

Who Really Killed Chris Hani?

Chris Nicholson

South Africa: Veritas, 2024, no price stated¹

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The author is a South African judge. His book might contain some important information about a series of high profile killings linked to an apartheid-era South Africa paramilitary outfit called the South African Institute for Maritime Research (SAIMR), but it is so incompetently done I abandoned it after reading/skimming a third of its 450 pages.

It begins badly when the LaRouche magazine *Executive Intelligence Review (EIR)* is quoted at length on pages 6 and 7. *EIR* claims that SAIMR was a front for MI6 but offers no evidence for that; nor for its next claim that former MI6 man Nicholas Elliott was 'a controller of the London-based Sikh radical, Jagjit Singh Chauhan, whose associates assassinated Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandi in 1984.'² The extensive *EIR* quotations told me the book was going to be duff. *EIR* is frequently interesting but never reliable and anyone who doesn't understand that is not going to be able to handle a large chunk of parapolitics.

On pp. 75-78 Nicholson discusses documents found by one Christelle Terreblanche as part of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. These apparently discuss a plot by SAIMR to kill Dag Hammarskjöld. He writes:

In 2014, Oxford scholar Dr Susan Williams updated her book, *Who Killed Hammarskjöld?*, and referred to the papers that Terreblanche had found, which provided proof of the plot with the sinister name of 'Operation Celeste'.

Williams does more than 'refer' to the papers. She spends an entire chapter on them and concludes that they were fabrications.³ Williams' critical analysis of

¹ On his website, Nicholson is selling an Ebook version for 150 Rand - which is about £6.50 See <<https://chrisnicholson.co.za/product/who-really-killed-chris-hani/>>.

² The *EIR* essay, 'Did British intelligence kill Hani?' from which this was taken is at <<https://shorturl.at/Idfp2>> or <https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/1993/eirv20n19-19930514/eirv20n19-19930514_036-did_british_intelligence_kill_ha.pdf>.

³ She showed me them. I thought they were obvious fakes. The documents are discussed in great detail in chapter 16 of Williams' book which I reviewed at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/64/miscellaneous-reviews/>>.

the documents is ignored by Nicholson cherry picking his way through the material.

The author has a chapter on Le Cercle, i.e. what began as the Pinay Circle, discussed at some length in these columns over the past 40 years or so.⁴ He quotes a South African report from 1991 describing it as 'an informal forum of influential representatives of a "conservative cast of mind"' – which is what Pinay/Le Cercle was and remains. Among recent British participants are former Conservative MPs Norman Lamont, Rory Stewart and Jonathan Aitken.⁵ Three pages later he is quoting a book, *Apartheid Guns and Money – a Tale of Profit* by Hennie van Vuuren. This 'dealt with the sinister body Le Cercle'. Van Vuuren

mentioned a Le Cercle meeting in 1984 which addressed the serious threat of infiltration of socialist parties of Europe and elsewhere by communist agents. There was talk of left-wing Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. A year and half later Palme was assassinated.

But so what? Does Nicholson want us to believe that the assassination was the result of Palme being mentioned at Le Cercle? He hasn't even decided if Le Cercle is 'sinister' or a conservative talking-shop.

In the chapter on Le Cercle he also writes this on p. 98:

British intelligence boss Graham Greene explained in his book *The Human Factor* (1978) that the two powers, Britain and the US – who claimed opposition to apartheid – were stuck with the apartheid government for the sake of retaining rights to crucial and strategic minerals.

Yes, it's amusing to see the late Graham Greene described this way, but in a book which wants to be taken seriously? If anybody proofread this – which I doubt – they deserve a smack.

⁴ Beginning in issue 17.

⁵ <[https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Le_Cercle/Chairman_\(Europe\)>](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Le_Cercle/Chairman_(Europe)>)