

3/2/82 9

Evidence Was Fabricated, Kunstler Says

By PAM SNOOK
Gazette Reporter
ALBANY — City police planted a loaded handgun and fabricated charges to arrest two protesters of last fall's controversial Springbok's rugby game, lawyer William Kunstler claimed yesterday in Albany County Court.

Kunstler told progressive groups that local, state and federal justice officials set up the pair's arrest hoping to immobilize the protest.

The men, Michael Young, a 28-year-old New York City resident, and John H. Spearman Jr., a 31-year-old Lawrence, Kansas, real-estate agent, are on trial for possessing a .38-caliber Smith and Wesson pistol.

Spearman was arrested behind the wheel of Michael Young's car the night before the rugby game in a parking lot across from the hotel where they were staying. Police say the loaded gun was found in the glove compartment.

Young was arrested later during a midnight raid of a Central Avenue apartment. A speed-load- ing device for the gun was allegedly found in Young's suitcase.

The arrests came only a few hours after Gov. Hugh Carey's order to stop the rugby court case, overturned by federal officials. Kunstler said justice officials aware of Young and Spearman's history as activists planned the arrests to disrupt the protest.

Young's lawyer, Louis Oliver, claimed the warrants for the men's arrest were riddled with numerous law.

Police based the warrants on statements by Clara Satterfield, leader of the local Adversement of Color People, that Michael Young had threatened her life.

Satterfield never made such statements, Oliver said. Satterfield's relatives police and asked for further background on the men.

Judge John O'Connell refused the request. Each of the defendants knew where the gun was and knew how to get a load of the speed-loader, Spearman reported during testimony that ordered the trial. Spearman reported officers in his hands on the wheel of the car and looked toward the glove compartment, Satterfield said.

C 72- JUDICIAL SUBPOENA: with Witness' Stipulation
to remain subject to call. (Revised 9-63)

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Judicial Subpoena

State of New York

COUNTY

Index No.

Calendar No.

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Court, County of

ALBANY

MICHAEL YOUNG and JOHN SPEARMAN

against

Plaintiff

The People of the State of New York

Defendant

TO VERA MICHELSON

WE COMMAND YOU, That all business and excuses being laid aside, you and each of you appear
and attend before HON. JOHN J. CLYNE, Albany County Court, Courthouse
Second Floor, Albany, New York

GREETING:

on the 3rd day of March 1982 at 10:00 o'clock, in the fore noon, and at any
recessed or adjourned date to give testimony in this action on the part of the defendants

Failure to comply with this subpoena is punishable as a contempt of Court and shall make you liable
to the person on whose behalf this subpoena was issued for a penalty not to exceed fifty dollars and all dam-
ages sustained by reason of your failure to comply.

WITNESS, Honorable
of said Court, at Albany

John J. Clyne

one of the Judges
the 2nd day of March 19 82

Lewis B. Oliver, Jr.
(Print Name Below Signature)

WILLIAM KUNSTLER, LEWIS B. OLIVER, JR.
Attorney(s) for DEFENDANTS

Office Address
31 Barclay Street, Albany, NY 12209
(518) 463-7962

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF _____ ss: _____ being duly sworn,
deposes and says: that deponent is not a party to this action, is over 18 years of age and resides at
That on _____ 19 _____ at No. _____
INDIVIDUAL deponent served the within subpoena on _____ copy thereof to witness personally and at the same time paying (or tendering) in advance \$ _____ the witness therein named, by delivering a true
expenses and one day's witness fee; deponent knew the person so served to be the witness described in said subpoena.
CORPORATION deponent served the within subpoena on _____ the witness therein named, by delivering a true copy thereof to _____ the authorized travelling
personally whom deponent knew to be the _____ of said corporation, and at the same time paying (or tendering)
in advance \$ _____ the authorized travelling expenses and one day's witness fee; deponent knew the corporation so served
to be said corporate witness.
Deponent further states that he describes the person actually served as follows:
Sex Male Female White Black Other
Hair Color Light Med. Dark
Age (Approx.) _____ Height (Approx.) _____ Weight (Approx.) _____ Other identifying features:

Sworn to before me, this _____ day of _____ 19 _____

Notary Public Commissioner of Deeds

(Print Name Below Signature)

Index No. _____ COUNTY _____ Court _____
County of ALBANY

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Plaintiff

against

MICHAEL YOUNG and JOHN SPEARMAN

Defendant

Judicial Subpoena

WILLIAM KUNSTLER
LEWIS B. OLIVER, JR.
Attorney for defendants

Office Address
31 Barclay Street
Albany, New York 12209
(518) 463-7962

It is stipulated that the undersigned witness is excused from attending at the time herein provided or at any adjourned date but agrees to remain subject to, and attend upon, the call of the undersigned attorney.

Dated: _____

Witness

Attorney for _____

8 2/310

Arrests of Activists in City Recalled

By FAN SNOOK
Times Reporter

ALBANY — A protest leader threatened a huge, militant demonstration to stop September's rights game between American and South African players, according to a film replayed yesterday during a county court trial. The film, showing a demonstration in Albany, was shown to the jury in the trial of the protest leader.

The possibility of violence at the game was a major concern of the Albany County Board of Supervisors, which expected a large crowd of young and militant demonstrators.

At the Albany County Courthouse, the film was shown to the jury in the trial of the protest leader. The film showed a large crowd of demonstrators gathered in Albany, N.Y., on Sept. 11, 1980, to protest the game between American and South African players.

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3/5/82

Police Feared Rugby Protest Would Match New Zealand Riot

By PAM SNOOK
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — City police feared that the demonstration at September's Springbok rugby match would be a repeat of a violent protest in New Zealand where 100 people were injured, Albany's Deputy Chief of Police said yesterday during a trial of two protesters.

* * * * *
The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York State Police told city police that violence might erupt when various militant groups tried to stop the Sept. 22 Albany game between American and South African rugby players, said Deputy Chief Thomas Reid.

Reid was the ninth witness in the trial on weapon possession charges against Michael Young and John Spearman of New York City.

The trial is expected to end today after the jury hears the defense's last witness and recordings of police radio broadcasts of the arrest of one of the protesters.

State police also told city and state officials that the Ku Klux Klan might attend the demonstration, Reid said. If the KKK met up with Communist Workers Party protesters another battle like the one in North Carolina, where the KKK killed five members of the CWP might happen, he said.

"I didn't think the Albany Police Department could handle the demonstration," Reid said. "The first reports said upwards of 20,000 people. I told the chief (of police) the games ought to be cancelled."

* * * * *
Governor Hugh Carey ordered the game stopped, but a federal court later ruled that it should be played the next day.

"I recommended we needed outside help," Reid said.

The National Guard was re-

quested, he said. City police also asked for a record of any crimes committed by Young or Spearman and information about Young from the Communist Workers Party in Greensboro.

But under cross-examination by activist attorney William Kunstler, Reid denied that city police had run a surveillance on Young or Spearman.

The information from the FBI, State Police and city police investigations were put in a "confidential" report given to Chief of Police Thomas Burke, Reid, Lt. William Murray and Detective Paul Hulslander.

The report was not circulated to the rest of the police force, Reid testified.

City police were ready to do anything within the law to defuse any violence at the game, said Reid.

"I don't believe in false arrests," the deputy chief said.

But Young and Spearman, testifying on their own behalf, said they never had, saw or knew of the loaded .38 Smith and Wesson pistol found in the glove compartment of Young's car.

