

'I was not informed of the details of the budget comprising the SDA. I didn't know anything about it. I didn't dare to ask, that was a military thing and that would have been inappropriate for me to ask.'

~ Barend du Plessis, Minister of Finance, 1984-1992

'We only knew second hand about what was going on... the SDA was a no-go area'

~ Joop de Loor, Auditor General, 1984-1992

'...the level of audit assurance that can be furnished will often be lower than is normally the case in ordinary audits.'

~ Disclaimer on all SDA audits by Auditor General

'One also needs to take into account the effects such revelations could have on international relations with some other countries'

~ Magnus Malan, Minister of Defence, 1981-1991

PW Botha's total strategy involved all sectors of society in his war effort.

Hidden from the public eye was the Special Defence Account (SDA), used to buy weapons across the world.

The Secret State

Secret money for guns

Hidden from the public:

Over R500 billion spent through the Special Defence Account in today's terms

A secret global money-laundering network set up to spend SDA funds

SDA funds used to bust the arms and oil embargo, and to pay middlemen hefty commissions

Auditor General forbidden to access any operational files in auditing the SDA

CUMULATIVE SPENDING FROM SDA

1974	R111 million
1975	R711 million
1976	R1.579 billion
1977	R2.577 billion
1978	R3.398 billion
1979	R4.587 billion
1980	R5.598 billion
1981	R6.859 billion
1982	R8.213 billion
1983	R9.745 billion
1984	R11.770 billion
1985	R14.191 billion
1986	R17.449 billion
1987	R21.587 billion
1988	R26.625 billion
1989	R32.580 billion
1990	R33.125 billion
1991	R38.404 billion
1992	R42.366 billion
1993	R46.454 billion
1994	R49.648 billion