

A Tale of Profit

TIMELINE

OUR FINDINGS



Lonrho's Tiny Rowland offers to covertly procure German equipment for armoured vehicles for Pretoria.

André Vléric named chairman of Kredietbank.



SA military requested to assist Argentina in coups in Albania, Croatia and Haiti

Tiny Rowland informs SA military intelligence that Thatcher will back Savimbi and UNITA.

Heads of Singapore intelligence and armed services meet senior SA military intelligence. Agree to closer intelligence collaboration.

Projek Republiek (ProRep) is set up by the NP as a front company to obscure the identities of the party's donors.

Israeli government approaches SA to suggest a weapons-for-coal barter trade worth \$300 million.

Georges Starckmann organises the purchase of 160 Soviet-built missiles for SA from East Germany. In 1986 Noriega seizes shipment in Panama.



US Senator Richard Stone proposes \$50 million pro-apartheid propaganda plan to the South African Department of Foreign Affairs.

SA's embassy in Tel Aviv warns Pretoria that the presence of SA military officials is obvious due to the prevalence of Afrikaans spoken in schools and shops.

Armcor establishes a covert office in the South African embassy in Paris.

Request made to South African military to host the training of 1,500 Croatian soldiers for proposed coups in Croatia and Albania.

Ariel Sharon meets with PW Botha and Magnus Malan, suggesting underground nuclear tests.



Armcor purchases weapons from Chinese state-owned arms manufacturer Norinco. SADF travel to Zaire to set up covert shipping.

US company International Signal and Control (ISC), allegedly backed by the CIA, ships ballistic missile technology and equipment to SA... some of which were passed on to Beijing.



Tory MP Julian Amery visits Jonas Savimbi in Jamba. He is later chastised by the US ambassador to Oman for not helping set up a missile transaction with Savimbi.

Mid-1980s–mid-1990s:

\$15 million passed through the Armcor bank accounts in Luxembourg weekly during this period.*

*According to an ex-Armcor employee in Paris,



First democratic election, Nelson Mandela elected president of Government of National Unity. The new South African Constitution adopted in 1996.

Steve Biko murdered in police custody.



Muldergate: Prime Minister John Vorster admits to authorising secret Department of Information slush funds.



Swiss bankers from UBS travel to South Africa to discuss relocation of its headquarters to Johannesburg in time of emergency.



Lonrho's Tiny Rowland sets up meeting with Israeli intelligence to discuss obtaining US missiles for Pretoria.

Julian Amery organises meeting of shadowy organisation, Le Cercle, in Stellenbosch. Repeat South African meetings in 1988 and 1991.



International Freedom Foundation, a South African military front, funds Jack Kemp's unsuccessful campaign for Republican nominee.

Senior SADF and French officials meet in Paris. French offer spare parts for Mirage jets and to smuggle weapons via South America. Chirac asks Pretoria to delay release of French political prisoner Pierre-André Albertini.

Nelson Mandela rejects PW Botha's offer of release from prison.

State of Emergency declared. Hundreds of civilians are killed and thousands injured by police during protests.



SOUTH AFRICAN EVENTS

Chilean coup d'état, Pinochet takes power.



SA troops invade Angola.

20,000 students protest in Soweto, uprising spreads across SA.



PW Botha is elected leader of NP and prime minister.



United Democratic Front (UDF) launches new broad-based anti-apartheid front in South Africa.

Tricameral Parliament elected.

PW Botha delivers 'Rubicon' speech.

South African troops re-enter Angola, leading to the battle of Cuito Cuanavale.

ANC chief representative to France, Luxembourg and Switzerland, Dulcie September, is murdered in Paris.

Namibia gains independence.

FW de Klerk announces unbanning of liberation movements and release of Mandela. Negotiations take place during period of bloody conflict.

1960s–1990: 80,000 people detained without trial, many tortured and some disappeared.

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WORLD EVENTS



UN Security Council agrees to mandatory arms embargo on South Africa.

UN General Assembly approves mandatory oil embargo against South Africa (UN Security Council vetoes).

World campaign against military and nuclear collaboration with South Africa established at the request of the UN.

UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher elected (three terms to 1990); Shah of Iran deposed.

US President Ronald Reagan elected (two terms until 1988).

Iraq invades Iran, starting 8-year war.

Oliver Tambo addresses UN and OAU conference on sanctions against South Africa.

Ariel Sharon appointed minister of defence in Israel.

Communist China makes public call to release Mandela.

US banks refuse to roll over credit to SA, prompting debt crisis. Swiss banker Fritz Leutwiler negotiates a debt standstill for Pretoria.

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac elected (until 1988); Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act passed by US Congress.

US Congress starts hearings on Iran-Contra affair.

End of war in Angola. South African, Cuban and Russian troops agree to withdrawal, unlocking Namibian independence.



Berlin Wall is torn down, Cold War ends

Arms and oil sanctions lifted.

1980–1985: Over 100,000 Angolans die as a result of war-related famine.