Defense lawyers Kunstler and Lewis Oliver claim the gun was planted by police to detain Young and Spearman before the game.

* * * * *
Spearman testified that the first time he saw the gun was after he was taken from Young's car, handcuffed and put in a police car in an Albany State University parking lot.

"Someone was searching the car. An officer said 'we've got him' and the other officers jumped up and cheered," Spearman said. Only later did he see that it was a weapon, he said.

But police testified earlier that they found the gun after they stopped Spearman for driving Young's car, which was reported stolen in August.

Young said he had never seen the loading device for the gun until after he was arrested. He

also denied having a suitcase in which police say the device was found.

Police arrested Young and two other protesters in a 3:15 a.m. raid of a Central Avenue apartment on the day of the controversial game.

One of the protesters, Vera Michaelson, was made to crawl out of her apartment at gunpoint, Young said.

* * * * *
In other testimony, the president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called one police statement an "absolute lie."

Clara Satterfield said she felt that her life was being threatened, but never by Young as police claimed in warrant statements. "That's an absolute lie," Satterfield said.

Young worked closely with her to organize a protest of the Springboks rugby game and had been a guest in her home, she said.

Satterfield said she had called police about 10:30 the night before the game to ask for police protection.

Cars were following her, someone was repeatedly phoning her and hanging up and people were hostile to her after she publicly advocated protesting the game, Satterfield said.

"Strange things were happening. I was afraid somebody was going to bomb my house," she said.

* * * * *
Satterfield testified that she had signed an affidavit about calling police late Sept. 21 to tell them she feared her house would be bombed as were the Schenectady offices of the Eastern Rugby Union, which organized the games. But she recanted the statement during cross-examination after prosecutor Michael Katzer reminded her that the bombing happened hours after she called police.

Distrust of Police, Kunstler Defense Seen Factors in Protesters' Acquittal

By SAM SNOOK
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — Distrust of police officers, a specious defense and a renowned defense lawyer may have swayed a county court jury to acquit two New York City men who organized protests of last September's controversial Springboks rugby game, District Attorney Sol Greenberg said.

Michael Young, 29, and John Spearman, 31, of New York City were found innocent of illegally possessing a handgun in a verdict delivered Saturday.

"They (the defense) sold the jury a bill of goods. The jury bought it. They were had," said Greenberg.

"It was a simple case of illegal possession of a weapon that mushroomed into a political cause," Greenberg said.

But famed civil rights attorney William Kunstler told the jury police planted the gun and the loading device to arrest the two protest leaders.

"The evidence was so clear anybody looking at it honestly could see they tried to frame us to get us off the street," Young said

on the courthouse steps just after the verdict.

"Police affidavits were rife with misinformation and perjurious statements," said Lewis Oliver, Young's attorney.

The prosecution argued during the five-day trial that Spearman was arrested in Young's car the night before the game because a loaded .38 calibre pistol was found in the glove compartment. Young was arrested hours later for the same charge in a Central Avenue apartment where police said they found a loading device for the gun in Young's suitcase.

Police accounts of the arrests conflicted and fingerprints were never taken from the gun or the loading device, Oliver and Kunstler claimed. Police fabricated charges to arrest the men hoping it would quell an expectedly large and violent demonstration at the controversial game, the defense said.

Statements by an Albany State University officer and city police differed because the campus guard reported hearsay, Greenberg said. In a report made just a few hours after Spearman's arrest, the campus guard said the gun was found under the seat, not in the glove box, as city officers reported.

Fingerprints were never taken because the gun was loaded, Greenberg said, explaining that the officers' first duty was to unload the gun. The speedloader for the gun was too small for fingerprints to be taken from it, he added.

Kunstler's presence affected the case, too, Greenberg said. The lawyer's national reputation as a defender of causes could have affected the jury, the district attorney said.

The case pitted the testimony of police against the defendants, Greenberg said. The jury obviously did not believe the police. "It's a sad commentary on society," he said. "Trust in police is dwindling nationwide," he added.

"It was a people's verdict," Young said. The jury stood behind their right to protest the games, he said.

The jurors were silent on why they voted to acquit Spearman and Young, but it took them two days and more than 15 hours of deliberation to reach the verdict.

The deliberated about four hours Friday when they asked Judge John Clyne to explain the law regarding criminal possession of a weapon, the charges against both defendants. But Clyne ordered the jury at 10:30 p.m. to be sequestered and promised to explain the law to them early the next morning.

After a second reading of the law, the jury caucused again Saturday for 11 more hours. They later asked that police testimony be re-read on the search of the Central Avenue apartment where the gun's loading device was allegedly found in Young's suitcase.

About 6:15 p.m. the jury returned the verdict of innocent.

4/1/82

Pair acquitted in rugby arrests

United Press International

A six-man, six-woman Albany County jury has acquitted two alleged leaders of last year's protest against a rugby team from South Africa.

Michael Young, 34, and John Spearman, 35, both of New York City, were found not guilty Saturday of charges of illegal gun possession.

The men were jailed last summer on the day of the Springboks' appearance at Albany's Blecker Stadium.

Spearman's attorney, state bar lawyer William Rosenthal, claimed during the trial that Albany city police "lied" and planted the .38-caliber revolver to defuse threatened violence at a Sept. 22 game in Blecker Stadium.

Police were "bribe washed by the FBI" and his attorney's only crime is that he opposed apartheid, said Young's attorney, Lewis Oliver. Oliver labeled South Africa's policy of racial separation as "legalized slavery."

The jury had gone into deliberation with an array of exhibits, including the revolver, .38-caliber ammunition and speedloader and a television tape of Young, a Communist Workers Party leader, vowing "militant action" to stop the game.

About 3,000 demonstrators turned out in Albany to protest the Springboks' appearance because of South Africa's apartheid policy of racial discrimination.

Spearman and Young, according to testimony, came here as representatives of Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour to help organize a demonstration against the game.

On the eve of the game, Spearman was arrested at the State University at Albany campus near the motel where the Springboks were staying. He was driving a car registered to Young and previously reported stolen.

Police said they found the revolver in the glove compartment.

At 3:30 the next morning, 15 to 20 officers of several agencies, including the FBI and state police, broke into the apartment of civil rights activist Vera Michelson.

Michelson and one man were arrested on minor charges which were later dismissed and Young was charged with gun possession.

Police said a search of the premises turned up ammunition and a speedloader in a valise bearing Young's name in gold letters.

Demonstration organizer plans lawsuit against city

Following an informal hearing conducted by the Albany corporation counsel's office, an attorney representing Springboks demonstration organizer Vera Michelson says she plans to file a \$1 million claim against the city stemming from Ms. Michelson's September arrest.

The hearing, a routine procedure when claims are made against the city, was conducted Tuesday by Assistant Corporation Counsel John Shea. Facts about claims are gathered by the city at such hearings.

Anita Thayer, Ms. Michelson's attorney, said with the hearing conducted, Ms. Michelson is now free to file the actual lawsuit.

Ms. Thayer said they have the option of filing the claim in state or federal court, but haven't decided in which court, or when, the suit will be filed. The specific grounds for the claim have yet to be worked out, Ms. Thayer said.

Ms. Michelson was arrested early Sept. 22, when city and federal officers raided her apartment. Also arrested were Michael Young and Aaron Estis.

The charges against Ms. Michelson were later dismissed. Just last weekend, Young was found innocent of weapons charges lodged in the incident.

Charges against Estis have also been dropped.

