

## South African security forces harass British journalists

SHADOWY forces within the South African security establishment have been resorting to the dirty tricks of old to harass and intimidate me and two BBC journalists with whom I have been investigating links between the police, the army and political violence.

The South African government has responded promptly to the British Embassy, assigning a police captain to conduct an investigation at the urgent bidding of two cabinet ministers. One of the police captain's first tasks, I have learnt, has been to establish who were the police on duty at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport on the evening of 6 February, when Mr Drury checked in for the overnight South African Airways flight to London.

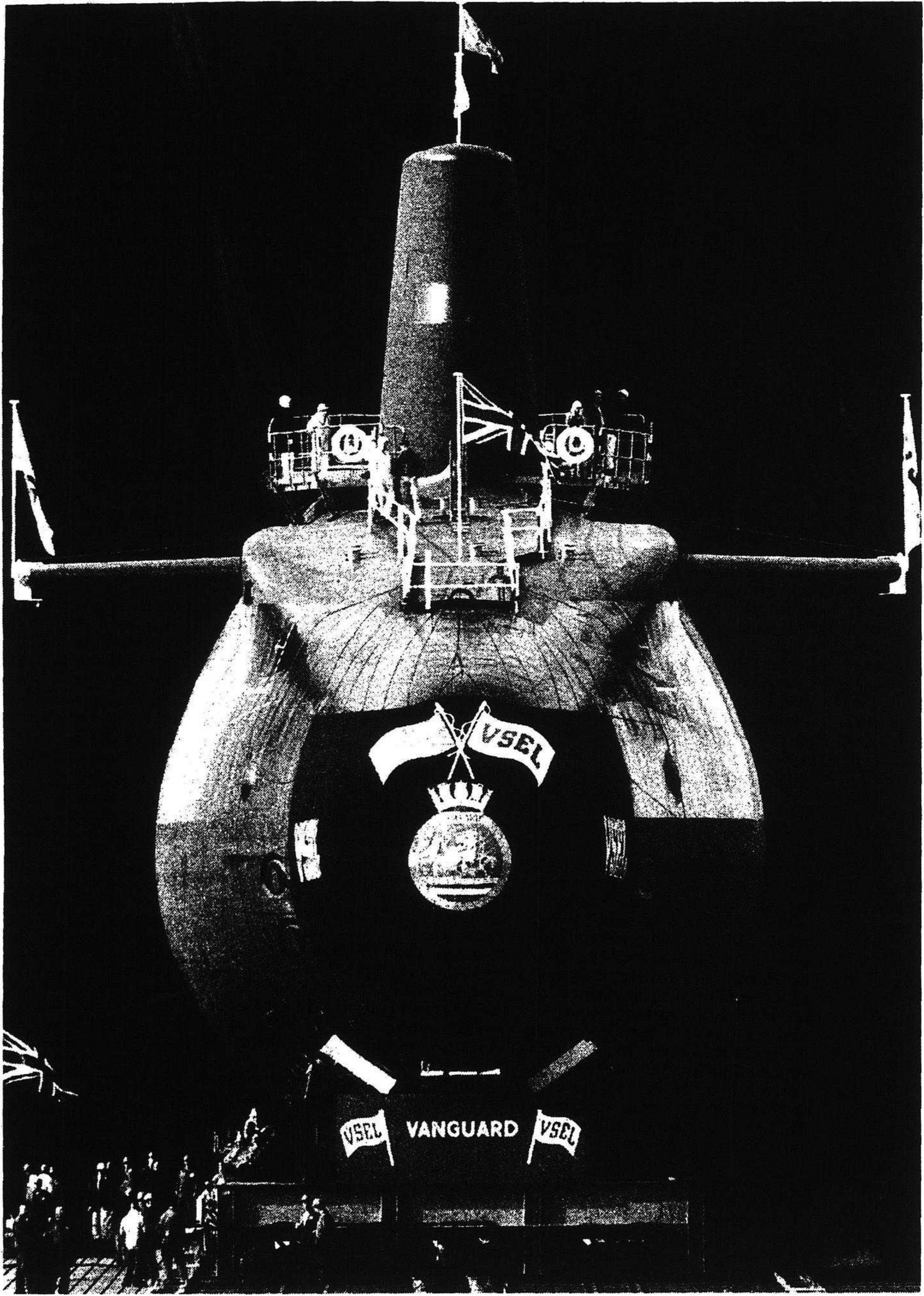
**John Carlin, right, tells how he has become the target of telephone threats, and how drugs were planted on a BBC man**



