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Name of Interviewer: De Wet Potgieter

Name of interviewee/s: Director Henk Heslinga

Name of translator (if any): De Wet Potgieter

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De Wet	<p>I am sitting here with director Henk Heslinga, former head of the Pretoria murder and robbery squad. It is Monday 5 October 2009 and coincidentally today exactly 15 years ago that the former moderator of the NG church, professor Johan Heyns, was killed by an assassin at his house in Waterkloof, Pretoria. Now, there are still a lot of unanswered questions regarding the assassination, if it was a political murder or not, because up to know nobody had been arrested on charged for the murder. So, it still remains and unsolved murder. Now Henk, could you tell us the extent of the investigation and why nobody had been arrested.</p>
Henk	<p>Yes now, precisely 15 years ago just after eight the evening the flying squad contacted me about the death of professor Heyns. Arriving on the scene I found is body in the living room in front of the television. He was shot through the back of his head, the bullet went right through his nos and his eyes, richoceted from the television and we couldn't find the remains of the bullet. I was then told by mrs. Heyns that she and their two grandchildren were there in the living room when prof. Heyns a minute or so before the eight o clock news prof. Heyns came into the room and went and sit in his chair where he always sat, and they changed channels to television news and he sat</p>

watching the news the way he did every night. It was pointed out to me that this was the way it hapenede every evening. He walked out of his study next adjoining the living room entering a few minutes before the news started, sat in his chair and watched the news.

With the help of the forensic experts, the ballistic experts we managed to find the trajectory of the bullet and from where it was fired.

The living room was quite a big room and we found that the assassin was outside the living room on the eastern side at the corner of the house when he fired through the window and through the curtains. The curtains were sunfilter and one could see through it amnd he shot prof. Heyns in the back of the head. We found hair on the bricks where the murderer was shooting from, but found no shells, but we did ascertain that the murder weapon was a .303 rifle which doesn't eject any shells.

Erarly the next morning I returned to the murder scene and when I opened the curtains to allow more light into the living room, the remnants from the bullet's jacket fell to the ground and it was then when we could confirm that the murder weapons was a .303 rifle.

Throughout my investigation until today I stood by my viewpoint that the murderer knew prof. Heyns, he knew his habits and movements and knew the surroundings in the garden very well. It was a difficult garden to walk around and in particular in the dark if you didn't know your way around. It was full of rock steps, flower beds and the surrounding was on a hilltop.

If you don't know the area to walk around there in the dark would've been very difficult. The house was build on a hilltop and I stick to my theory.

The person who shot prof. Heyns knew very well that he entered the living room every evening just before eight and went and sit in his regular chair. He planned well in advance where he would shoot prof. Heyns and he did it indeed.

He chose Guy Fawkes evening because he knew fireworks would go off in the neighbourhood and that would dampen the firing of the rifle.

We were, of course, considering every possibility, Was it a right wing murder, did it come from the right wing elements in South Africa, of from the former struggle days, the ANC.

With prof. Heyns' funeral we made video recordings of the proceedings and later on looked at it, but every body there at the funeral could be identified. There wer no leads from the funeral.

We did receive information that a reverend Gouws and his wife were living in the cottage on prof. Heyn's proerty at one time, and that there were a sexual relationship between prof. Heyns

and the wife of the reverend Gouws.
She was also preacher and a member of the same church council as prof. Heyns. We suspected that he committed the murder and that he had motive to kill prof. Heyns. He was also a member of the defence force and according to the firearm registry he had owned a .303 hunting rifle.
We went to see him. We took hair from his hair brush, but it turned out to be negative. We also had his rifle tested by ballistic experts, but it also turned out negative. We interogated him. He admitted that they were staying there and denied that there were a relationship. Therefore there we had no more reason to interrogate him further or to detain him as a suspect in the murder.
At one stage I was removed as commanding officer from handling the murder dossier. I was removed by brigadier Victor, wo were then the regional head of detectives and he ordered me to stay away from the investigation.
Lieutenant-colonel Hendrik Viljoen took over the investigation and there was former member of the security branch who assisted him. I think it was a major Lucas Ras.
Since then I lost track of any progress in the investigation. I did grant a journalist an interview about the allegations that prof. Heyns had a extra marital affair and I made available information from the murder dossier containing this information. A few weeks after the news report his son admitted in the newspaper that the affair was true.
I was then transferred to head office and never had lost rtack of the investigation.
I do know that Kaalvoet Thysie a right winger, was and right wing organisations were treated as suspects because they believed that prof. Heyns had left wing leanings, but it was never proven.
I believe that the person who sahot Heyns knew exactly about his habits and movements. Knew exactly from which vantage point to fire the shot and that the murder was nothing but personal reasons.
At that time the right wing organisations were very well infiltrated by intelligence agents and nowhere and never did any information came to light from these sources that right wing organisations or individual may have been involved.
My inference is further confirmed by the fact that no right wing organisation had aplied for amnesty for the murder of prof. Heyns. If this would've happened it would have been the most news worthy application at the TRC.
This is my personal way and I stand by it.