Ms. Michelson was one of the leaders of the Coalition Against Apartheid but, because of her arrest, could not participate in the demonstration the night of Sept. 22 when the Springboks, a

South African rugby team, played at Albany's Bleecker Stadium.

In relating the incidents surrounding her arrest, Ms. Michelson said she told Shea she was denied bail by Police Court Justice Thomas Keegan, held for three days at the Albany County Jail, denied a telephone call to her lawyer for 11 hours, kept in isolation and prevented from participating in the demonstration.

Michaelson to Sue Albany for \$1 Million

By STEVE NELSON
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — An organizer of the Sept. 22 anti-apartheid demonstration has taken another step in her efforts to sue the city for \$1 million for violations of her constitutional rights.

Vera Michaelson, 35, of 400 Central Ave., attended a closed-door hearing before assistant city Corporation Counsel John Shea yesterday to provide more information to the city regarding her law suit.

Following the protest of a rugby match between the South African Springboks and an all-star team picked by the Eastern Rugby Union, Michaelson and Aaron Estis, 27, of Somerville, Mass. filed notice of their intentions to sue the city for arresting them on the eve of the demonstration, preventing them from participating in the protest.

Last night, Michaelson said she expressed her "outrage, terror and humiliation" over a pre-dawn raid Sept. 22 of her apartment. That raid resulted in the arrests of not only Michaelson and Estis, but of Michael Young, Young, and John Spearman — who was arrested in Young's car as it sat parked the night before across the street from the Springboks team's hotel — were acquitted Saturday by a jury of weapons charges filed against them following their arrest.

Michaelson and Estis were arrested for possession of fireworks and possession of marijuana. Both charged in their suits that they were held at Albany County Jail for three days without bail following their arraignment before Police Court Judge Thomas Keegan.

Michaelson claimed her apartment was ransacked and her possessions confiscated by about 15 local, FBI and state police officers who burst into the apartment around 3:15 a.m.

She and Estis are charging they were denied access to a telephone and kept in isolation for 11 hours after they were jailed.

"I am suing for a million dollars to show the local police and police agencies they cannot trample on people's constitutional rights," Michaelson said last night.

Now that the hearing has been completed, Michaelson said she must wait for the city's response to the charges.

Estis must have his own hearing before city officials on Thursday, she said.

EDITORIAL

Albany Verdict and Gov't. (Un)credibility

Worker
UWAPT 3/17/82

When an all-white jury from mainstream America finds two black communists more believable than the government, something fundamental is changing. On one side was the government, prosecuting John Spearman and Mike Young for felonious possession of a handgun. On the other side was the defendants, charging the government with conspiracy to frame and cut off leaders of a growing protest movement against U.S. support for apartheid South Africa and racism at home. By finding Spearman and Young innocent, the jury chose against apartheid, racism and the government.

The faith and confidence of the people is a precious thing — once violated, it is not easily regained. The Albany verdict shows how little credibility the government has left. Vietnam, Watergate, COINTELPRO, Greensboro, El Salvador — the government has grossly abused this sacred trust beyond all endurance.

Yet even with this credibility gap as a backdrop, the verdict would not have been possible if not for the courage and political outspokenness of the defendants and the steadfastness and hard work of their supporters in Albany and elsewhere. By testifying for the defense, New York Supreme Court Justice Booth, noted black political activist and author Manning Marable, Professor Emmet Basset of New Jersey, and Albany NAACP head Clara Satterfield made personal sacrifices and dared to stand up for the truth. Defense attorneys William Kunstler and Lewis Oliver shredded the flimsy web of police lies brilliantly:

- *Authorities denied any prior surveillance and claimed that Young's car was stopped because they thought it was "stolen." Yet, a tape of the police radio transmissions that night revealed that officers believed Young to be driving the vehicle. Once stopped, the car was surrounded by 30 officers representing the FBI, SUNY campus security, and members of the Albany, Capitol and State police departments — all for a "routine" stolen car bust. Furthermore, it was shown that Albany officials had the cooperation of both the New York City and Greensboro police.

- *Police claimed they found a revolver lying in plain sight in the open glove compartment. Yet, one officer testified that the gun was found under the car seat and said so in his written report. Police admitted in court that no attempt was made to check the gun for fingerprints.

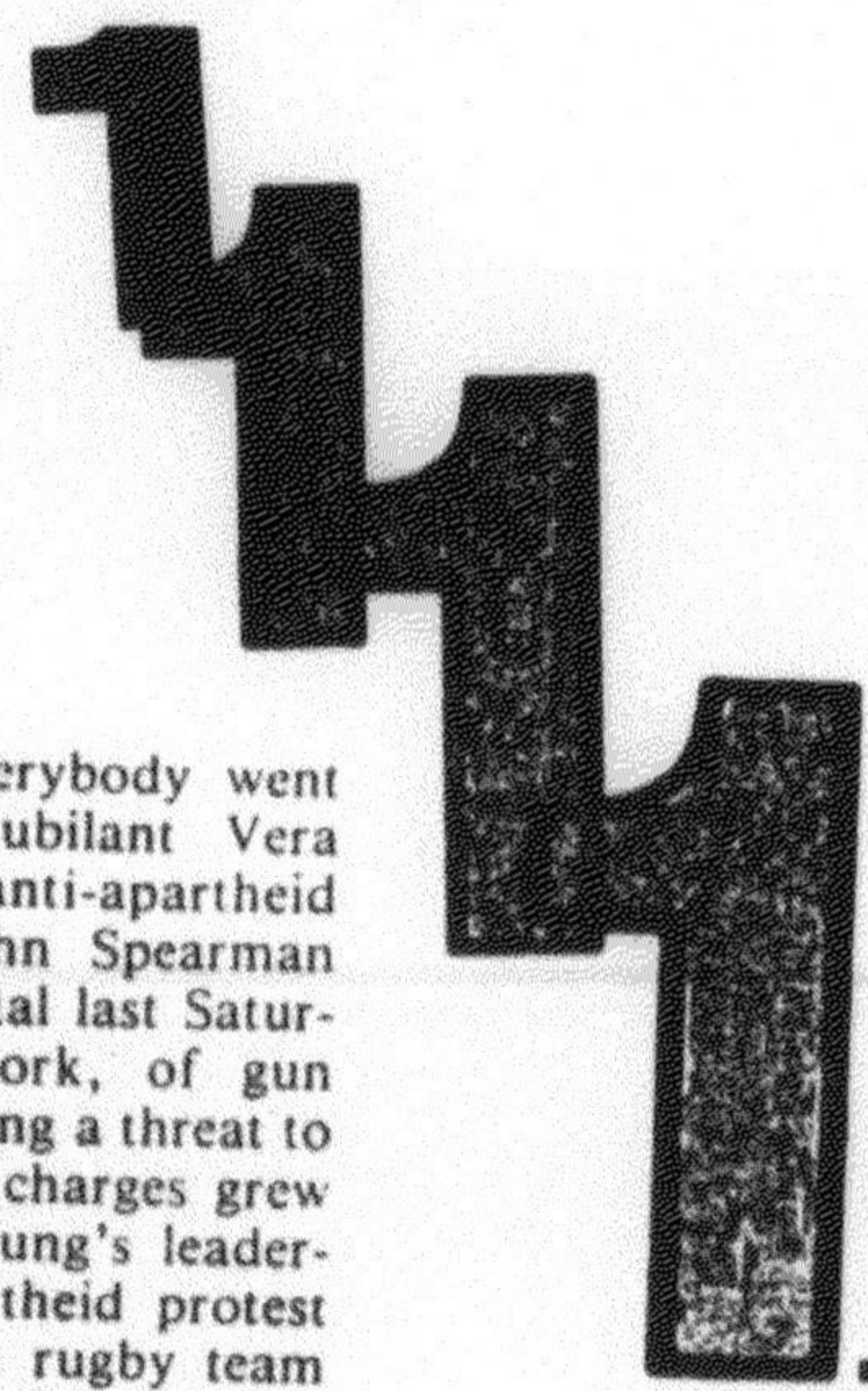
- *The search warrant used to enter the apartment where Young was staying alleged that Clara Satterfield had asked for police protection from Young, who supposedly threatened her at a meeting that night. The warrant listed weapons such as an "electronic dart gun" and explosives which were allegedly stored in the apartment. In addition, it stated that a man, whom police assumed was Young, was seen running from the car before it was stopped. Yet, Satterfield testified that she called police to ask protection from the *pro-apartheid* forces, not Young. No weapons were found in the apartment and police admitted during cross-examination that the list on the warrant was "copied" from a "police manual" and from press reports. Furthermore, defense attorneys pointed out that it was impossible for Young to be running from a car at approximately the same time he was supposedly "threatening" Satterfield.