...ation still remain the political *modus operandi*. Mr Drury, with whom I was working yesterday on the finishing touches to our documentary - to be broadcast on Tuesday - told me he was convinced the trouble stemmed from conversations we had with security policemen

who confirmed to us, off the record, that they were still targeting members of the African National Congress. We know, indeed, that the security police - renamed the Criminal Intelligence Service last year - is conducting an internal investigation into the leaks. Last week Brenda Goldblatt, associate producer of the documentary, and I indirectly became targets. We have both been in London but we learnt last week that two men, one calling himself Ivan, had been to our homes in Johannesburg claiming they were computer technicians. Ivan, passing himself off as a close mutual friend, provided the people who opened the doors for them with remarkably detailed information on our activities and movements. As it turned out, they made off

with a copy of the entire contents of Ms Goldblatt's hard disk but, thanks to the wisdom of my maid, they did not get into my house. The next day there began a barrage of phone calls to my home and to a close friend from a man who said he was desperate to drop off a parcel for me. Interestingly, part of our investigations involve evidence of security force involvement in a parcel bomb explosion in 1990 which killed a computer technician sympathetic to the ANC. More anonymous calls followed at my home last week, all menacing and designed to reveal a close knowledge of my movements. People whose information I trust have told me I should be genuinely concerned for my safety upon returning to Johannesburg.



HMS Vanguard, first of the Royal Navy's Trident missile boats and the biggest submarine built in Britain, was rolled out yesterday at the Vickers yard in Barrow-in-Furness. Report, page 3; Lawrence Freedman, page 25; Photograph: John Voos

## Refugees and fresh graves confirm massacre by Armenians

# Azeris hunted down and shot in the forest

THE EXACT number of victims is still unclear, but there can be little doubt that Azeri civilians were massacred by Armenian fighters in the snowy mountains of Nagorno Karabakh last week.

Refugees from the enclave town of Khojaly, sheltering in the Azeri border town of Agdam, give largely consistent accounts of how their enemies attacked their homes on the night of 25 February, chased those who fled and shot them in the surrounding forests. Yesterday I saw 75 freshly dug graves in one cemetery in addition to four mutilated corpses we were shown in the mosque when we arrived in Agdam late on Tuesday. I also saw women and children with bullet wounds, in a makeshift hospital in a string of railway carriages at the station.

Standing outside the Khojaly mosque, where women beat their breasts in anguish, a refugee, Rami Nasiru, described how residents at first thought the attack was no more than the routine shooting to which they had become accustomed in four years of conflict. But when they saw the Armenians with a convoy of armoured personnel carriers, they realised they could not hope to defend themselves with machine guns and grenades, and fled into the forests. In the small hours, the massacre started.

From Helen Womack in Agdam, Azerbaijan

Mr Nasiru, who believes his wife and two children were taken prisoner, repeated what many other refugees have said - that troops of the former Soviet Army helped the Armenians to attack Khojaly. "It's not just my opinion, I saw it with my own eyes," he said. So angry are the people in Agdam that it could be very risky for commonwealth forces due to withdraw from the enclave's capital of Stepanakert to drive through this town, as they must do to reach Russia. The 366th Motorised Infantry Regiment yesterday seemed to have postponed its planned pull-out. Commonwealth forces say they are neutral in the conflict. Armenians say they had to attack Khojaly because it was used as a base to attack Stepanakert.

Women, many of whom had followed Azeri tradition and scratched their cheeks to give the impression of tears of blood, knelt at the graves, producing a high-pitched ritual wailing. Graves decorated with dolls were those of young men who were due to be married. A middle-aged man stood over the grave of his nephew, Abulfat Aliyev: born 1963, died February 1992. "He went back twice into the forest to save women and children. The third time he got killed himself. Write the truth," the man said, expressing a common view that the Western Press has favoured Christian Armenia and been unfair to Muslim Azerbaijan. The mosque and graveyard were harrowing enough, but worse were the railway carriages with the wounded. Dr Eldar Sirajev, from Baku, said 256 people had been treated since 26 February. Nubar Duniamalieva lay on her stomach

with bullet entry and exit wounds in her back. She had been in the forest with her four children and elderly mother. Two children had disappeared, but the other three escaped with her. They were lucky in that they were shot close to Azeri-held territory and managed to crawl to soldiers from their own side.

