

Sinister Shadow of POQO Lengthening Over South Africa

By NIEL SMITH
United Press International

Johannesburg — The sinister shadow of POQO is lengthening over South Africa. A year ago the organization was known only to a handful of African affairs experts. Today most South Africans are familiar with "POQO," the strange-sounding Xhosa language word meaning "we stand alone."

They read the headlines: The reports of murder and intimidation, and of eager African recruits slipping out of the country for training in murder methods and sabotage. Then they wonder if they must take seriously POQO's boast that it will launch an Algerian-type rebellion in South Africa in 1963.

Anti-White Underground POQO is a fanatical anti-white underground African organization. Its terrorist activities have ranged from one end of the apartheid-practicing republic to the other.

There is now no doubt that

POQO instigated the November riots at Paarl, 35 miles from Cape Town, when two young whites were dragged from their homes and butchered by a screaming mob of Africans. A month later POQO men hacked a policeman to death in a violent skirmish at Queenstown, more than 500 miles from Paarl. This month five more Europeans were similarly massacred near Engcobo, about 100 miles from Queenstown.

South Africa's commissioner of police, Lt. Gen. J. M. Keesy at first denied, but appeared to be connected with the Engcobo killings.

POQO Responsible

On the day Keesy made his original denial, the government-appointed leader of the Transkei territorial authority, chief Kaiser Matanzima, said he had no doubt POQO was responsible.

Matanzima has reason to fear POQO. As a strong supporter of the government policy which brought him to power and prominence, he is a prime target for the terror-

ists. One assassination attempt on him failed last December.

POQO also has been connected with intimidation, gasoline bomb attacks, and an occasional successful assassination of some lesser known African government supporter. On Feb. 7 six Africans were sentenced to death in Umata for killing a pro-government chief, Gwebindlala Gzoboza. The six told the court POQO threatened to kill them unless they committed the murder.

POQO's history is a short one. It had its origin in the banned pan-Africanist congress (PAC) whose campaign against government pass-books for blacks in 1960 cul-

minated in a bloody massacre at Sharpeville.

The pan-Africanists rejected the methods of the more moderate African national congress (ANC) because the ANC was prepared to work for a multi-racial South Africa. The ANC formed part of the interlocking network of other "congresses" representing radical elements from all South Africa's racial groups. The pan-Africanists refused to work within this framework and preferred to go it alone under the banner of "Africa for the Africans."

After the PAC was banned in 1960, those leaders who had not been scooped up in the police net, or fled out of the country, began to organize

quietly. They started operations in the black shanty towns outside Cape Town and among the green hills of Zululand at the other side of the country.

Collaborate With No One

The organizers chose the name "POQO" to show they were prepared to collaborate with no outsiders, not even the Communists who are always willing to assist African nationalist movements.

"We are as much against the Communists as the south African government," an African who claimed to be a POQO sympathizer said.

"They try to infiltrate all organizations to further their own interests. We in POQO are interested only in pan-Africanism. We have no time for foreign ideologies such as Communism."

He added: "Poqo is now a national organization. It is ruthless and well organized and commands loyalty from thousands of supporters who will carry out its orders or face death themselves. Its message is not prepared to compromise, so violence is the only answer."

Headquarters Are Outside

Informed sources say poqo has its headquarters outside South Africa, in the little British colony of Basutoland. Basutoland has more than 400 miles of unpatrolled frontier with South Africa and it is easy for Africans to slip down through the mountain passes or across shallow streams into the republic.

This is one of the main reasons the South African government ringed Basutoland, and other British territories adjoining the republic, with heavily armed frontier posts.

Reports persist that Poqo supporters have been smuggled out of South Africa to Ghana and Algeria for training in sabotage. Some of these saboteurs are reportedly now back in the country preparing for the next phase of Poqo's operations.

Last month there were disturbing reports from Natal that Poqo was recruiting young Africans by the score and sending them by secret routes to West Africa for training in guerrilla warfare. There are other reports that Poqo has organized its own schools for teaching judo and unarmed combat techniques in the African townships south-west of Johannesburg.

Attention to Activities

The South African authorities are giving serious attention to Poqo's activities. The

recent emphasis on fortified frontier posts and detention camps for undesirable immigrants shows that the police will make an all-out effort to stop saboteurs trained outside the country re-entering the republic. In that case the new border posts would become major targets for Poqo terrorists, to re-open a way back into the country for its trainees.

South African whites have been showing greater interest in civil defense and a wary

attitude of "we don't expect trouble really but we must be prepared" is typical in these early days of 1963.

Informed sources say Poqo is discussing its D-Day plans at nightly meetings throughout the country, but that no dates have been set for future widespread attacks. By no means all the Africans in the country support, or are even mildly sympathetic toward Poqo's savage campaign of all-out terror and there are many police informers.