- *Police claimed they found bullets matching those in the revolver in a bag with Young's initials on it in the apartment. Yet, the bullets were shown to be of a different make from those in the revolver, and police could not produce the mysterious bag.

This clumsy attempt to frame Spearman and Young and repress the anti-apartheid, anti-racism movement is not an isolated incident. It is part of a larger conspiracy against the American people, a conspiracy authorized by the highest levels of government. Executive Order 12333 gives President Reagan sole discretion in deciding how far government agents can go in singling out communists for attack and trampling the rights of citizens. Bypassing legislative and judicial supervision, the Order "legalizes" acts which would otherwise be grossly illegal.

But the Albany jury's decision puts the government on notice that the American people will not stand for agents trampling on our political rights. The people of Albany reached their verdict. The government stands convicted.

①



3/17/82
Workers Trump

Freddy Washington

Albany, N.Y. — "Everybody went crazy," was the way jubilant Vera Michaelson described anti-apartheid people's reactions to John Spearman and Mike Young's acquittal last Saturday in Albany, New York, of gun possession charges and being a threat to commit violent acts. The charges grew out of Spearman and Young's leadership role in the anti-apartheid protest against the South African rugby team playing in Albany's Bleeker Stadium last September 22. Five law enforcement agencies played a part in putting together the case against Spearman and Young according to anti-apartheid supporters. In the final analysis they (the police) beat themselves with a case observers called a shabby set-up attempt.

The Spearman/Young trial had all the earmarks of the growing trend of 'guilty until proven innocent' in America's justice system, where proof of innocence is less and less "admissible" evidence when it's in favor of the defendants. The case against Spearman and Young was riddled with inconsistencies, questionable manipulation of the law and overt demonstration-busting tactics.

The FBI aided Albany police with a 300-page report on Young and the Communist Workers Party, presumably information that would help Albany build its case; the other agencies were State University security police, Capitol police, Greensboro police, State police and N.Y. City police, according to reputable sources. But as Mike Young later said, "The jury was honest. They saw the evidence the prosecution presented was full of holes and there was no grounds to send us to jail." He continued, "They (the police) thought with an all-white jury and two blacks on trial they didn't have to stack the jury. So honest justice prevailed. But that's not to say the system is not bad."

Spearman and Young were originally arrested with seven other anti-apartheid

protestors but the others got minor charges of public disturbances and possession of marijuana dropped. Spearman and Young who were actually arrested the night before the rugby game were charged with possession of a gun supposedly found in Young's car and labeled a threat to commit violent acts against Clara Satterfield, an anti-apartheid supporter and the head of the Albany NAACP.

Police had stated before the trial that a routine problem car check was the reason for stopping Young's car at 7:30 pm the evening of Nov. 21. Albany defense attorney Lewis Oliver and civil rights attorney William Kunstler presented a police car radio transcript that said in part, "The driver is a guy with a beard" which should have been Young but instead it was Spearman they arrested. It was also brought out that New York City police had sent Albany a list of license plates to look for and stop. Mike Young's license apparently a priority. The prosecution's "routine stolen car check" and denials that the arrest was pre-planned fell apart.

The gun supposedly found, a .38 revolver, was charged to Spearman. At 10 pm Clara Satterfield called Albany police for protection against pro-apartheid people. The police apparently turned around Satterfield's words and added to their official statements that

for the People!

Jury Finds Spearman and Young

Continued

(2)

Innocent

Young posed a danger to Satterfield. Satterfield went on record refuting the police.

Police then acquired an arrest warrant for Mike Young who was staying at the home of Vera Michaelson, another supporter and subsequent organizer of the Albany Defense Coalition. The warrant stated Young was violent and dangerous based on FBI and N.Y.C. police information. At 3:15 am Young was arrested and Michaelson's home was searched. Supposedly a loaded speed loader for the .38 was found.

Testimony about the gun was even worse.

Reports from courtroom testimony by police officers never proved the gun which Spearman and Young were charged with possessing was ever in the car. State University security guard Lasko testified the gun was under the seat of the car. Albany policeman De Paula said the gun was in the glove compartment when fellow narcotic officer Kasikowski opened the car to search it. Kasikowski later said he was in the car when the gun was found but did not say where it was placed.

The state's case really went to the dogs when it was discovered that the bullets in the gun and the bullets allegedly found in Young's possession when he was arrested were different makes, the police could not present the traveling bag the

bullets were said to be in and no fingerprints were taken to prove if Young had handled the gun.

Governor Carey and his luxury house-buying secretary Robert Morgado were subpoenaed to produce the 800-page report but they didn't show up in court. Apparently it was to avoid as the prosecution had tried, to keep the political realities of the case from coming up. When Young, Michaelson and the others were arrested police took mailing list, and address and phone books. Police claimed they were needed to verify Michaelson's identity but the listings were only used to contact people in the anti-apartheid movement. The six-woman, six-man jury saw through the police-staged roust and acquitted Young and Spearman after twelve hours of deliberation and a couple readings of the testimony.

According to Michaelson the general public was in support of the anti-apartheid effort. Supporters packed the courtroom and city residents generally showed optimism in their plight. A city busdriver, upon picking up supporters after the victory, held up one finger and said, "Well, that's one for the people."

**See related editorial
on page 2**

Albany anti-apartheid activists acquitted

By FRANK H. ELAM

Two anti-apartheid activists arrested during last year's protests against the tour of a South African rugby team, were acquitted of charges of possessing a weapon in Albany, N.Y., March 6.

The all-white jury deliberated 12 hours before finding Mike Young, a member of the Communist Workers Party (CWP) and John Spearman, a CWP supporter, not guilty of the felony charges. The two Black activists faced sentences of up to 7 years in prison if convicted.

"It was a great victory for the people," Young exulted after the verdict.

The trial was marked by contradictory and perjured testimony from state witnesses, including police officers, and observers felt the state's efforts to frame the two men were obvious to the jury. "It was a situation," said Spearman, "where people were able to see and understand that the police and FBI have no qualms whatsoever in fabricating evidence, and using dirty tricks in order to further the federal government's foreign policy."

