidoo the blast caused damage estimated at about R2-million.

Cosatu has also threatened court action to stop further attacks on its members. offi-

In the meantime, railway workers have demanded through their attorneys that all workers be employed on a permanent and full-time basis, as applied before the strike.

The workers have also demanded that evicted workers who have been sent back to the homelands be returned at Sats' expense.

In addition, they have asked that all detained workers be released and charges relating to trespassing and strike offences be dropped.

At the time of going to press, expectations about the outcome of the demands were mixed and it was not clear if all demands would

Cosatu warns Government against action

Star

By Mike Siluma

14/5/87

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), expressing fears of impending State action against it, last night warned the Government that the suppression of the federation would end "the new era of industrial relations".

Cosatu also threatened Supreme Court action against the South African Broadcasting Corporation if it persisted with a "malicious propaganda campaign" against the organisation.

At a press conference attended by both local and international media in Johannesburg yesterday, Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo pointed to recent incidents affecting the organisation, suggesting that "more direct State action against Cosatu" might be imminent.

He said attacks on Cosatu had included:

- The "siege" of Cosatu House and the later bombing of the building.
- The breaking up of South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union (Sarh-wu) meetings and the teargassing of meetings on Cosatu premises.
- The killing of seven Sarh-wu workers and an organiser of the Cosatu affiliated National Union of Mineworkers.

Describing the bombing of Cosatu House as "a professional job", Mr Naidoo rejected suggestions that Cosatu members had bombed the building.

There had been no mention in the media that "the saboteurs had apparently cut their way into the building by scaling a 5 m wall and cutting through iron bars to gain access to the building".

Damage to Cosatu House during police action amounted to R80 000. In addition, about R2 million in structural damage had been done during "the clandestine bomb blast of May 7".

Assaults on Cosatu members had taken place in various parts of the country, with scores being detained, he alleged.

"If Cosatu is prevented from functioning fully and openly, the new era of labour relations is doomed. We warn the Government that should they persist in their current approach to Cosatu, they may well promote a massive collapse of the labour relations system. The public, in general, and industry in particular, must know of these campaigns and their sinister implications," said Mr Naidoo.

Referring to often-repeated Government charges that the rail strike by members of the Cosatu-affiliated Sarh-wu were inspired from outside the country's borders, Mr Naidoo said the strike was "a spontaneous response of workers initiated by management's unjust dismissal of one of its workers".

Cosatu had offered to negotiate and had suggested employer intervention to resolve the rail dispute.

Shell boss hits at govt actions

B. Day

Business Day Reporter and Sapa

THE chief South African executive of Shell Oil Company has condemned State action against the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) as a "transparent

Police, Sats deny 'smear campaign'

Star

By Mike Siluma

14/5/87

The police and the South African Transport Services (Sats) have denied "colluding" with the SABC in a smear campaign to pave the way for State action against the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu).

Reacting to Cosatu allegations that the three agencies were involved in a campaign to discredit the federation, the Commissioner of Police, General Johan Coetzee, said: "The SAP acts strictly within the framework of the law, does not wage campaigns of any nature against anyone and operates on available evidence."

Cosatu had also claimed that three people alleged by police to be suspected "trained terrorists" and arrested during the first Cosatu House police siege had subsequently been released without being charged.

A spokesman at police headquarters said today that police do not confirm the release of people. The Star was welcome to trace the three people and speak to them if it wished, he added.

The SABC's senior director, news, Mr Sakkie Burger, said today the corporation would only comment fully after studying the contents of a telex it received from Cosatu's lawyers.

Earlier Mr Burger said he would not say why SABC camera crews frequently focused on the graffiti outside Cosatu House.

"The logical thing is it's right at the entrance of the building and when you film the entrance of the building you get that shot." The graffiti, reading in part, "Enter for Torture", is painted next to the front door and on a side wall of the building.

A Sats spokesman denied there was a campaign against Cosatu from the Government's side.

"There are facts being investigated by the SAP that Cosatu has been involved in the intimidation and murder of our workers. We have witnesses who have been assaulted inside Cosatu House," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said Sats would never attempt to smash the labour movement as it had 10 "independent" unions within Sats. "We would be the last to smash any labour movement."

Replying to its alleged attempts at discrediting Cosatu by linking it to the ANC and SACP, the spokesman said there was evidence of Cosatu's support for the ANC "through their own pamphlets".

attempt to crush an increasingly powerful government opponent".

John Wilson said recent events involving police action against Cosatu were a tragedy which boded ill for the future. "We must come to our senses before it is too late."

State action was not likely to crush the union, but would strengthen resistance and support and have adverse ramifications for stable industrial relations.

"It is likely, too, to fuel the bitterness and growing polarisation between capital and labour," he said.

Cosatu spokesman Frank Meintjies attacked the SABC's "comment" yesterday as being its most direct assault on the integrity of unions.

He said it had analysed the labour movement "on the basis of its own biased coverage of the Sats strike. This coverage included allegations, half truths and assumptions, all of which still have to be tested in court".

The editorial referred to "murderous intimidation" by what it called a faceless militant element in the trade union movement.

"In our view, the SABC is again demonstrating that it cannot be trusted to provide truthful information, which is so sorely needed in the present crisis," he said.

"Cosatu is warning the SABC that we and our lawyers are studying news and other reports very closely to see if coverage of Cosatu constitutes legal infringement of our legal rights."

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Eli Louw yesterday said that they had learnt from the strikes and before large scale employment and re-employment would take place, an assessment of the labour needs would be made, looking at a smaller labour force.

Cosatu House rocked
by two explosions
Cosatu seeking court order to restrain police

Reef rocked
by violence
strikers, police clash

Miners join big stay away

Cosatu vs the State
After the clashes
or self-defence against the post mortem

520 000 in 2nd day of stayaway

fans host

The killing fields of Johannesburg

SA Police deny all Cosatu claims
Union offices damaged

Cosatu calls for blood
police brutality

11 held as police seek Cosatu House search
down fears mount

6 shot dead

MILLIONS

say they suspect
relatives of missing Sats workers to come forward

BLITZ ON UNIONS FEARED

STAY HOME

Cosatu House sealed off again
Cosatu suspect

POLICE WILL NOT

Cosatu war! Explosions rock Government! Cosatu House rocks
Cosatu House: two hurt

against act

Riddles of the Cosatu blast

6 die in clashes as Sats fires strikers

Police in war of words
Policeman concocted story after strikers killed, court told

Cosatu condemns violence

