

Sender:

To: "'Elmo R. Zumwalt'" .

Subject: PFIAB and S.Africa Dr Death says project based on U.S.

Date: Thu, 7 Oct 1999 10:42:09 -0400

Hope you really steaming on that stair climbing and tread mill....  
Randy at PFIAB indicated that the powers that be didn't want to bring on any new staff except in the gopher billet...Randy indicated he would look around in his parent organization for opportunities. I will speak with a colleague from NRO in this regard as well this AM...will keep you posted. Home phone or email is the best way to reach out....  
My best/S

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan S

<mailto

Sent: Thursday, October 07, 1999 10:22 AM

To: IP

Cc: biowar

Subject: [BIOWAR] S.Africa Dr Death says project based on U.S.

From <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/991007/1/8xu4.html>

<<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/991007/1/8xu4.html>>

Thursday October 7, 3:22 AM

FOCUS-S.Africa Dr Death says project based on U.S.

By Nicole Mordant

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 6 - South Africa's "Doctor Death", the mastermind behind an apartheid-era germ and chemical warfare campaign against blacks, said the project was based on a U.S. government biological and chemical programme. In short excerpts from a filmed interview shown to Reuters, Wouter Basson said that he had slipped into the United States to gather information ahead of the launch of South Africa's secret chemical weapons project in 1982. The 49-year-old cardiologist, interviewed last Friday in a Pretoria guesthouse by a freelance film-maker, began a lengthy trial on Monday for charges ranging from 200 murders to drug-dealing and fraud. He was out on bail.

In his quest for details on chemical warfare, Basson said he posed as a draft dodger to ingratiate himself with U.S. human rights organisations in possession of secrets on the U.S. programme which they were working to destroy.

"I slowly started to develop a picture of how the whole U.S. chemical and biological warfare programme was organised," said the balding Basson, dressed soberly in a dark suit and tie. He said U.S. air force and army sources unwittingly provided the apartheid regime with details on how the programme was organised, who was involved, and what weapons were used. In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman asked to comment on Basson's story said "We would highly question this man's story. We have safeguards in place that would prevent any such things from occurring."

Basson said he also scoured Britain and western Europe and went behind the Iron Curtain to get what he needed to make deadly weapons for the white minority regime. The top-secret programme, code named Project Coast, produced toxins that could, in theory, have killed millions of people. "I must confirm that the structure of the project was based on the U.S. system. That's where we learnt the most," he said. American film maker Andrew Jones, who said he was negotiating with a number of foreign television networks for rights to the interview, said Basson had told him that he had received death threats from American secret agents. The state's case against Basson, which is expected to take two years to hear, accuses him of complicity in secret apartheid-government plans to murder top African National Congress fighters now in President Thabo Mbeki's government.

#### CHILLING MURDER CHARGES

The 250-page indictment charges him with making poisoned medicines and beer used to kill opponents of the white minority government, which was voted out of power in South Africa's first all-race elections in 1994. In one chilling account, he is accused of supplying muscle relaxants that made the victims' lungs collapse. They were used on 200 operatives of the South West African Peoples Organisation, fighting Pretoria's occupation of Namibia. Their bodies were dumped into the sea. Evidence from other scientists, some of them Basson's former colleagues who will testify against him to get immunity from prosecution themselves, have placed him at the centre of South Africa's chemicals programme, a charge he does not deny. "I was certainly involved in the whole of the project. I can't deny that. I was the guy who had fingers in the whole pie, the one guy that put the picture together," Basson said. There are also allegations that a plot to make black people infertile was part of the chemicals programme that extended beyond South Africa's borders to its neighbours Mozambique, Swaziland, Angola and Namibia.

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Dan S

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