Young and Spearman were arrested in Albany last Sept. 22, only hours before a planned mass protest against a match between a U.S. rugby team and

the Springboks, the South African team on tour in the U.S. Both men were in Albany to build support for the protests as organizers of the broad-based anti-apartheid coalition Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour (SART). Young was arrested after police and FBI agents broke into an apartment where he was staying in Albany. Spearman was arrested a few hours earlier while sitting in Young's car.

The arrests were made after police issued a search warrant against Spearman and Young. The warrant later turned out to be based on false information. The charges against the two men were based on the alleged police discovery of a gun while searching the car and a speed loader and bullets in the apartment occupied by Young. In the trial, however, the defense argued that the gun and other evidence were planted by the police while they were searching the car and apartment. During the prosecution testimony, witness after witness, including the police officers who conducted the search, made contradictory statements. This, plus defense witness testimony rebutting the state's witnesses, added to the jury's doubts in the state's case.

Supporters of Young and Spearman charged that the arrests were part of a campaign of political repression by local and federal authorities to inti-

midate opponents of apartheid and the Reagan administration's support of the South African white minority regime. Part of this effort involved a campaign by local politicians and the press to red-bait SART because of the CWP's participation.

A local coalition was formed to provide legal and political support for Young and Spearman and two other activists arrested with them. The coalition included the NAACP, the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, National Black Independent Political Party, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Black student organizations.

The SART campaign was begun last summer to counter President Reagan's efforts to allow the Springboks to play in the U.S. and his pro-apartheid policy in general. Because of public pressure generated by SART and others, previously scheduled Springbok matches in five cities were cancelled.

After their arrests last September, Young and Spearman spent six and nine days respectively in jail, under virtual preventive detention. They were denied bail, phone calls and access to lawyers. The two other activists, who also were held under preventive detention, were cleared of charges of possession of marijuana and firecrackers last December.



Albany demonstraion against the South African rugby team tour last September.

Gardner 3/17/82



Arrest of anti-apartheid protesters came on eve of September 22, 1981, demonstration in Albany against South African rugby team.

Anti-apartheid activists beat Albany frame-up attempt

BY MICHAEL KOZAK

ALBANY, N.Y. — The anti-apartheid movement won a victory in a courtroom here March 6 against the government's attempt to frame up two New York City Black activists — Mike Young and John Spearman — for possession of a weapon.

In a resounding defeat for the government, an all-white jury found Young and Spearman not guilty.

Defense lawyers William Kunstler and Lewis Oliver argued that the police had tried to defuse and demobilize a growing anti-apartheid struggle by framing up one of its most visible leaders, Young, and his friend Spearman. The prosecution, on the other hand, asserted that this was simply a criminal case of weapon possession.

Young and Spearman were arrested the night before the September 22, 1981, protest in Albany against the South African rugby team, the Springboks.

The Springbok's game in Albany's Bleecker Stadium was the only game of the team's U.S. tour that was played in public. Games originally scheduled for New York City and Chicago were either canceled or played at secret sites, due to public protests.

Young, a member of the New York City Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour (SART) and the Communist Workers Party, was sent to Albany by SART at the request of the Albany Coalition Against Apartheid. He helped local activists build a broad coalition of religious, political, labor, and student groups to demonstrate against the September 22 rugby game.

The police, aided by the media, tried to violence-bait the protest. A state police report claimed that the Klu Klux Klan was coming to Albany to battle the Communist Workers Party in scenes reminiscent of Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1979. The FBI warned that violence might erupt

when demonstrators arrived in Albany from around the Northeast. Hysterical television coverage showed hospital emergency rooms preparing for an onslaught of injured people.

On the pretext of violence from the demonstrators as well as the KKK, New York Governor Carey canceled the game on September 17. He claimed "an imminent danger of riot and breach of peace." On September 21, a state court overruled Carey and allowed the game to continue. It was then that the police made their move.

First they arrested John Spearman as he drove Mike Young's car. Realizing that they had not arrested Young, who was the person they sought in hopes of undercutting preparations for the protest, police then raided the apartment where Young was staying.

At 3:15 a.m. on September 22, some fifteen to twenty city police, FBI agents, and state police broke down the door of Vera Michelson's apartment. They stormed inside with shotguns and arrested Young, Michelson, and Aaron Estis, another protest organizer. All were rushed to jail and denied their one phone call for hours. Their bail was not set for days in an attempt to hold them in preventive detention.

Despite the arrests and the suspicious bombing of the Eastern Rugby Union's office on the day of the game, the protest of 1,500 people took place completely free of violence or injury.

Activists quickly formed a committee to defend the arrested activists. They explained the political nature of the arrests and the threat they pose to all persons who dissent from the government's position. Leaflets, public meetings, and benefit concerts all brought home the message to Albany citizens.

People responded by attending the trial of Young and Spearman to show their solidarity. This played a key role in convincing the jury and the people in Albany to look beyond the police claims and expose the frame-up.

MILITANT
4/2/82

611 Ocean Avenue
Brooklyn, New York
February 22, 1982

Dear Friends,

We are approaching difficult times in many ways. I believe the good and bad experiences will serve as a foundation of strength.

First, I want to say that the collective support and organized resistance has put Albany in the political arena with a different awareness. This collective demand for equality and human rights is ringing loudly around the world, although they would have us to believe otherwise.

Last week Michael and I met with more friends in solidarity to help push out the African Liberation Day 1982, and to build more support John and Mike's cases.

I want to say thank you now for taking up the demands of anti-apartheid sentiment. We are people of different experiences and influences, and at times our emotions and sentiments are expressed differently.

As a working mother and wife who loves her husband sincerely, I want you to know that I want to acknowledge the support in the anti-apartheid movement growing.

Michael and John have put their well-being on the line, as many individuals and groups before and after them have done. The rippling affect is growing. My husband nor John are replaceable as husbands, friends or organizers, although the struggle will continue. It must continue so that united we can gain many successes. This I feel will happen as we continue the lines of communication.

If this contradictory judicial system finds these men guilty of their acts against exploitation then I hope we as friends are able to continue organizing inspite of their displacement.

Sincerity and solidarity,

Virginia Mike
Virginia and Mike

January 19, 1982

Dear Friend,

As you probably know by now, after almost three months of legal maneuvering by the government, continuous attempts to cover up their frame up, and a lot of hard work on the part of the legal defense committee, the Coalition against Apartheid and supporters; the case against Aaron Estis and me has been completely dismissed.

Immediately after our arrests and as soon as the initial shock wore off we began to realize that support from the community was overwhelming. The people seemed to realize instinctively that the government (the mayor, the police dept., the FBI, and the D.A.'s office) was attempting to disrupt the demonstration one way or another and that our arrests was only one of their tactics.

As a contributor to the defense fund you have been instrumental in helping us fight back. With your help we have raised enough money to cover my immediate legal fees.

And your contribution helped not only financially but also served to keep our spirits high. When I was in jail I quickly realized that they were intentionally trying to isolate me from my friends, the community and the coalition. That can get to you even though you know you didn't do anything to warrant this kind of treatment and incarceration. That's how they try to capture your mind and break your spirit.

But once the concern was expressed in the community and your money started coming in, I knew they had lost and we had won. I could not have made it without your support. It was crucial.

The response has also given us hope that as repression grows in the coming years - the community will mobilize and the fight back will grow.

Of course even though Aaron and I were absolutely vindicated, the victory will not be complete until Mike Young and John Spearman are set free, as they too were targets of government harrassment; particular targets because of Mike's involvement with the Communists Worker's Party.

