MURDER INCORPORATED - INTERNATIONAL

The murder yesterday in Paris of Ms Dulcie September, representative in France of the African National Congress of South Africa, is the latest - not the last - of the many political assassinations which Pretoria has carried out against those who challenge its rule.

The apartheid regime has used covert murder teams to dispose of its opponents both in South Africa itself and in countries throughout the world. At home, increasing numbers of people resisting racism and draconic domination are attacked, mauled and murdered by Pretoria's thugs. This is in addition to the depredations of the South African Police and the South African Defence Force. Activists and some only faintly so are targets. Members of the United Democratic Front and scores of freedom organizations countrywide are not only banned and detained and put on trial but victims of hit squads. No one is exempt - from stone-throwing children in the townships to church leaders. There is at present great anxiety for the safety of Archbishop Desmond Tutu; the Rev Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches; and, the Rev Dr Frank Chikane, general-secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

Outside South Africa, Pretoria's murderers - in uniform and out - have free reign in occupied Namibia. RENAMO carries out barbarities inside Mozambique with full direction, training and equipping by the South African regime. The South African Defence Force is deep in Angola to take the brunt of the war against the Luanda government from its puppet ally, UNITA. Pretorian attacks in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana as well are growing in intensity and are more frequent.

Those countries are the sites of covert South African squad hits. ANC officials are continually shot dead and the victims of bombs. Pretoria's reach is increasingly seen in Europe. The ANC representative in Brussels last month narrowly escaped an assassins bullets. Last autumn a plot to kidnap-kill ANC officials in London was uncovered before maturation; the affair was dropped by the Thatcher government on 'national security' grounds. In 1984 in London ANC headquarters was bombed. Both offices of the ANC and SWAPO of Namibia in the British capital are under threat and officials of the liberation movements are endangered.

When will Pretoria's deadly hand strike at South African and Namibian members and officials in the United States? There are many cases of surveillance and harassment against them in this country. Pretoria has many friends and supporters - business people, politicians, church leaders, some of them rabid in their devotion to the apartheid state. Despite occasional public chidings, the US government has close relations with Pretoria. US intelligence services work closely with their counterparts in South Africa.

The US federal government and state and municipal governments cannot not know what Pretoria's agents are up to. Our officials must be put on notice that they will be held responsible for attacks on Namibian and South African liberation members in this country.