Another surgeon, Satar Jagoubov from Baku University, appealed for antibiotics. Before Khojaly he had believed in the possibility of peace, but now the only solution was to clear Nagorno Karabakh of Armenians, he said. "I cannot bear to see an Armenian any more." The urge for vengeance, even among people as civilised as Dr Jagoubov, bodes ill for the chances of settling this conflict. On the way back, the fighters apparently decided to unnerve us by driving us into a cemetery whence they reconnoitred for Armenian snipers in the nearby fields. Seeing my fear, one of them said: "Are you scared? Now you now how our women feel."

A team sent to the region by the medical aid organisation Médecins sans Frontières said yesterday that up to 35,000 Azeri civilians were heading towards Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, to escape Agdam, which is under fire by Armenian fighters. In Baku, the powerful Popular Front opposition yesterday called for President Ayaz Muttalibov's resignation after the massacre. Azerbaijan's parliament opens an emergency session today, where President Muttalibov is likely to face increased pressure to quit. In the Armenian capital, Yerevan, survivors from an Armenian helicopter downed in Azerbaijan said it came under fire before plunging to the ground in flames, killing at least 14 people. Age-old war, page 10

## Gas explosion kills at least 300 Turkish miners

KOZLU, Turkey - Rescue workers last night abandoned hopes of rescuing 200 coal miners trapped underground after a gas explosion, and officials said the death toll in Turkey's worst pit disaster was at least 300.

Workers made no attempt to dig into collapsed tunnels, concentrating instead on sealing off pockets of poisonous carbon monoxide gas. About 700 miners were underground when methane gas explosions struck the Incirharmani mine under the Black Sea town of Kozlu at 8.10pm on Tuesday, turning it into a poisonous inferno. "The passages were full of bodies as we ran for the upper levels," Salih Yanik said at the hospital in nearby Zonguldak, about 170 miles north-west of Ankara. "We heard a noise like a rushing wind. I can't forget it," said Mr Yanik, who was trapped for four hours 1,275 feet underground before he was rescued. Cevat Engin, who escaped with facial cuts, said the blast blew him nine yards from the seam he was

From Servet Yildirim of Reuters

drilling. "Everything happened suddenly. I heard nothing, but I saw rocks and bits of iron flying through the air," he said. Ozer Olcer, head of the state-run coal company, told the Prime Minister, Suleyman Demirel, last night that 95 bodies had been recovered and about 200 men were still missing, state television reported. The number of survivors, about 400, was greater than rescue workers had dared hope at early stages. The official Anatolian news agency said 104 bodies were recovered. Several thousand people from Kozlu, a town of 60,000 people, and nearby villages gathered at pitheads waiting for news of their friends and relatives. Mr Demirel, Erdal Inonu, the Deputy Prime Minister, and four

other ministers visited the mine and the Zonguldak hospital, where grieving relatives came to identify blackened corpses. "The whole nation is mourning," Mr Demirel said. Miners watched in silence as the stiff, dust-caked bodies of workmates were lifted into ambulances from the mine shaft. Weeping men comforted each other with embraces. Some women wailed with grief. "I want to see my husband, leave me alone," screamed one woman throwing herself to the ground. An old man clutched the shoulder of his son and broke into sobs, after recognising another son among the 30 corpses. It was the sixth blast since 1945, and by far the most lethal, at the Kozlu mine, where 107 people



have been killed in previous accidents. Asked about the chances of finding more survivors, a safety official, hands and face blackened with coal dust, said bitterly: "Not possible, not possible." He said clouds of carbon monoxide were swirling through the devastated galleries and shafts. The world's worst pit disaster was in China on 26 April 1942, when 1,572 people were killed in an explosion at the Honkeiko coal mine.

## MPs want more women to give birth at home

THE EXPERIENCE of pregnancy and birth has been degraded by "over-medicalised" maternity services that deny women a choice of how and where to give birth, it was claimed yesterday. A radical shake-up of maternity services, with a move to more home births and a wider role for midwives in place of doctors, is proposed in a report from the cross-party Commons Select Committee on Health. Ninety-four per cent of births take place in hospitals, between 1 and 2 per cent at home and the rest in small maternity or GP units. The report says encouraging women to give birth in hospital can no longer be justified on grounds of safety. It criticises GPs for failing to support home births, and obstetricians for using "interventions" during labour, such as induction and epidural anaesthetic injections, which have not been properly investigated.