With the government continuously trying to disrupt the movement with informants, phone taps, violence baiting, red baiting and other "creative" tactics, it becomes increasingly important to stand united and work in coalitions.

This is why the New York City based SART (stop the apartheid Rugby tour) and the Albany Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism were so successful. They were broad based coalitions committed to one purpose..... fighting racism and apartheid. This is why the government tried to divide us - unity is one of the things they most fear.

But stepped-up attacks on the people will only serve to unite us further.

As you see our work around the arrests is not yet complete so if you would like to be involved in further defense work for John and Mike or if you would like to become more involved in coalition work please call Mike Kozak (h) 482-7348.

And oh yes, Aaron and I are suing for damages (amount undecided at this time). We are suing for false arrest, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, denial of bail, slander, libel and violations of the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th and 14th ammendments and corresponding New York State Constitution civil rights violations.

We're going for broke you'll be happy to know.
Thank you again.

Your friend in struggle,

Vera "Mike" Brindelsson

March 11, 1982

Dear "Mike",

What a satisfying victory! To just say "Thank you" seems so incomplete. It is truly hard to express our gratitude to you.

Your contribution in the recent struggle was very significant and a strong factor in the victory.

Our family cherishes your friendship. Thank you for standing by and aiding us throughout the confinement, hearings and trial. We do appreciate every thoughtful and helpful act.

We look forward to an even closer relationship personally, politically and organizationally.

*Love + Comradeship
John, Eve, John*

March 9, 1982

Dear "Mike,"

I'm writing for myself, but I know I express the feelings of a lot of the folks here when I say congratulations on a campaign well-fought and a victory well-deserved! Congratulations, and much thanks for the tremendous work you all did -- and you can pass this along to all the people who went to the court room day after day, who mobilized the protest against the games, and especially who spread the word throughout the city about the gov't's support of apartheid and the police/gov't frame up. We're impressed with and grateful for all your hard work and your commitment to seeing it through.

Personally, I was really touched by the concern you expressed for Big Mike (at the P.U. conference). But thinking about it more, I realized that it came as much from your own political convictions as from your personal feelings. That's a powerful combination; I'm real glad we're on the same side!

These kinds of incidents (the big ones and the little ones) get me thinking There is little that is glamorous and much that is difficult and frustrating about being "active in the struggle" (i.e., being a revolutionary). But now and then, there is the satisfaction that it's worth it. This is one of those times and I love it!! Though, I'm sure neither of us has illusions about what's ahead. You can bet things will intensify - the beast hates to lose. My own frustration was that I couldn't be more actively involved in this particular struggle. (After all, think of how much fun it would have been, the two of us keeping the brother in line!) But in all seriousness, there is no way I could get into every struggle I feel strongly about. That's when I really appreciate the power of line and organization - that others who feel the way I do are taking up those struggles. It reaffirms the belief that history is on our side and renews the commitment to keep fighting. (End of reflections!!!!)

When you come down for the victory party in NYC (notice I say "when," not "if"), you are welcome to stay at my place. My roommates and I would be honored to have such a "dangerous" and "threatening" person in our midst! Besides, I'd like to hang out with you, get to know my alter-ego in Albany. Us uppity women have to stick together, you know!

Once again - YOU ALL DONE GOOD! and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Take care,

May Trevor

192 St Marks Ave. # 2
Bklyn. NY 11238
(212) 638-0597

IMPLICATIONS OF THE ACQUITTAL OF
MICHAEL YOUNG AND JOHN SPEARMAN
SUMMARY REMARKS FOR NAACP BOARD MEETING, 3/8/82

by

FRANK G. POCUE
Member of the NAACP Board

First Vice President Josey and members of the NAACP Board, I am pleased that I was asked to summarize my views of the implications of the Michael Young/John Spearman acquittal.

As most of you know by now, in some ways the racist South African Government, the South African Springbok Rugby Team, Thomas Selfridge, and Erastus Corning, have been found guilty of spreading racist oppression throughout the world, especially in Albany, New York.

Prior to and during September 22, 1981, the "Day Of Shame" in Albany, the Albany Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, composed of many community organizations and individuals, made the necessary preparation to meet racism head on. Needless to say, the Coalition was successful, and to the extent that it was, this branch should be proud of the role played by selected members of its board.

I have mentioned that the South African Government and Erastus Corning were found guilty. I said this because Michael Young and John Spearman, two defendants who were accused of felony weapon charges, were acquitted on Saturday by an all-white jury in an all-white court.

Both Young and Spearman, as well as Vera Michelson and Aron Estis, were politically detained, locked behind bars to prevent their participation in the planned war against racism. Police charged that they found a gun in Young's car, which Spearman was driving, and ammunition in Vera Michelson's apartment, where they were staying.

Throughout the trial, members of the Coalition Against Apartheid and some members from this board were present in the courtroom. When the verdict 'not guilty' was finally given, there was corresponding jubilation. William Kunstler and Lewis Oliver, attorneys for the defense, had convinced the jury that the police had placed the gun and ammunition in the automobile. The Albany Police Department was found guilty of pulling one of its favorite tricks on the poor and black citizens.

Although all defenders of justice, including the board here, should be delighted with this action, we should know that piecemeal or individual victories are not sufficient to remove the day-to-day oppression we face as a group. Indeed, the inactivity of this branch and other organizations, on a regular basis, may well explain the atmosphere which gave rise to Corning's decision to allow public facilities to be used and may explain the perceived freedom of the police to disregard our basic human rights.

This calls for consistent action and planning--not reacting, after the fact. The branch must take a more active role in the plight of black people in Albany, whether it's police brutality, gentrification and black removal, failure of educational systems, unemployment, etc. Well developed and researched policy statements must be made public frequently. At the very least, this will give community residents some hope that someone cares, and at the same time remove doubts in the minds of those who ask, who speaks for the black community? If we cannot or do not articulate the needs of the black community from which we receive legitimacy, then we have failed.

Organizations with a long successful history as the NAACP enjoys, must be measured by the good they do for the people they represent. During the trial of Young and Spearman, individuals, who happen to be members of this board, were active participants. The board, as a whole, was not. Until we function as a board, in defiance of oppression, the poor people in Albany will show little interest in our beautifully printed constitution and by-laws, our memberless standing committees, our dances and dinners to which poor people can least afford to participate. This may explain the fact that increasingly more young blacks boast of their membership in the Five Percenters than those who point with pride to traditional organizations like the NAACP. In a very serious way we are losing touch with the very constituency we were organized to serve.

No organization worth its salt is free of periodic conflict and internal stress. If for no other reason, conflict occurs because we are human beings with different realities. Stress and conflict, although enevitable in such an organization as ours, should be functional or useful because it is a measure of how much more we have to do; how much is left to conquer. It is dynsfunctional or disruptive, even counterproductive, when it prevents us from focusing on our very reason for being. When this occurs, we have lost the battle and will soon self destruct. We cannot let this happen.

It may well be, as John Rice pointed out so clearly, that "some day history may record with amazement that a person's whole life was once determined by the color of his skin." The fact that we are no where near this victory should be evidence enough to strengthen the branch in its efforts to guarantee for all access to all of the good things society has to offer. Indeed, the very worse thing we can do about oppression is to do nothing--to be silent when we should be articulating the issues; to be complacent when we should feel and dramatize the hopelessness of others; to sit idly by as other organizations are speaking out instead of proclaiming the rightful historic leadership role for which our organization is known internationally. When the latter occurs, a proliferation of new organizations develop, many of which are issue oriented and temporary in nature. Eventually, this has the ingredients for the perfection of "divide and conquer."