But it seems likely that Poqo's next major efforts will not be Panga and Assegai affairs. Machine guns and hand grenades could replace the primitive African weapons.

Before it was banned, the Pan-Africanist congress said South Africa would be "liberated" in 1963. The whole of South Africa, both black and white, is waiting tensely to see whether Poqo will make good the threat.

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On the Air

By ELEANOR WIESE

En garde! Tonight the battle is joined. Once again CBS and NBC, in the struggle for the TV viewer's favor, have scheduled opposite each other two fine special programs. And the V.I.P. uncomfortably perched on the horns of a dilemma is you.

On one hand CBS offers a corking good variety hour with Carol Burnett and Robert Preston — both high-powered performers.

On the other hand NBC offers Chet Huntley with a study of the nation's water problems, which are becoming more acute each year.

My guess would be that after varied amounts of wrangling, either vocally with the younger generation or silently with one's conscience, most viewers will turn to the entertainment hour rather than the educational one.

That's fine. Freedom of choice is all important in a free society. But as far as television goes, the networks should not force such a choice upon the viewer. Good special programs are getting scarcer each season as production costs inflate. Therefore we should demand that the networks do not schedule what few specials they do have at the same hour, imposing upon us a difficult choice.

Rather, the specials should be opposite regularly scheduled programs. For example, deciding to miss "Bonanza" one Sunday evening in favor of fun with comedienne Burnett or missing "Candid Camera" once to become better informed on a national problem which affects us all, would be a relatively easy decision.

The TV audience has a right to such consideration instead of being the punching bag between two giants battling for ratings.

SPORTS SPECTACULAR, 2:30 p.m. Sunday KBES-TV. The Diamond Jubilee National A.A.U. Indoor Track and Field Championships and the All-American Water-Ski Championships.

TWENTIETH CENTURY, 8 p.m. Sunday KBES-TV. "Attack on Singapore" pictures the World War II fall of Great Britain's "unassailable" Far Eastern fortress guarding the approaches to the Dutch East Indies, India and Australia.

MEET THE PRESS, 6 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. The head of the Organization of American States, Ambassador Gonzalo J. Facio of Costa Rica, will be interviewed.

ABOUT TIME, 6:30 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. A repeat broadcast of the story of the measurement of time. Dr. Frank Baxter serves as program guide for this Bell System Science Series.

ED SULLIVAN, 8 p.m. Sunday KBES-TV. The Great Schnozzola, Jimmy Durante, is headliner for this show originating from Las Vegas.

THE TROUBLE WITH WATER IS PEOPLE, 10 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. In a study of the increasing acuteness of the nation's water problems, the increasing demands made upon the Colorado River reflect what is happening throughout the country. Misuse and overuse has rendered too much of our water unfit, according to narrator Chet Huntley.

CAROL AND COMPANY, 10 p.m. Sunday KBES-TV. Carol Burnett and Robert Preston frolic and sing through one of TV's brighter hours.

VICTOR BORGE SHOW, 9 p.m. Monday KMED-TV. The one-man casts of two world renowned productions — Victor Borge and the French master mime, Marcel Marceau — combine their talents in a silent segment of the show as well as performing individually.

DICK POWELL THEATRE, 9:30 p.m. Tuesday KMED-TV. Henry Fonda and Polly Bergen star in "Tissue of Hate," the drama of a woman prisoner whose face is covered with scars.

CHET HUNTLEY REPORT,

ING, 10:30 p.m. Tuesday KMED-TV. American aid projects in India, filmed during a recent tour of that country by U.S. Ambassador John Kenneth Galbraith.

PERRY COMO, 9 p.m. Wednesday KMED-TV. Guest include soprano Patrice Munsel, comedian Frank Gorshin and puppeteers Bil and Cora Baird and their marionettes.

NAKED CITY, 10 p.m. Wednesday KBES-TV. Akim Tamiroff and Robert Culp star in the story of jury on a murder trial which makes the wrong decision.

PERRY MASON, 8 p.m. Thursday KBES-TV. Guest star Walter Pidgeon has a scatterbrained heiress for a client in a murder involving blackmail and a mysterious Swiss bank account.

PREMIERE, 10 p.m. Thursday KBES-TV. "Hornblower," based on C. S. Forester's fictional British naval hero, tells the story of a British sloop of war searching for her sister-ship, presumed lost.

DAVID BRINKLEY'S JOURNAL, 8 p.m. Saturday KMED-TV. Great Britain's \$3,000,000,000 gambling is subject of filmed report.

MOVIE, 9 p.m. Saturday KMED-TV. "The Roots of Heaven," with Errol Flynn, Orson Welles and Eddie Albert, deals with African elephant ivory hunters. John Huston directed the movie, filmed in French Equatorial Africa.

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