By Liz Hunt Medical Correspondent

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, gave a cautious reception to the findings: "We shall need to give very careful thought to the radical changes advocated." Nicholas Winteron, the Conservative chairman of the committee, said women wanted more choice and in the overwhelming majority of cases there was no medical reason why they should not have it. "The voices of mothers have been drowned out by the competing claims of professionals, and politicians who have provided the resources," he said. "The way in which our maternity services have developed has been driven by the priorities of the providers, backed up by arguments about safety which are based on prejudice much more than on evidence.

"The result has been a cost to mothers, in degrading their experience of pregnancy and birth, which could damage the subsequent relationship between mother and baby and put women off from having further babies." The committee strongly supported midwives as the group "best placed and equipped" to care for a pregnant woman. They should be allowed to run maternity units within and outside hospitals, and the policy of closing small rural maternity units largely staffed by midwives should end. The committee was also outspoken on social issues. Maternity leave was a "matter of public health". Pregnant 18 to 24-year-olds should be entitled to the adult rate of income support; at present they can claim only 11 weeks before the baby is due and for six weeks afterwards. The report, fruit of a year-long inquiry and evidence from more than 500 sources, was welcomed by the Royal College of Midwives and campaigners on maternity services. Beverley Beech, of the Association for Improvements in Maternity Services, said it was a breakthrough after "thirty years of knocking on closed doors". But the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists called for more research on the support needed to ensure safe home deliveries. Dr Ian Bogle, of the British Medical Association, said housing standards were not "conducive" to safe home births and the role of the family doctor would be "eliminated" if the report were adopted. Mothers' stories, page 3

## PM fears for City over Lloyd's

JOHN MAJOR is concerned that the recent spate of allegations about "insider dealing" in the Lloyd's insurance market should not damage the international reputation of the City of London. The Independent has been told that the Prime Minister is particularly worried that financial competitors such as Frankfurt could capitalise on London's problems. Whitehall sources were unable last night to offer any assurance that Mr Major's concern would be followed up by action to ensure that market confidence was restored, either by a shake-up of Lloyd's management or through assistance to hard-hit investors, the so-called names.

But government intervention could yet be forced by international doubts over the medium-term viability of Lloyd's. Publicity about the personal losses being shouldered by many Lloyd's outsiders, and legal actions in Britain and the United States, have raised questions over the market's solvency. A lack of confidence on that score could reduce the amount of insurance business going to Lloyd's. So far, Lloyd's itself has responded to the growing crisis of confidence by setting up an inquiry by Sir David Walker, the

outgoing chairman of the Securities and Investments Board. But Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's spokeswoman on the City, wrote yesterday to David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's, "regarding the independence and remit of the Walker committee." She reported concern and dissatisfaction among Lloyd's names that Sir David was a member of the Lloyd's Council, that a Lloyd's press notice on the terms of the inquiry had contradicted Sir David's statements, that two members of the inquiry team represented firms that "could potentially give

rise to a conflict of interests" and that the team's secretary, a Lloyd's legal department employee who had already been involved in some internal Lloyd's investigations, would be placed in an "invidious position" if his previous work were questioned. Meanwhile, Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, tabled a Commons motion about the Lime Street Underwriting Agencies, due to go into liquidation tomorrow. The average loss of the 448 Lime Street agency names - some of whom have already attempted legal action against Lloyd's in the United States - is currently put at £535,000. 'Derisory' payout, page 26



TODAY  
**BEATING BULLIES**  
"Occasionally the police had to be called. A fifth-former tossed lighted matches on to a junior's hair because he refused to hand over his bus fare..."  
EDUCATION - page 17  
**ROCK**  
Straight talking from David Byrne about his new album - page 22  
**PLUS...**  
Dina Rabinovitch spends a day as a man - page 14

TOMORROW  
**SILENCE IN COURT**  
Kevin Maxwell has three times claimed a privilege against self-incrimination... "Taking the Fifth" has become all the rage in commercial cases... But should it be allowed? The Law page examines the issues

SATURDAY  
**GREEN IN TOOTH AND CLAW**  
"Some of it - the knifing, the hanging, the money - you can hardly believe. The rest is vaguely embarrassing, because it touches those awkward connections between countryside and soul that poets have been banging on about for years. William Wordsworth said that Nature contained true wisdom. Manny Buckle says the landscape saved his life..."  
Nicholas Roe on how conservation rehabilitated a drug dealer

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### RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS

THE FAMOUS GROUSE  
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY  
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Carlin, John. "South African security forces harass British journalists." *Independent*, 5 Mar. 1992, p. [1]. The Independent Historical Archive, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/FQ4200863341/INDA?u=nysl&sid=INDA&xid=358a95e9>. Accessed 13 Oct. 2020.