Young and Spearman are free now, but their freedom is just as temporary as our own freedom. The case of these two has taught us again how dependent we are on each other. Although there aren't ever any clear winners in situations like this, we have been provided with still another opportunity to organize our efforts to prevent this from happening again.

THIS MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN. LET'S TAKE OUR
RIGHTFUL LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY. TO DO LESS
IS TO WELCOME CATASTROPHE!!!

- LOVE IN THE STRUGGLE -

Though You May Never Realize It—

Surveillance: Still a Government Tool

By PAM SNOOK
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — First there were clicking noises on the phone, next wierd garbled sounds, later a piercing electronic scream.

I thought the telephone was bugged, but what could I do about it, Vera Michaelson said.

"I was sure they (police) were following me, but I wasn't paying too much attention," said the Albany woman who was active in September's protest of the controversial Springboks rugby game.

It wasn't until two weeks ago that Michaelson's suspicions of being under police surveillance proved true. One chapter of an 800-page police report on the protesters was named after her, her lawyer told her. The report surfaced during a recent trial of two New York City men who helped organize the September protest.

"It's difficult to know for sure

if you are a victim of surveillance. Often, many don't find out until years later," said Jim Coben of the Campaign for Political Rights. Coben spoke on "Bugs, Taps and Infiltrators" last night at the Albany Public Library.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence agencies are justified in keeping a close watch on someone if there is strong evidence they might commit a criminal acts, Coben said. Surveillance of people who are expressing political viewpoints is against the constitution's First Amendment rights, he said.

"Until someone is suspected of a crime they should not be subject to police investigation," said Coben, whose organization educates and organizes for political freedoms.

But the government does tap and investigate political activists, he claims.

"In the late 70s it was the

environmental activists, now the anti-nuclear activists are surveillance targets," Coben said.

Church groups, civil rights groups and even parent-teachers organizations have been investigated secretly, he said. "I would not be surprised if they had a file on me."

Outraged at surveillance practices, citizens in Seattle, Washington passed an ordinance two years ago to prohibit local police from secret watches of political activists. It is the only city in nation to have such an ordinance, Coben said.

Detroit's city council passed a similar measure in December, but Mayor Coleman Young vetoed it.

Political activists here in Albany are considering taking action on an anti-political surveillance regulation.

Although First Amendment rights apply nationwide, without

regulations like Seattle's the only way to prevent surveillance for political activist is through litigation, he said. Anti-nuclear activists of New Hampshire's Clamshell Alliance tested the legal waters recently and won, Coben said. They were awarded more than \$700,000.

"Surveillance inhibits people from taking political action," he said.

* * *
The fear of being watched is unfortunate and growing in the United States, the political rights activist said. "After the 70s there was a decrease in concern, now it's on the increase," Coben said.

President Ronald Reagan pardoned two FBI officials convicted of illegal break-ins and his administration has increased intelligence funding substantially, he claims.

"Today's FBI is doing a better job."

Defense dept
CIA
state dept • shipped
1976-1978

Space Research Corp -
TROY, VT.
official found guilty

Watervliet Arsenal arms shipped illegal,

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A congressional staff report said weapons from the Watervliet Arsenal were among \$19 million in arms illegally exported to South Africa.

The report accused the Defense and State Departments and CIA of allowing the illegal exports, which included four 155mm "Long Tom" cannons, 60,000 artillery shells and advanced arms technology.

Watervliet Arsenal officials were unavailable for comment.

tu. 3/26/82
"Almost all the equipment sent to South Africa was acquired in the United States, mainly from U.S. Army plants and supply stocks," the 46-page report said, and a Vermont-based firm shipped it from 1976 to 1978 in violation of the 1963 U.S. arms embargo.

The document, which read in parts like a thriller, was prepared by the staff of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa which will open hearings on the case March 30. It was censored before it was released.

Subcommittee chairman Howard

Wolpe, D-Mich., said the study "is most disturbing because it indicates that our official arms embargoes against South Africa, Libya and other Third World countries risk becoming embargoes in name only."

Space Research Corp. of North Troy, Vt., and its two top officials pleaded guilty in March 1980 to a single charge of exporting to South Africa "at least" 30,000 projectile forgings and components, two gun barrels and two radar vans, and to four counts of filing false information on U.S. Customs declarations.

SRC president Gerald Bull and v. president Rodgers Gregory each were sentenced to one year in prison and served four months and four and one-half months, respectively. SRC was fined \$45,000 but declared bankruptcy and never paid.

The report implicated a CIA agent identified only as "A.B." and said private and government firms in Belgium and Israel and "front" companies in Britain and Liechtenstein also were involved in the operation.

See ARMS, Page 14

Arms from Arsenal shipped illegally

Continued 3/26/82 r.u.

It described how the cannons and equipment were shuttled back and forth across the Canadian border and the shells and cannon were trans-shipped through Halifax, the Canary Islands and Spain.

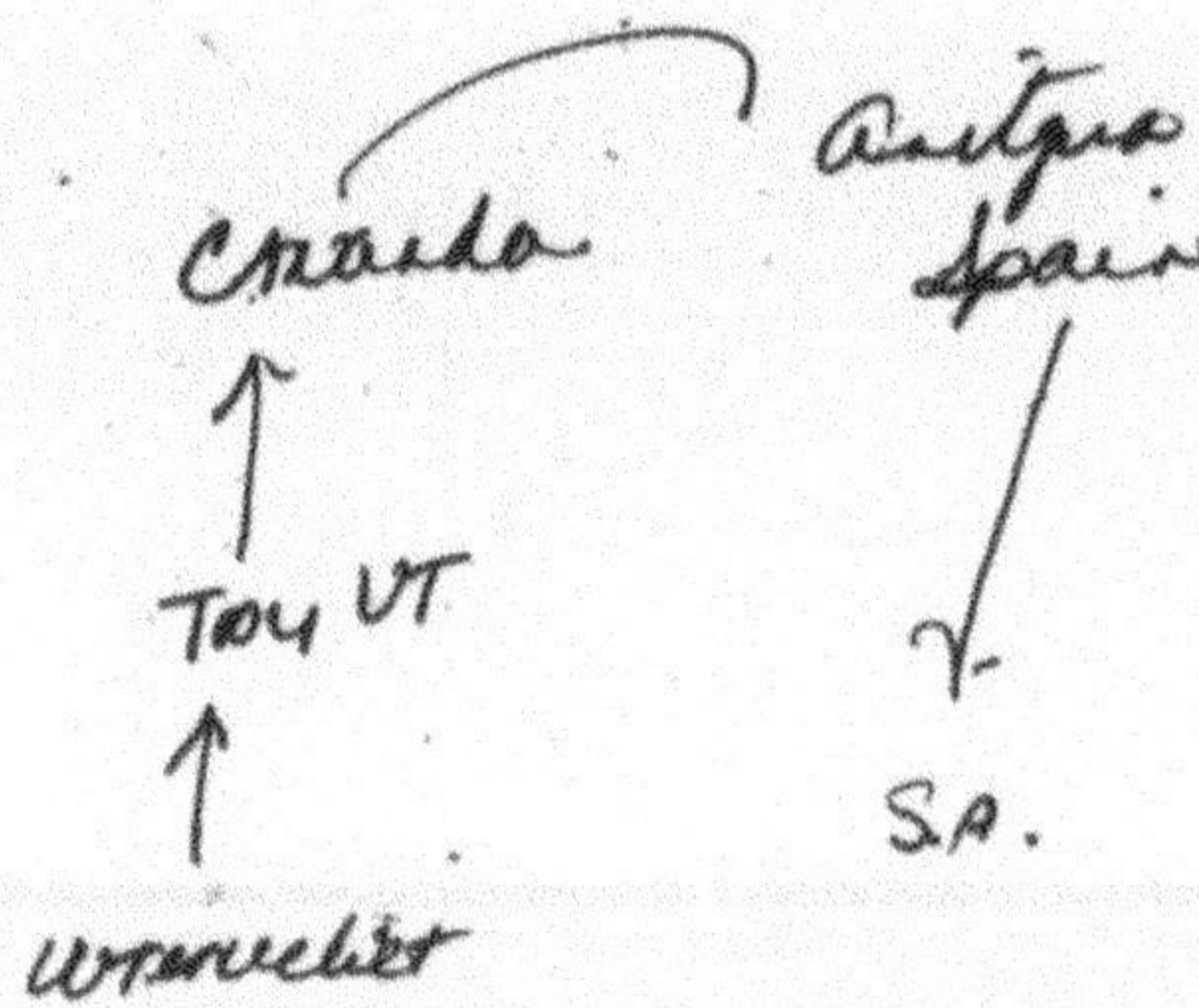
The report charged that:

• The State Department's Office of Munitions Control "misapplied its own regulations in a pattern of mistaken actions that allowed the deal to go forward."

• "A probable CIA agent worked directly with South African arms officials to bypass the U.S. embargo."

• "Lax U.S. Army procedures allowed SAC to use U.S. Army facilities to help produce the artillery shells for South Africa, provide the cannon and even test them. The arms and equipment were acquired from U.S. Army-owned plants and supply stocks in Watervliet, New York, Pa., and Aberdeen, Md., and from a variety of private firms."

The CIA denied it had any role in the operation and a State Department spokesman declined to comment.



*Orders came from Army Ballistics
unit*

FOLLOWING THE WEAPONS TRAIL

From Watervliet to South Africa

By Michael Muskal

Staff Writer

There is a chain of international intrigue, beginning at the Watervliet Arsenal and running to a small Vermont town that straddles the American-Canadian border.

It is a chain that stretches as far as South Africa, which received weapons produced at the Arsenal and sold in violation of an American embargo.

And, according to congressional investigators, questions have been raised about the possible involvement of government officials in the chain.

The answers to how involved the U.S. government was could come Tuesday when the House Foreign Affairs Committee begins hearings on the matter.

The trail began in late 1976 when the Watervliet

Arsenal received orders to prepare a shipment for Space Research Corp., of North Troy, Vt., said Arsenal spokesman Jim Murray.

"We never received any direct orders from Space Research. Our orders came from the Army Ballistic Research Laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Md."

Such an order is not unusual, he said. Watervliet produces about a 1,000 cannon a year. About 30 percent of them are destined for overseas, to allied countries such as Great Britain, Israel and those in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"We were asked to perform some manufacturing operations to modify six 155-millimeter launchers or shock tubes," said Murray. "The work was performed and the items shipped to Space Research in Vermont."

"The Arsenal had no further knowledge of or involvement in the matter."

Space Research Corp., a private company, handled the arms sale deal. It has gone out of business and its two principals have been convicted — and have already served their sentences — on federal charges of illegal exportation.

The company vice president was Rodgers L. Gregory, now a management consultant living in Northfield, Vt.

"I don't know anything about it," said Gregory, who served 4½ months of a one-year sentence in Allenwood minimum-security prison for his role.

Space Research operated in a tiny hardscrabble New England community of barely more than 300 people.

See **FOLLOWING**, Page 12

Following the weapons trail

Continued

Part of the Space Research building is located in the United States and part in Canada. There are separate entrances to the building in each country. There is no customs inspection between the parts of the building.

When it received the equipment from Watervliet — and at least 30,000 projectile forgings and components, two gun barrels and two radar vans from other U.S. Army installations — the equipment was moved to Canada, according to the report. From there, where munitions licenses are less well supervised, the armaments were shipped overseas.

From Canada, the materiel went to what the report calls front companies owned by firms in Britain, Belgium, Lichtenstein and Israel. The actual weapons went mainly to Europe where they were then sent to South Africa, then involved in the Angola Civil War.

During that war, South Africa fought Marxist guerrillas. American involvement and aid in that war has been

unclear, but a leak by former CIA agent Frank Shepp has charged that America covertly aided South Africa and the anti-Marxist faction that eventually lost.

This week, the House Subcommittee issued a 46-page report on Space Research, confirming what everyone already knew, but with implications that are still being weighed.

"Almost all of the equipment sent to South Africa was acquired in the United States, mainly from U.S. Army plants and supply stocks," said the report.

"It is more subtle than that," said one congressional staffer, who asked to remain unidentified. "This is mostly a case of bureaucratic laxity."

"But the laxity is systemic. We've found there are no resources to enforce the arms embargo. No one is interested in doing so. There is not enough commitment and no responsibility."

"It's probable that a CIA agent helped get Space Research and South Africa together," the staffer said.

"Whether it was done on purpose by the CIA as policy, or whether they were just negligent in supervising one of their people, we don't know. We're not making a judgment yet."

"It has been our feeling all along," said Gail Hovey, research director of American Committee on Africa, a New York City-based anti-apartheid group, "that the amount of weapons had to mean that the government had to be involved."

"If there wasn't direct involvement, there had to be intentional blindness."

State and Defense department officials, as well as the CIA, have refused to comment until the formal hearings.

"We are aware of the situation," said David N'bada, of the African National Congress, the banned South African party that is fighting the present regime. "There are a lot of loopholes in the embargo and we're working at closing off the aid. We've asked a special committee of the United Nations to investigate."

Apartheid is target of protest at Arsenal



Staff photo by Bob Richey

ANTI-APARTHEID PROTEST — Members of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid picket Saturday at Watervliet Arsenal.

By Michael Muskal

Staff Writer

WATERVLIET — About 60 members of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid Saturday protested the involvement of the Watervliet Arsenal in the shipment of weapons to South Africa between 1976 and 1978.

"We are here today in the cause of moral accountability," said the Rev. Brian O'Shaughnessy, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Albany

diocese's Peace and Justice Committee.

"We must hold our government accountable to its own embargo."

Arsenal officials have said they produced six modified cannon that were shipped to Space Research of North Troy, Vt. That firm, using a series of dummy corporations in Europe, then sold the cannon — and an estimated \$19 million of other armaments — to South Africa in violation of a 1963 embargo of such sales by the

United States and the United Nations.

Arsenal spokesmen said they had no knowledge the weapons were to be shipped to South Africa, and they were just following orders from the U.S. Army, in shipping the cannon to Vermont.

The arms sale ultimately led to the conviction of Space Research's two principals, Gerald V. Bull and Rogers L. Gregory, who served about four-

month sentences in a federal facility for violating the embargo.

Last week, the House Subcommittee on Africa held hearings on the matter, trying to determine whether the case represented a bureaucratic error or a deliberate attempt by the government to help South Africa.

During the hearings, State Department and CIA officials said that monitoring procedures have been tightened to prevent a repeat of the Space Research case.